

**Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2021 – Friday**

<https://youtu.be/lljD-ETxEw>

Mary Did You Know” – by Clay Aiken

Thought: We have waited. We have watched. We have wondered. This isn't just any birthday celebration – This is knowing - God loved us so much, that He gave love! Jesus is born unto us! It isn't about Christmas trees unless you remember that the symbolism is that “Ever” green is about life and salvation. It isn't about presents unless you remember that whatever is inside all the wrappings is a reminder that Jesus, the babe in Bethlehem was wrapped in swaddling clothes loved by Joseph and Mary and is love, a gift for you and me. Together we celebrate the gift of boundless love given by God!

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Hopes and Concerns

Christmas Peace

P: May the gift of God's peace in Jesus be with you!

C: **And also with you.**

Call to Worship

A: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: **For unto us a Son is given.**

A: To us a Son is born.

C: **And the government shall be upon his shoulder.**

A: And his name shall be called –

C: **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God.**

A: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C: **Let us worship the newborn King!**

Gathering Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” ELW 270

<https://youtu.be/19w0IHPL4X0>

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing - Chris Tomlin

Advent Wreath Lighting – The Christ Candle

Chris and Mark McCarrell

L: We have watched; we have waited

In hope.

For peace.

In joy!

With love.

NOW our redemption draws near! – (The Christ Candle is lit)

Placing of the Crèche

L: Reading from Isaiah 9:2-7

L: Glory to God in the Highest!

C: Alleluia! Amen!

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” ELW #257 vs. 5

*O come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

Invocation

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

C: Amen.

Christmas Confession and Forgiveness

P: In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

**C: we confess our sin before you.
We replace compassion with competition
We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.
We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.
We have not put on love in harmony with you.
Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.
Swaddle our hearts with your peace,
That all we do, in word or deed,
may reflect your love born among us.
Amen.**

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all people:
God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.
+ In Christ your sins are forgiven
And you are clothed in peace.

C: Amen.

Christmas Song of Joy

“Joy to the World” ELW 267 vss. 1 &4

<https://youtu.be/30OaM6b48k8>

Joy to the World

Prayer for Christmas Eve

A: O God, you make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light.

**C: Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth,
we may also come to the fullness of his joys in heaven; through the**

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

The Word

Psalm 96

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad

- ¹ O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² **Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.
- ⁴ **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.**
- ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
- ⁶ **Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.**
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in holy splendor;
tremble before him, all the earth.
- ¹⁰ **Say among the nations, "The LORD is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity."**
- ¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
- ¹² **let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**
- ¹³ before the LORD; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

Epistle reading – Philippians 3:20-21

Our Citizenship is in heaven

²⁰ But our citizenship^[a] is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation^[b] that it may be conformed to the body of his glory,^[c] by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation:

P: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

**C: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son.
Hallelujah!**

Holy Gospel – Luke 2:1-20

https://youtu.be/yCBHLvBcK_E

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Gory to you O Lord.**

(Vss. 1-8)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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.⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

“Angels We Have Heard on High” ELW #289

<https://youtu.be/rRHuETZuLEo>

Angels We Have Heard on High – Christmas Song and Carols

(Vss. 9-20)

⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[b] praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The 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.**

Homily – “Fear Not, for I Bring You”

<https://youtu.be/s2QhV30dCwE>

Christmas Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” ELW #279

<https://youtu.be/jyPMDD8fGeA>

O Little Town of Bethlehem - Sarah McLachlan

Prayers of Intercession

P: Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night (*especially*). Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Offering Music

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" ELW #288

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Christmas Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our JOY, that we should at all times and in all place give thanks and praise –

“In the Bleak Midwinter” ELW #294

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what I CAN I give him – give my heart.*

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come Holy Spirit.

Words of Institution

The 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.

Communion Music

“It came upon a Midnight Clear” ELW #282

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” ELW #290

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

A: With angel hosts we sing your praise, O Christ.

C: “Glory to God in the highest heaven!”

A: For you have come close to us – in this place – in this meal.

C: “Glory to God in the highest heaven!”

A: You are the Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

Candle Lighting – “The Glory Of The Lord”

P: On that first Christmas, when the angels appeared to the shepherds,

C: the glory of the Lord shone all around them.

P: On this Christmas Eve,

C: the glory of the Lord is all around us.

P: We see his glory

C: in the glow of candles.

P: We see his glory

C: in the happy faces of those we love.

P: We see his glory

C: in the quiet beauty of this night.

P: And we see his glory

C: in the gathering together of people to celebrate and sing about his birth, as the angels did so long ago.

“Away in a Manger” ELW #277

(As ushers come forward and Candles are lit through the congregation)

Away in a Manger - Love to Sing
https://youtu.be/AnwO_0DrpCk

(Once candles are lit)

“Silent Night, Holy 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, heavenly hosts – sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!*

*Silent night, holy night! Son of God, loves' pure light radiant beams from
your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.*

https://youtu.be/_vw--yxcDNM
Silent Night - Carrie Underwood

Dismissal

A: Surrounded by the light and love of God born unto us in Jesus. We celebrate this night.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude