

GATHERING

WELCOME TO WORSHIP THIS EVENING

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Presiding Minister (Pastor): Rev. David E. Miller

Assisting Minister (*Assistant*): Sue Kessler

Lector (*L*): Marian Caldwell

Choir Director/ Pianist: Alice Kubo

Video Tech: Hugo Calderon



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021

5:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Invitation to Worship

*On a long winter evening
we gather to proclaim the coming of the light.*

Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

*In the familiar account of Christ's birth,
the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing,
"Glory to God in the highest."*

Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us.

*God comes to us in human flesh – in Christ's body and blood –
so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.*

GATHERING THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

ALICE KUBO

*Before the Prelude, speak to one another. During the Prelude, speak to God.
During the service, let God speak to you. During the week, let God speak through you.*

ACCLAMATION

L 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 the Messiah, the Lord."

C **Amen!**

CHORAL INTROIT

THERE SHALL A STAR FROM JACOB COME FORTH

GATHERING HYMN

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Please stand as you are able.

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!

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*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

THE GREETING

L The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

CHRISTMAS DIALOG AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

C **He is the Light no darkness can overcome.**

L At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

C **With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."**

L In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

C **With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.**

L Let us pray. 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

CHORAL ANTHEM

AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD

WORD

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING, AND SONG.

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 9:2-7

L The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

TITUS 2:11-14

L The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

WELCOMING THE GOSPEL

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her 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.

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.

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.

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.

READING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY

LUKE 2:1-7

L To us is born a Savior.
C **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

LUKE 2: 8-14

L To us is born a Savior.
C **Jesus Christ our Lord**

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.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

LUKE 2:15-20

L To us is born a Savior.
C **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

SERMON

REV. DAVID MILLER

*Preaching brings God's word of law and gospel into our time and place to awaken and nourish faith.
The sermon concludes with a moment for silent reflection.*

THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star
 shining in the east beyond them far;
 and to the earth it gave great light,
 and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

And by the light of that same star
 three wise men came from country far;
 to seek for a king was their intent,
 and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

This star drew near to the northwest,
 o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
 and there it did both stop and stay
 right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Then entered in those wise men three,
 full rev'rently upon their knee,
 and offered there in his presence
 their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please stand as you are able.

L Glory to God in the highest,
 C **and peace to God's people on earth.**

L Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
 C **Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

L Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.
 C **Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.**

L Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.
 C **Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.**

L Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.
 C **Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

L We lift up before you all those we name, silently or aloud...
 Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
 C **Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.**

L Gracious God, bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.
 C **Amen**

THE PEACE

We exchange the Peace of Christ, greeting each other with words of peace, aware that Christ is in our midst in the faces of those around us.

Please be seated after sharing the Peace of Christ.

MEAL

GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST.

OFFERING*We offer to God our selves, our abilities, our time, our possessions.**Tonight's offering will go in its entirety to Lutheran Social Services of Northern California. This agency has been providing care and services to vulnerable people for 140 years. Presently, their emphasis has been on the unhoused of all ages, especially those leaving foster care.***OFFERING OF MUSIC****STILL A BACH CHRISTMAS****OFFERTORY HYMN****WHAT CHILD IS THIS***Please stand as you are able, as we present our gifts to God.*

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!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
 The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
 Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

PRAYER AND DEDICATION

L It was cold and Mary and Joseph were fearful.

C **But that did not stop the birth.**

L They were poor and had no place fitting for their child.

C **But that did not stop the birth.**

L They were uncertain about what God wanted from them.

C **But that did not stop the birth.**

L And today we are still sometimes cold and fearful, certainly poor in many ways.

C **We often feel that we have no place and are unclear about what God wants of us.**

L But these things did not stop the birth of Jesus then, nor will they now.

C **Lord Jesus, be born in us today.**

L Loving God, like Mary and Joseph who trusted in your grace, we offer our selves and our gifts to you.
 Bless this offering, and hallow our every thought and our every action, that Christ may be revealed
 through them to the world that is yet in darkness.

C **Amen**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING*Before the Lords supper is shared, the presiding minister leads us into thanksgiving. With the whole creation, we join the angels' song.*

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS (SUNG TO *HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING*)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the glory of your name!
Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is he who now draws nigh
In the name of God the king! Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, hosanna! Praises due be forever, Lord, to you!**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister speaks holy words, recalling the Gospel story of Jesus sharing a holy meal with his followers and proclaiming God's grace. Jesus Christ is present in, with, and under the bread and wine.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be
your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in
heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. Forgive us our sins as we
forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and
deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the
glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be
your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in
heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. Forgive us our sins as we
forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and
deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the
glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Please be seated. The ushers will invite you forward to communion.

All are welcome at the table of the Lord.

The minister will place the bread in your hand. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

The assisting minister will offer you wine (purple) or grape juice (white).

Any who are not communing are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Simply keep your hands folded to indicate this preference.

Those of you on Zoom, feel free to partake of bread and wine in your home setting.

COMMUNION HYMNS

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O 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.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
 while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
 and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
 No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
 where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
 cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
 oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
 oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
 Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
 Christ the child is Lord of all!
 Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
 saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
 Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
 Christ the child was born for you!
 Christ the child was born for you!

TABLE BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

L The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
 C Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE LIGHT

*A candle is lit from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ,
 the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks.*

Those of you on Zoom, dim your lights and light a candle along with those in the sanctuary

DO NOT TIP a lighted candle.

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, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
 Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.

SENDING

GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US IN MISSION TO THE WORLD.

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

- L Let us pray.
 As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.
- C **Amen.**
- L May the Lord God, who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. In the name of the Almighty and Incarnate God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen.**

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 you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
 with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
 late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

We leave this worship to take the good news of God's love with us in the world.

L Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Thank you to those who beautified the Sanctuary with
Poinsettia Plants**

Whitey & Linda Guinther

Rich & Claire Dean

Bill & June Davis

Jim & Norma Nakamine

Pat Cash

John Sack

Donna Sanders

Peter Quam

Vera Janikowski – In memory of Darryl

Jim & Linda King – In memory of Leo King

Dave & Angie Gilfoyle – In memory of Melissa Gilfoyle

David & Beth Caldwell – In memory of Beth's cousin, Albert Gesler, Jr

Tina Shippey – In memory of Martha & Dee Swerrie and Edgar Shippey

**A Service of
Lessons & Carols**



**Sunday, December 26
9:30a.m.**