

Candlelight Service

Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion



Sunday, December 24th | 10:00 PM
Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

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Christmas Eve | 10:00pm | Candlelight Worship Service
Sunday, December 24th, 2023

*Stand as you are able

PRELUDE

Janelle Schauer

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

C **Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.**

P We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

C **To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.**

***CAROL**

O, Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW #283 vs. 1, 3 & 4

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!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

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*

***SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **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.**

Jubilation Ringers**The Manger Story**

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.

CAROL*Away in a Manger*

ELW #277

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

The Shepherd's Story

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!"

CAROL*Angels We Have Heard On High*

ELW #289 vs.1 & 3

**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.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain***

The Shepherd's Visit Mary, Joseph and the Child

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.

CAROL

What Child Is This?
ELW #296, verses 1 & 2

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!**

PRAYER

P O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Pastor Ryan Brodin

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem
ELW #279, vs. 1, 2 & 4

**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.**

**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!**

**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!**

***APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

P Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

(The pastors and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord with Peace be with you)

OFFERING

On This Christmas Night

- Mary Kay Beall

Adult Choir

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270, verses 1 & 3

**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!"

**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***

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P Loving God, you sent your only Son to live among us, bringing us your grace and truth. As we prepare to receive the gift of Christ's presence once again, all we have to offer is what you have given us. Receive all that we have and all that we are to your glory and for your service, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P We are Christmas people. As Jesus was born in the stable, we are born again to everlasting life.

C **We come to worship and bow down, to kneel and give thanks.**

P In this meal we celebrate the gift God has given to us.

C **In the sharing of the bread and wine, we find forgiveness of sin and God's presence in our lives.**

***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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All Children of God are welcomed for Communion. As you come forward, please kneel at the railing. There you will receive a wafer. You will also be offered grape juice and/or wine (the wine red, the grape juice is white).

- Gluten free wafers are available upon request*
- If you prefer to remain in your seat to receive communion, please let an usher know and communion will be brought to you*
- Children are invited to come forward with their parents to receive a blessing*

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

O Holy Night

Mary Larew

***BLESSING**

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

C **Amen.**

***CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

P God of peace, on this Christmas Eve, we light candles, which are the sign of Christ's love and light in our lives. In that love, the desolate find comfort; the broken, healing; the hungry and thirsty, sustenance. Jesus comes to us whatever our need, and pours God's power and love into our hearts. As we prepare to leave this place of worship, may we carry the light of Christ in our hearts now and always.

C **Amen.**

P Jesus is the light of the world, a light no darkness can overcome. Watch the light grow as each of us receives the light of Christ.

***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

Remember to tip only the unlighted candle and be sure to not allow any wax to drop onto the pews or carpet. Parents, we value the participation of children in Worship, but we would greatly appreciate if all children used the battery-operated candles for this part of the service. Flag an usher if you need assistance.

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

**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.**

***BENEDICTION**

P May Jesus who was born in a stable for you, bring you love that never ends. May Jesus, who comes down from heaven above, be born in your hearts and lives this night and always. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

***SENDING**

P Now go into the world and share the hope, peace, joy and love of Christmas.

C Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

*As Joy to the World begins, please extinguish your candles and
place them in the box as you leave the sanctuary.*

***CAROL**

Joy to the World

ELW #267

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**



Pastoral and Musical Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ryan D. Brodin

Interim Pastor

Pastor Marla Amborn

Interim Youth Directors

Alex & Josh Ertz

Children's Ministry Director

Patty Mesenbring

Choir Director

Dr. Mary Larew

Bell Choir Director

Paul Weller

Organist

Janelle Schauer

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN WORSHIP TODAY!

ACOLYTES | TONY, AVA AND NICK CORBO

USHERS: MARK & LINDA RADTKE

COMMUNION SERVERS: PASTOR RYAN, PASTOR MARLA, JIM & LISA
SCHLOTTERBACK

SOUND BOOTH & A/V: JACK BROUILLARD, KATRINA STREETER, DYLAN
BROUILLARD, TAYLOR BROUILLARD AND KATIE BROUILLARD



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