

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022

WELCOME AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Friends and family, siblings in Christ, come and hear the good news! The one who was promised will be born this night, a savior born to live among us!

In the spirit of respect, reciprocity and truth, we honour and acknowledge that we gather as people who live and work and pray on traditional and ancestral land of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We give recognition to the Blackfoot people past, present, and future, and to the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

One Angels proclaim the glory of God, the merciful one who sent us God's Son.

Two A gift from heaven, sent from God.

One Shepherds shout and dance for joy, for the Prince of Peace is here.

Two A baby wrapped in cloths, lying in a manger.

One Mary ponders these things in her heart, imagining his life and calling.

Two Immanuel, God with us, yet breathing and sleeping, laughing and crying,
come to seek and save the lost.

One Jesus—the baby, the child, the man—has brought the kingdom of heaven to earth,
bridging the gap between sacred and earthly, condemning none, saving all.

Two We worship the one who makes all things new, now and forevermore.

One Jesus Christ is born. Come, let us worship!

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" ELW 270 (v 1&2)

- 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!"

Refrain

- Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"
- 2 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*

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.
For 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.
His 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.

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" ELW 270 – (v3)

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

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

CANDLELIGHTING AND PRAYER

In the beginning was the Word – spoken and breathed, a promise made and kept.
On this night, as we light the Christ candle, we give thanks for Jesus, the Word is made flesh.
From this light, we are ignited with hope and peace.
From this light, we are enflamed with joy, burning with love.

~ The Christ candle is lit ~

On this night Love is Born, into our hearts, into our lives, in our world.

Let us pray. Holy God,
In the blazing light of a Bethlehem sky,
your light comes into all our darkness.

In the song of angels,
good news come to unlikely shepherds.
In a manger bed of hay and straw,
love is born in unexpected places.

In the wonder of this holy night,
joy comes to us even now.
Gracious God, come to us in hope and joy.

Be born anew in us. Invite again to a stable:
To come and see, to fall and worship.
And to rise and tell of Jesus Christ, born in love for us all. Amen!

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” ELW 283 v 1-3

- 1 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!

- 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*

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

We hear the story of this holy night through the gospel of Luke.

She gave birth to her firstborn

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration 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. 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.

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" ELW 279

- 1 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.

- 2 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!

- 3 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.

- 4 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!

Glory to God in the Highest

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 the Messiah, 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

"Angels We Have Heard on High" ELW 289

- 1 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.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Let Us Go to Bethlehem

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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SERMON

CANDLELIGHT CAROLS

“Silent 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.

“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 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

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

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

Christ the Lord bring peace to earth.

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

Christ the Lord bring joy to the world.

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

Christ the Lord, bring hope to the world.

For your church and our lives lived in justice and peace
Christ the Lord, bring love to our hearts.

For the light of Christmas to shine on us all, let us pray to the Lord.
Christ the Lord, bring us the light of your truth.

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

We pray together as Jesus taught us:

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 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.

OFFERING

"I am so Glad Each Christmas Eve" ELW 271

- 1 I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
and angels sang on earth.

- 2 The little child in Bethlehem,
he was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above
to help a world in need.

- 3 He dwells again in heaven's realm,
the Son of God today;
and still he loves his little ones
and hears them when they pray.

- 5 And so I love each Christmas Eve,
and I love Jesus too;
and that he loves me ev'ry day
I know so well is true.

In the beginning was the Word

John 1:1-5, 10-14

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

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And 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.

"Joy to the World" ELW 267

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.

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.

SENDING

COPYRIGHT PERMISSION

MUSIC

1. **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”** Public Domain
2. **“O, Come, All Ye Faithful”** Text & Tune: arr. John F. Wade, c. 1711 786.Reproduced with permission under CCLI Licence #547407.
3. **“O Little Town of Bethlehem”** Public Domain
4. **“Angels We Have Heard on High”** Text: French carol; tr. ACrown of Jesus,” 1862, Tune: French carol. Reproduced with permission under CCLI Licence #547407.
5. **“Silent Night”** Public Domain
6. **“Away in a Manger”** ELW #278 Text: North American, 19th cent.; Music: William J. Kirkpartick, 1838-1921; arr. David Willcocks, b. 1919. Arr.©Oxford University Press. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-712444.
7. **“I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”** © Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832-1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881-1959, Tune: Peder Knudsen, 1819-1863. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #13281-S. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-712444.
8. **“Joy to the World”** Public Domain

Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-712444, and CCLI Licence #547407. All rights reserved.