

Christmas Eve 2020 Parking Lot Worship Service

Gathering

- Play Christmas music
- Give candles once car is parked

Welcome

Offering: If you would like to give to the Christmas Eve missions offering, please send in your check or give on St. Paul's website and mark it Christmas Eve offering.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

We relight the first candle remembering that Advent hope moves us;

We relight the second candle remembering that Advent peace stills us;

We relight the third candle remembering that Advent joy stirs us;

We relight the fourth candle remembering that Advent love leads us

Tonight we light the fifth candle, the Christ candle remembering the true light that shines for and within all of us who call Jesus, Emmanuel...the one who came to save.

We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied. The same Jesus lives today in our hearts. He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment. In Jesus Christ our hope is fulfilled; our love is consummated; our joy is complete; and our peace is sealed.

Rejoice, a Savior is born.

A savior is born, indeed. Joy to the world!

Prayer

It's Christmas Eve again, God. In the midst of the craziness of this pandemic year we may have forgotten or missed what this night is all about—you coming to earth—Emmanuel—God-with-us. God incarnate. Help us hear anew your promises of hope and salvation and love as we sing our familiar carols. Forgive us for forgetting the magic of this night, for focusing on ourselves and what we need to do instead of on the miracle of Jesus' birth. Knock us out of our complacency. Let us hear angel voices, see shepherds hurrying to a stable, feel the baby's soft breath on our cheeks, and ponder in our hearts what all this means for the world, for us.

Holy One, your love knows no bounds. Love comes down at Christmas—a love so deep and so profound that nothing will ever be the same again. Know that this love is come for you—to touch you, to heal you, to forgive you, to make you whole. In the name of God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer and the Holy Spirit, our Advisor, Amen.

Sing: O Come All Ye Faithful

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem. Come and behold Him, born the King of angels; O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing all ye citizens of heaven a-bove! Glory to God, all glory in the highest; O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus to thee be all glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-5 NRSV

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius,

when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was

ruler^[a] of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler^[b] of the

region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler^[c] of

Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and

Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah

in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the

Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the

forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the

words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare

the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley

shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made

low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough

ways made smooth; ⁶ While they were there, the time

came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Sing: Away in a Manger

Away in a manger no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes; I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Scripture Luke 2:8-14 NRSV

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to

you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Sing: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all gracious
King.” The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings
unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary
world; above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering
wing, and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Scripture: Luke 2:15-20 NRSV

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which

the Lord has made known to us.”¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Lighting of the Candles: As we prepare to let our light shine. Please turn off your car headlights and dome lights. Let us shine our lights to God and to one another. (Twist the bottom of your candle to light it)

Sing: Silent Night, Holy Night (by candlelight)

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin Mother and Child. Holy infant so tender and
mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar; Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming
grace, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth

Sending forth

Sing: Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven, and nature
sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding
joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far
as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations
prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.