

**Christ Lutheran Church &
The Bridge Campus Ministry
December 24, 2021 – The Nativity of Our Lord**



Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life

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Introduction to the day

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Prelude

Welcome

Entrance Hymn: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283)

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!

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*

Christmas Dialog and Greeting

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

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Opening Prayer

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.

Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The 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.

O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279)

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!
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!

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the 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.

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (ELW 270)

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!"
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*

Third Reading

Luke 2:1-7

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.

Hymn: Away in a Manger (ELW 277)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright 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 you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Fourth Reading

Luke 2:8-20

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.

Sermon

Hymn: Go, Tell It on the Mountain (ELW 290)

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,

Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;

And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

The Prayers

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering - *Tonight's offering will go to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR). LDR provides assistance for many experiencing catastrophic events, such as the hurricanes in North and Central America, the earthquake and hurricane in Haiti, flooding in South Asia, famine in Africa, and serving unaccompanied minors crossing the border to the U.S. See <https://www.elca.org/disaster/> to learn more.*

Choral Anthem with Congregation

CHILD OF THE POOR/WHAT CHILD IS THIS

What Child Is This by William C. Dix, 1827–1898
Child Of The Poor by Scott Soper

GREENSLEEVES, 8 7 8 7 with refrain
16th Century English Melody
Child Of The Poor by Scott Soper

Child Of The Poor

VERSES 1 & 2: Cantor/Choir

1. Helpless and hungry, lowly, afraid,
wrapped in the chill of mid-winter;
comes now among us, born into poverty's embrace,
new life for the world.

Who is this who lives with the lowly,
sharing their sorrows, knowing their hunger?
This is Christ, revealed to the world
in the eyes of a child,
a child of the poor. (to **What Child Is This Verse 1**)

2. Who is the stranger here in our midst,
looking for shelter among us?
Who is the outcast? Who do we see amid the poor,
the children of God?

Who is this who lives with the lowly,
sharing their sorrows, knowing their hunger?
This is Christ, revealed to the world
in the eyes of a child,
a child of the poor. (to **What Child Is This Verse 2**)

What Child Is This
Assembly:



- | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|-----|-------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------------|
| 1. What | child | is | this, | who, | laid | to | rest, | on |
| 2. Why | lies | he | in | such | mean | es - | tate | where |
| 3. So | bring | him | in | - | cense, | gold, | and | myrrh, come |

Text and music to Child Of The Poor © 1993, OCP, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

CHILD OF THE POOR/WHAT CHILD IS THIS (Continued)



1. Ma - ry's lap ___ is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet ___ with
2. ox and ass ___ are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear, ___ for
3. peas - ant, king, ___ to own ___ him; the King of kings ___ sal -



1. an - thems sweet, ___ while shep - herds watch ___ are keep - ing?
2. sin - ners here ___ the si - lent word ___ is plead - ing.
3. va - tion brings, ___ let lov - ing hearts ___ en - throne him.



This, this ___ is Christ the King, ___ whom shep - herds guard ___ and



an - gels sing; Haste, haste ___ to bring him laud, ___ the



babe, ___ the son ___ of Ma - ry.

Ma - ry.

VERSE 3: Cantor/Choir sings over Assembly

3. Bring all the thirsty, all who seek peace;
bring those with nothing to offer.
Strengthen the feeble, say to the frightened heart:
"Fear not: here is your God!"

Who is this who lives with the lowly,
sharing their sorrows, knowing their hunger?
This is Christ, revealed to the world
in the eyes of a child,
a child of the poor.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you,

God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Receive our offerings, and nourish us at your table, that your Word may take flesh in our lives; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary... and join their unending hymn:

(sung to the tune of: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing")

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heav'n and earth adored. O how blest is he who comes in the holy name of God. 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!"

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.**

Invitation to Communion

Come to Christ's banquet.

Feast on God's gift of grace.

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

Most High God,

you have come among us at this table.

By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,

sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,

through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

Amen.

Service of Light

The minister lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. During the hymn, as the minister processes the lit candle around the sanctuary, please turn your light on to spread the light of Christ throughout the sanctuary and through you, into the whole world.

Hymn of Light: Silent Night, Holy Night! (ELW 281)

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.

The Gospel of the Incarnation

John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who

received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Blessing

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

Amen.

The lights are extinguished.

Departure Hymn: Joy to the World (ELW 267)

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.
Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains 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.
He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.

Dismissal

Go in peace to worship the newborn King!

Thanks be to God!

Serving Tonight: Presider/Preacher: Pastor Chad Huebner; Assisting Minister: Jim Sillery;
Organist: George Weckman; Livestream Team: Kay Cleland/Marilyn Shealy;
Greeter: Mike Cleland

Thank you to those who donated poinsettias in memory of or in honor of loved ones:

Feel free to take your poinsettia(s) following the service.

Steve and Karen Chikosky

Bonnie Childress

Mike and Kay Cleland

Joni Hodgson

Chad, Cheryl, Caleb and Cole Huebner

Gregg Newton

Marilyn Shealy

Michael, Lisa, Trevor and Andrew Stephens

George Weckman

Their Parents

John & Faye Wanko, Dennis & Doris Childress

Bob Cleland, Glenn & Rosa Hanna, Jim Hanna

John Chelectis, Dotty Carey, Ken & Dorothy Hodgson

Phyllis Huebner, Floyd Huebner, Russell Hovland

Mary and Freemon Hanes

Family, Friends, & Wonder of the Season as well as Grandparents and Great-Grandparents

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

We, the members of Christ Lutheran Church, seek to be grounded in the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We believe all people have been created in the image of God and affirm that everyone is of infinite worth and has a valuable story. Called by Christ to share God's Good News of reconciliation and wholeness, we welcome all who are seeking God. We embrace those of strong, uncertain, or undiscovered faith. We welcome people of all racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds; all ages and economic means; and all LGBTQIA+ identities. We welcome all marginalized people. We therefore intentionally educate ourselves and strive to become more effective in our social ministry and as advocates for all God's people. In the words of the hymn, we are building "a house where love can dwell and all can safely live": a house where the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face, a house where we join together to bring an end to fear and danger, a house where all are welcome.

