

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Saturday, December 24, 2016

3:30pm & 5:00pm

*Please stand if able

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

* **HYMN #283** *"Oh, Come All Ye Faithful" (Vs. 1,2)*

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, Born the king of angels:

Refrain:

Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

2. The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

***CHRISTMAS DIALOG (P=Pastor, C=Congregation)**

P In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

C **Oh, come, let us worship him.**

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C **The light shines in the darkness, -- and the darkness did not overcome it.**

P Those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined.

C **We have seen Christ's glory, the glory as of a father's only son, Full of grace and truth.**

P For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

C **What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

P Christ is born; salvation has appeared.

C **Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!**

* **HYMN #283** *"Oh, Come All Ye Faithful" (Vs. 3,4)*

3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest:

Refrain:

Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him
Christ the Lord!

4. 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** (Congregation will join in)

O loving God, you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true light. Turn our thoughts toward Bethlehem and the Christ Child. May the words of Scripture remind us again that the old story is ever so new. May the carols reveal to us again the wonder and mystery of His birth. May the candles symbolize for us your Son as the Light of the world. Come Lord Jesus. Be born in us today. AMEN

CHOIR ANTHEM *“What Child is This”*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the “good news of great joy” and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And 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!”

[¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

HYMN #267

“Joy To the World”

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry 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.
2. Joy to the earth, 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.
3. No more let sin and sorrow 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.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nation's prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

SERMON:

“Emanuel!”

THE OFFERING

*HYMN #289 “Angels We Have Heard On High” (Vs. 1,2,3)

1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plain,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains,
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly son?
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo
3. Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King,
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*PRAYERS

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

(A brief silence)

P For the increase of peace among the nations, let us pray to the Lord.

C Christ the Lord, bring peace on earth.

P For the spread of the joyful news that the Savior has come, let us pray to the Lord.

C Christ the Lord, bring joy to the world.

P For the poor and those who find no room, let us pray to the Lord.

C Christ the Lord, bring help to the poor.

P For the renewal of the whole church in unity, let us pray to the Lord.

C Christ the Lord, bring renewal to the church.

P For the light of Christmas to shine on us all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Christ the Lord, bring us the light of your truth.

(Here other intercessions may be offered)

P Rejoicing in your birth and trusting in your mercy, O Christ, Light of the World, we commend all for whom we pray.

C Amen.

*LORD’S PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Pastor: “Arise, shine; for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you...and nations shall come to your Light. Jesus said, ‘I am the Light of the World; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life.’ “You are the light of the world...let your Light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

(Pastor then gives light to the ushers; they in turn give light to the first worshipper in each pew, who passes it on. The lighted candle is never tilted but is always held upright when giving light to another. Please extinguish your candle when you see the Pastor extinguish his.)

***HYMN #281 "Silent Night" (Vs. 1,2,3)**

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior is born!
3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

***BLESSING**

P The Word has become flesh and dwelt among us. Let Christ's light shine in the darkest corner of your life. Let Christ's love shine in the darkest corners of our world. God is with us. Alleluia.

C Amen.

***HYMN #270 "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing" (Vs. 1,3)**

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

***CHURCH BELL**

***POSTLUDE**

**It has been great having you join us for worship!
Please come again.**

SERVING THIS NIGHT

Lector:	3:30 pm – Char Berg	5:00pm - Laury Nyberg
Greeter:	Dennis & Lynne Meidlinger	
Ushers:	3:30pm – Skip & Lynn Hansen	5:00pm – Chuck & Elsa Carlson
Music:	Jim Christensen	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day Service at 10:00am. All are welcome to enjoy a Christmas meal together immediately following Sunday's worship.

Only One Worship Service on Sundays in January, February & March, 2017.

VBS - When you see your families this Holiday Season please remind them that Vacation Bible School is the third full week of June. That will be June 19-23, 2017.

***BLESSINGS TO EVERYONE ON THIS
WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS EVE.
GO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS –
CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN!!***

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