

Worship Leader Bulletin  
Christmas Eve  
Salvation

Sunday, December 24, 2023

10:00 PM

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GATHERING

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PRELUDE	“O Little Town of Bethlehem” <i>Lori Murray</i>	<i>Robert Hobby</i>
	“O Holy Night” <i>Trudy Dahl, Flute; Ned Smith, French Horn</i>	<i>Adolph Adam/James Nathaniel Adams</i>
	“Emmanuel” <i>Patrick Lair; Kate Swanson</i>	<i>Hannah Kerr, Andy Gullahorn, Jill Phillips</i>
	“Gesù Bambino” <i>Trudy Dahl, Flute; Lori Murray, Piano</i>	<i>Pietro Yon</i>
	“One Small Child” <i>St. Luke’s Choir</i>	<i>David Meece/Roger Emerson</i>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS {*Front Center*} (*Rob*)

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH {*Lectern*} (*Tim & Julie Casey*) *Screen*

L: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him **Immanuel**. Isaiah 7:14

**C: Amen**

CANDLE LIGHTING (center candle is lit) {*Lectern*} (*Tim & Julie Casey*) *Screen*

L: Lord, on this holy night, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in the birth of Jesus. May we behold his glory, as the shepherds did and go tell of his **salvation**.

**C: Amen**

SONG “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!

**Verse 3**

Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.

**Refrain**

+GREETING {*Front Center*} (*Mollee Erickson*)

*Screen*

L: Siblings in Christ, grace and peace to you from God, whose love is everlasting,

**C: who visits us in poor and simple things and gives us joy,**

L: who is never far from the broken-hearted,

**C: who releases captives, and breaks chains of oppression!**

L: Hear this Good News: This is the time! Christ is born!

**C: This is the time! Our healing is at hand.**

L: Come, let us adore him!

+PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Mollee Erickson*)

L: 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.

**C: Amen.**

**Verse 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!

**Verse 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****Verse 3**

Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest:

**Refrain****Verse 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:

## WORD

FIRST READING *{Lectern}* ()

Isaiah 9:2-7

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. You 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. For 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

ELW #282

**Verse 1**

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:

"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,  
From heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

THE HOLY GOSPEL *{Pulpit}* (Rob)

Luke 2:1-7

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.

## HYMN

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

ELW #282

**Verse 2**

Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav'nly music floats  
O'er all the weary world.

Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hov'ring wing,  
And ever o'er its babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

THE HOLY GOSPEL *{Lectern}* ()

Luke 2:8-14

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!”

HYMN

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

ELW #282

**Verse 3**

And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow;

Look now, for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing;  
Oh, rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing!

+THE HOLY GOSPEL *{Pulpit}* (Rob)

Luke 2:15-20

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.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

+HYMN

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

ELW #282

**Verse 4**

For lo! The days are hast'ning on,  
By prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Shall come the time foretold,

When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And all the world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

SERMON

Rob Norris-Weber, Pastor

+HYMN OF THE DAY

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

ELW #275

**Verse 1**

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

**Verse 3**

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations,  
you have seen his natal star.

**Refrain**

Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

**Refrain**

**Verse 4**

All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One.

**Verse 2**

Shepherds in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant light.

**Refrain**

**Refrain**

+THE APOSTLES' CREED {*Front Center*} (*Mollie Erickson*) *Screen*

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

+THE PRAYERS {*Front Center*} (*Mollie Erickson*) *Screen*

*After each petition:*

L: Lord, in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

+SHARING OF THE PEACE {*Front Center*} (*Mollie Erickson*) *Screen*

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

L: For all who are gathered, let us take a moment to welcome those around us with a greeting. For those of you online, please share a word of peace in the comment or chat. Most all as we go out into the world may we greet others as people of peace.

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## MEAL

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### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

+CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS {*Front Center*} (*Rob*) *Screen*

L: Holy God, Open our eyes to the presence of your Spirit

**C: upon us, within us, among us.**

L: For our apathy in the presence of oppression,

**C: Forgive us.**

L: If we have contributed to the broken heartedness of anyone,

**C: Forgive us.**

L: When we are deaf to your good news,

**C: Have mercy and open our ears.**

L: When our mouths remain too tightly closed,

**C: Loosen our lips with songs of praise.**

L: Hear our prayer, O God, and forgive our sins.

**C: Hold us in your mercy, now and forever.**

+THE GREAT THANKSGIVING/DIALOGUE AND PREFACE (*Rob*) *Screen*

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: It is indeed right. Our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

+HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*brief intro*) ELW pg. 153/*Screen*

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION (*Rob*)

+THE LORD'S PRAYER

Screen

**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.**

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE TABLE/COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION SONG

“Lamb of God”

ELW pg. 154/Screen

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

TIME OF REFLECTION AND RESPONSE

Screen

L: In this time of reflection and response you are invited to fill out your welcome card. Share any reflections, questions, or prayers on the back. Also, take this time to prepare your offering. For those gathered the collection plates are in the front and back, and there is a QR code in the bulletin to give electronically. For those on-line please go to our website [stlukesbloomington.org](http://stlukesbloomington.org) there is a link to give at the bottom of every page. Enjoy this time.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

“Rest Your Head, Oh Holy Child”  
*St. Luke’s Choir – World premiere of song*

*Svdney Raley*

COMMUNION HYMNS

“What Child is This”  
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”  
“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”

**ELW #296**  
**ELW #279**  
**ELW #286**

+POST-COMMUNION BLESSING (*Rob*)

L: The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**C: Amen.**

+POST-COMMUNION PRAYER {*Front Center*} (*Mollie Erickson*)

L: We thank you, O God, that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare, the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive free, use our gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord  
**C: Amen.**

SENDING

+BENEDICTION

L: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. And may the Almighty God, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.  
**C: Amen**

+ CONGREGATIONAL CANDLE LIGHTING (*organ played while ushers pass out light*)

**\*\*dim lights after all candles are lit– setting \_\_\_\*\***

+SENDING HYMN

“Silent Night”  
*Trudy Dahl, Flute*  
*The lights will be dimmed for the hymn.*

**ELW #281**

**Verse 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.

Heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

**Verse 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.

**Verse 2**

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,

**\*\*lights up – setting \_\_\_\_\*\***

+DISMISSAL {*Front Center*} (*Mollie Erickson*)

L: With the promise of Salvation, let us go to love and serve.

**C: In the name of Christ. Amen!**

POSTLUDE

“Still, Still, Still”  
*Lori Murray*

*Paul Manz*