



Christmas Eve Worship

First English Lutheran Church
511 Belle St. W., Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Prelude: Special Music *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* - arr. Mark Hayes Kathy Illa, piano

THE LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

Gathering Prayer

Almighty God, you make 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 LIGHTING OF THE FOUR CANDLES ON THE ADVENT WREATH

GATHERING CAROL *"O Come All Ye Faithful"* vs. 1 & 2

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful,

Joyful and triumphant

Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him

Born the king of angels:

2. Sing, choirs of angels,

Sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of

Heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest

Refrain: Oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

FIRST READING: LUKE 2:1-7

THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST CANDLE AROUND THE MANGER

HYMN: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

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. 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.

SECOND READING: LUKE 2:8-14

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE AROUND THE MANGER

HYMN: INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

1. Infant holy, infant lowly,
For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
Bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!
2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow;
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

THIRD READING: LUKE 2:15-20

THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE AROUND THE MANGER

HYMN: IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

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.
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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE AROUND THE MANGER

ALL THE LIGHTS OUT

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Gesù Bambino" (Infant Jesus) - Pietro Yon

Duet Performed by Jill Serres, cello and Debbie Stark, piano

OFFERING PRAYER

God with us

You came as a baby to a manger.

You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.

You came again in bread and wine.

Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Away in the Manger"* Cindy Hougo, harp

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION JOHN 1:1-14

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

HYMN: SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT! Special Music: Marge Barnett, violin

THE BENEDICTION

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 star, bless you this day + through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN: JOY TO THE WORLD

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its king;
Let every 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.

Worship Participants

*Pastor Phil Ruud Pastor Chris Engstrom
CY&F Ministry—Kris Hertsgaard Kincaid
Debbie Stark, piano Lonnie Stark & Mike Trelstad, vocals
Cindy Hougo, Harp
Marge Barnett, Violin
Jill Serres, Cello
Karen Anderson, Lynette Pagel, Camera & Graphics*

ZOOM MEETINGS

Topic: **Sunday Morning Coffee**
with Pastor Phil

Time: **Sundays at 10 a.m.**

Meeting ID: 736 540 1262

Passcode: 3042

Topic: **Coping & Caring**
Conversations with Pastor Phil

Time: **Tuesdays at 10 a.m.**

Meeting ID: 736 540 1262

Passcode: 3042

Topic: **Befrienders Monthly Meeting**
Time: **Mondays: Dec. 7 p.m. via ZOOM**

A link will be sent to the group the Wednesday prior to each meeting.

Remember **Sunday Morning Coffee** with your virtual friends

at 10 a.m. on ZOOM

Meeting ID: 736 540 1262

Passcode: 3042

