

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020

5:00 & 7:00 PM

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation. More than the celebration of a birth, Christmas marks the mystery of the incarnation—God sharing our humanity. In this liturgy Christ is present among us—as the word of hope and peace proclaimed to us, and as the word made flesh in communion. With the heavenly host we sing, “Glory to God in the highest heaven,” and like the shepherds we return to our homes, workplaces, and communities to tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

SILENT PRAYER

PRELUDE: *Carols of Christmas*

Various

Stand

GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)

HYMN: *Oh, 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*

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** 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.
- G** **Amen**

Sit

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

Originally, this poem was written to celebrate either the birth or the coronation of a new Davidic king. After the fall of Jerusalem, this poem came to be viewed as an expression of the hope that eventually God would raise up a new ruler who would possess the qualities described in the text.

- A** 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.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

The brief letter to Titus is concerned with matters regarding church leadership. Here the letter cites an early confession of faith as an example of sound Christian doctrine.

A A reading from Titus.

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.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

Luke tells the story of Jesus' birth with reference to rulers of the world because this birth has significance for the whole earth, and conveys a divine offer of peace.

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

In 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.**

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Weleck

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Silent Night, Holy Night*

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

Alles schläft, einsam wacht

nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.

Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,

schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,

schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

- 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.

NICENE CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C **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.**

THE PRAYERS

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

A brief silence.

A Eternal God, as your Church celebrates the birth of your Son, help each of us to spread the Light of Christ in the darkness of our world. Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Empower us by the gift of your Son to share the joy of his birth with those who are lonely, grieving, forgotten, or abused. Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Cause your presence so to dwell among all the people of the world that peace and justice may flourish. Help the leaders of nations to be guided by your true Light, that they may act according to your will. Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Be present with those who are ill and to all who are in any kind of danger or distress Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Forgive our sins of thought, word, and deed, for what we have done and left undone. Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A We give thanks for Mary, the mother of our Lord, and for all the saints. With them and the choirs of angels, we sing in exultation!

C **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth!**

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, the Word made flesh and the Light of the world.

C **Amen**

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

C **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.**

BLESSING

P 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;
and may almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C **Amen**

HYMN: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

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, the incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

3 Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son 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*

OFFERING

The offering will be collected as you leave the Church.

POSTLUDE: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Cherwien



Christmas is a great twelve (12) day celebration, beginning on 25 December and ending on the Feast of the Epiphany, 6 January. Outward signs of the celebration of Christmas should remain visible for all twelve (12) days: trees, wreaths and other decorations, music, gift-giving, joy.

The Christmas Cycle celebrates the events surrounding Christ's coming — the prophecies, his birth, his manifestation (epiphany) to the Gentiles, and his baptism — through the Advent season, the Christmas season, and the Epiphany season.

The liturgical color white, symbolic of purity, joy, and the light of Christ, is used on the festivals of Christ, including Christmas.

The Story of Our Hymns

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Anonymous Latin, 18th Century

Translated by Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880

Source: *Murray's Hymnal*, 1852

John Francis Wade, an Englishman who made his living by copying Gregorian chant and other music, was probably author as well as composer of this hymn. In spite of irregular scansion and lack of any rhyming, the hymn is perhaps the most popular Christmas hymn (as distinguished from carols).

Augustus Family and Friends:

At a special Vestry meeting on Sunday, December 13, the Vestry decided, with a heavy heart, **that we would stop ALL in person worship at Augustus**. Recorded services will be provided in place of in person services. Please continue to check the web site for information about in-person worship.

This difficult decision was taken out of an abundance of caution and love for our neighbors.

**We are never alone during this stressful time.
Jesus walks alongside us every step of the way.**

Christmas Poinsettias 2020

Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Allebach in memory of Loved Ones.

Augustus Women of the ELCA to the Glory of God in loving memory and in honor of all its members.

Mike and Laurel Beattie in memory of Loved Ones.

LaVonne Johnson given to the Glory of God in loving memory of my husband, Dennis L. Johnson.

Elaine Johnston in loving memory of husband, Jay.

John and Marie Kochel in honor of our children; Rocco, Vincent, Morgan, Jillian and Maria.

Karen Lachenmayer in loving memory of my dear father, Tom Lachenmayer.

Karen Lachenmayer in loving memory of Dorothy E. Keffer and Miriam Bennett.

Jim and Sally Lorah in honor of our Daughter and Grandchildren.

Bryan and Karen McClain in honor of the Health Care Professionals in our community.

The O'Hara Family to the Glory of God in loving memory of family and friends.

Gemma and Richard Patten to the Glory of God in memory of Harmon and Lois Patten and Betty and William McHenry.

Gemma and Richard Patten to the Glory of God in memory of Bruce and Brian Patten.

Gemma and Richard Patten to the Glory of God in honor of our children, Chris Patten and Allison Patten Cavanaugh.
Peace, Joy and Love to All Augustus Members.

Mary Saylor and Laura Peljae in memory of Kenneth Saylor.

Mary Saylor in memory of John Madill, Cynthia Madill
Klacik and Pamela Madill.

Michael and Janet Stokes in loving memory of our parents,
Edward and Catherine Stokes and James and Kathryn Shelly.

