Nativity of Our Lord I: Christmas Eve ELW Service of the Word Tuesday, December 24, 2024 CLC 6pm & 8pm

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CHRISTMAS EVE - LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Good news, you who are weary and heavy burdened! Sing for great joy, you who are tired and shackled with pain! For the Lord, our Redeemer, has come!

Light the Christ Candle.

We light the Christ candle as a sign to the world that today, in the City of David, a Savior is born, who is Christ the Lord.

We no longer have to fear the darkness for our Light has come.

That light that enlightens all people has broken into our world.

And the world will never be the same again.

O God, for ages upon ages
We have waited
For the world to be made right.

O God, we long for your world Of justice and love.

O God, we ask for nothing more, And nothing less, Than that the world be changed.

O God, turn the world to good. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus.

Blessed are they who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

Alleluia! Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord. Amen.

GATHERING SONG O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (ELW 257)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. Refrain

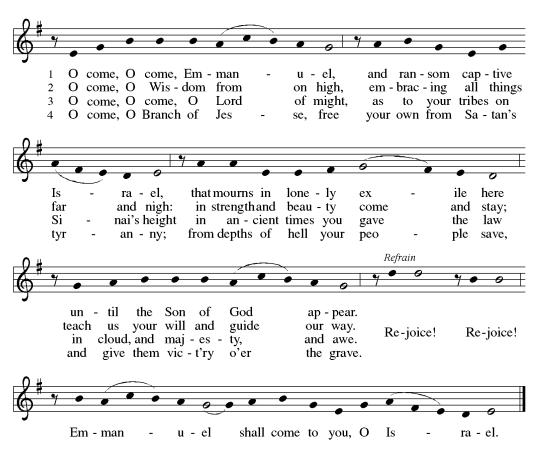
5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Refrain

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. Refrain

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,

and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Refrain

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



- 5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. Refrain
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING (ELW p. 213)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (ELW 270)

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

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. Refrain

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

E pule, Kakou. Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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!

A reading from Isaiah.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 96

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)

¹Sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

³Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;

but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;

power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,

ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;

bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;

tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!

The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,

for you come to judge the earth.

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

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.

A reading from Titus.

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.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Away in a Manger (CRADLE SONG) (ELW 278)

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

Away in a Manger



Text: North American, 19th cent. Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921; arr. David Willcocks, b. 1919 Arr. from Carols for Choirs I, © Oxford University Press 1960.

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GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

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.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 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

Angels We Have Heard on High



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887–1958

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NICENE CREED (ELW p. 217)
We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate: he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

The shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is born!" Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing. E ka Haku,

E aloha mai.

Heaven and nature sing, "Joy to the world!" Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth. E ka Haku, **E aloha mai.**

The angels sing, "Peace on earth!" Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of strife and violence in places of unrest, especially in these United States. Inspire leaders of nations to seek peace, provision and prosperity for all in their care. E ka Haku, **E aloha mai.**

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting, especially those struck down by COVID-19 and all those whom we name in our hearts and whose names we now speak aloud E ka Haku,

E aloha mai.

Love sings through the sound of a new baby's cry. Bless new parents and expectant parents. Comfort those who long for children, especially those running out of hope or options. Surround families of every shape and size with your love and care. E ka Haku,

E aloha mai.

The heavenly chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed, especially the saints of Christ Lutheran Church. Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne along with all those struck down by persecution and war. E ka Haku,

E aloha mai.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE (ELW p. 217)

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

Aloha nui e 'oukou. 'O ke aloha o ka Haku e mau ana me 'oukou apau loa.

Sisters and brothers, friends and neighbors, the peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Mahalo nui loa to everyone for your offerings.

You may leave your offering in the wooden plates at the rear of the church or you may send checks via USPS mail. Or go to our "Donate" button at www.clcmililani.org and make your offering via Tithe.ly. Mahalo to Thrivent members making offerings via Simply Giving.

LIGHTING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CANDLES

At the direction of the Pastor the candles are lit.

Prayer for Christmas

E pule, Kakou. Let a pray.

A brief silence

Our Eternal God, We have seen the light and heard the word which announces the great event of your coming to us. You have broken through the darkness and distortion of our sin. You have prepared a way of salvation for us. Enable us to listen and follow that one you have sent and to thereby discover the joys of your love and grace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 221)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

CANDLELIGHT CAROL O Little Town of Bethlehem (ST. LOUIS) (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!

O Little Town of Bethlehem



Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

CANDLELIGHT CAROL Silent Night, Holy Night (ELW 281)

1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round you 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.

Silent Night, Holy Night! Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!



Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day + through the Word made flesh. Amen.

The candles are "extinguished."

SENDING SONG Joy to the World (ELW 267)

1 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.

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 nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Joy to the World



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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DISMISSAL (ELW p. 222)Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

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