

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2022

Prelude

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

Amen.

Holy God,

We confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word, swaddle our hearts with your peace, and empower our lives to reflect your love born among us.

Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

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,

Refrain:

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 glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. (*Refrain*)

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened our hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and into the light, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Message

Pastor Engholm

Song***Away in a Manger***

Away in a manger, no crib for His 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.

Reading**The Journey to Bethlehem ~ Luke 2:1-4**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

Song***Oh Little Town of Bethlehem***

Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie,
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Reading**The Birth of Jesus ~ Luke 2:5-7**

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

Song***What Child is This?***

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Reading**Angels Visit the Shepherds ~ Luke 2:8-14**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all people on earth!"

Song***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, goodwill to all from heavens all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Reading**The Shepherds Go to Bethlehem ~ Luke 2:15-20**

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Song***Hark the Herald Angels Sing***

Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Reading**The Visit of the Wise Men ~ Matthew 2**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to honor him." And there ahead of them went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down to honor him. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Song***We Three Kings of Orient Are***

We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse a-far
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
Oh star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Reading**The Meaning of Christmas ~ John 20**

Eventually Jesus performed many signs and wonders in the presence of his disciples which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Hymn***Angels We Have Heard on High***

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Chorus:

Glo - - o - - o - - ria! In excelsis Deo,
Glo - - o - - o - - ria! In excelsis De - e - o!

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? (*Chorus*)

Come to Bethlehem and see, him whose birth the angels sing,
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord the newborn King. (*Chorus*)

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

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Hymn

Silent Night

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 Hallelujah,
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.

Christmas Prayer

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Benediction

And now may Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, who proclaimed joy through the angels, who sent the shepherds with good news, and who led the wise men by a star, bless you now and forever with the Spirit of Christmas Peace.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King,
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

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.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.