

PRELUDE:

CHRISTMAS EVE VIDEO:

SPECIAL MUSIC (5PM & 7PM): Ding Dong Merrily! He is Born!,
Pamela Watson Brown & Joni Van Rossum

WELCOME:

PASTOR: *(opening song music plays underneath)*

Tonight we gather at the end of a long journey—one that began with a promise. Through prophets and shepherds, through ordinary people and extraordinary moments, God has been leading us step by step to the manger.

On this holy night, we pause to remember each part of that journey and to celebrate the Light who has come into the world.

Please stand

CHRISTMAS EVE KYRIE:

Chorus:

Light of heaven, born among us,
Lord, have mercy.

Promise given, born to save us,
Christ, have mercy.

Hope eternal, born to free us,
guide us with Your light

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Verse (Leader Only)

For the peace now born from heaven,
and the love Your presence brings,
For the world You've come to dwell in,
Be with us in everything, we pray:

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY: *(opening song music continues)*

We light the Christ Candle, the center of the Advent wreath, the fulfillment of every hope and the answer to every longing.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. Tonight, that Light shines again for us, leading us to Bethlehem—leading us to Jesus.

Light the Christ Candle

And all God's people say:

**All: Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those whom He loves.**

(Music crescendos into the actual song)

GATHERING CAROL: Angels From the Realms of Glory (Emmanuel)

Verse 1

Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth
Come and worship
Come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Verse 2

Shepherds in the field abiding
Watching o'er your flocks by night
God with man is now residing
Yonder shines the infant light
Come and worship
Come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Chorus

Emmanuel Emmanuel
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Emmanuel Emmanuel
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Pre-Chorus

Come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King
God is with us even now His love is here
(REPEAT)

Brenton Brown, Henry Thomas Smart, James Montgomery, Michael Rossback,
Paul Baloche
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Michael Rossback Music
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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Manger Throne

Verse 2

You could have marched in all Your glory
Into the heart of Rome
Showed them splendor like they'd never known
But You wrote a better story
In humble Bethlehem
Creator in the arms of common men

Chorus

Glory be to You alone
King who reigns from a manger throne
My life my praise everything I own
To Jesus the King on a manger throne.

MUSICAL OFFERING 1:

5:00pm Tempe

To the World, Joy - Ringing Praise

7:00pm Tempe

What Child is This? – Derek Reaban & Joni Van Rossum

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Refrain:

On this night, this silent night,
You led us to the manger bright.
Emmanuel, our Light has come;

God with us, our journey done;
O Child of peace, You make us one.

© Text & Music: Joni Van Rossum, 2025

Luke 2:1-14

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!"

SERMON: *"The Manger & The Cross"* - Pastor Andrea Cain

SERMON SPECIAL MUSIC: Here With Us

(5pm: Anna Sion & Erin Pelley, 7pm: Michelle Reaban)

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Gracious God,
on this holy night your Son, our Savior, was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as
the Body of Christ. Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those
who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy night the Christ Child came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort
to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those
who work for peace and justice in all the world. Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to
rejoice and share the good news of Christ's unconditional love for all people. Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy night people the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that
he may be born in us today and every day. In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC (7PM): O Holy Night, Jill Himes & Joni Van Rossum



INVITATION TO CHRISTMAS OFFERING:

Your generous offerings empower the mission of Desert Cross to touch people with
hope. Come now and kneel before the Christ child. Offer your gifts in wonder and awe.
Offer your gifts in joy and delight! Thanks be to God!

The Hunger Jar is an offering above and beyond regular offering designated to eradicating world hunger through the ministries of the ELCA.

You are invited to share your gifts in worship while others give electronically at www.desertcross.org with the giving button, text giving, or by QR code. We give thanks for all the ways you support God's mission of outreach through Desert Cross that changes lives for the sake of the gospel.

OFFERING CAROL: ELW 283 O Come, All Ye Faithful

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*

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*

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. Unknown.

OFFERING PRAYER:

God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels
and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

Holy Communion

Every Christmas Eve, we gather together,
to tell the same story of baby Jesus born in a manger.
We tell this story because our spirits need to hear it.
God has drawn close to this hurting world.
This is true on Christmas Eve, and it is true at this Table
We celebrate the Messiah who gathered his friends for one last supper,
The Messiah who loved us so much he just couldn't stay away.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.

As we tell your story of good news, let us once again speak the prayer your Son taught us to pray, saying:

LORD'S PRAYER:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Come to this Table
with your faith and your doubt.
Bring your questions and your hopes.
Come with your grief and your love.
This is Christ's table.
All are welcome!

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:

Come forward to receive the bread and a cup of wine/juice. Alert an usher for communion in your seat. Children may commune or receive a blessing. GF wafers/grape juice available. All are welcome.

DISTRIBUTION CAROL 1: ELW 269 Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

3 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

4 Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

DISTRIBUTION CAROL 2: ELW 279 O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1, 2, 4)

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!

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!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

DISTRIBUTION CAROL 3: Joy to the World

Verse 1

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Verse 2

Joy to the world the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounds in joy
Repeat the sounds in joy
Repeat repeat the sounds in joy

Verse 3

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
And wonders wonders of His love

Ben Backus, Isaac Watts, Joel Smallbone, Luke Smallbone, Tedd Tjornhom
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DISTRIBUTION CAROL 4: ELW 289 Angels We Have Heard on High

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*

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER:

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

God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Candle Lighting Litany

The journey to the manger began with a census and ended with a Messiah who would bring peace, justice, and redemption.

The Scriptures pointed forward with hope, guiding God's people toward the promise that would soon take flesh in Bethlehem.

From Nazareth to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph walked in faith, carrying the promise of God within their very lives.

In Bethlehem, the long journey found its rest, and the Light of the World began his journey with us.

Candle lighting instructions from Pastor:

- *Pastor begins lighting with the Christ candle and ushers will share their light beginning at the front with the outside of each row.*
- *Please tip unlit candles into the flame of lit candles.*

Pastor: As the light of Christ is passed from candle to candle, may his love travel through us, bringing hope and peace to the world. The journey *to* the manger becomes the journey *from* the manger—carrying the light of Christ into all places.

(Begin candle lighting. Ushers come forward to altar)

Instrumental "All is Well" while candles are being lit

CAROL: ELW 281 Silent Night

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.

(repeat vs. 1 acappella)

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor ☩ and give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE:

**Thank you for supporting the Desert Cross mission.
Here are the ways you can donate today:**

ONLINE GIVING:



Get your smart phone and
scan the QR-code with
your phone camera

SECURE TEXT GIVING:

Text "GIVE" to
833-636-1502

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