

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 2022

4:00 & 7:00pm

Worship & Communion

The Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

*** Opening Prayer:**

Pastor: *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son.*

Congregation: **And they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us).**

Pastor: *Let us pray...*

Congregation: **Heavenly Father, you showed your great love for us by sending your Son, Jesus, into this world. We give thanks that he came to die on the cross for our sins, in order that we might be saved. On this Holy Night, we ask you to open our hearts to receive our Lord Jesus Christ. Save us all by your grace through faith. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*** Opening Hymn # 283 (v. 1 & 2)**

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

*** Confession of Sin:**

(on the screen)

Hymn # 275 (v. 1 & 2)

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

The First Lesson: Isaiah 9:6-7 & Micah 5:2

(Isaiah) ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

(Micah) ² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Hymn: #279 (v. 1 & 2)

“O Little Town Of Bethlehem”

Choir Anthem (7:00pm only)

“Fall On Your Knees”

The Second Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

Leader: *In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. The angel came to her and said...*

Men: **“Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”**

Leader: *But Mary was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her...*

Men: **“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.**

All: ***He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.***

Men: **And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”**

Leader: *And Mary said to the angel...*

Women: **“How will this be, since I am a virgin?”**

Leader: *And the angel answered her...*

Men: **“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.**

All: ***For nothing will be impossible with God.”***

Leader: *And Mary said...*

Women: **“Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”**

Leader: *And the angel departed from her.*

Hymn: #289 (v. 1 & 2)

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

The Third Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Hymn: #277 (v. 1 & 2) "Away In A Manger"

***The Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:1-20**

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these

things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Children's Sermon 4:00 & 7:00

Hymn: #270 (v. 1 & 2) "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

The Sermon "A Journey Back To Bethlehem" Pastor William Shields
(text Luke 2:1-20)

***The Apostle's Creed** p. 105

Hymn # 296 (vs. 1, 2) "What Child Is This"

Offering

***Words of Institution**

***The Lord's Prayer 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.**

Communion

In the Lord's Supper, we believe that Jesus is truly present in this meal to share His forgiveness and grace. All who share our faith are welcome. Non-communing adults & children may receive a blessing by crossing their arms in front. Come down the center aisle to receive the bread from Pastor, an assistant on either side will serve the wine or white grape juice. Return to your seats using the side aisles. Please join in singing ELW hymns # 271, 282, 288, 290, & 300.

*** The Blessing:**

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

Congregation Response: Amen.

*** Lighting of the Candles**

*Please remain standing after the blessing. The ushers will come to the altar to have their candles lit from the pastor's candle. They will then go out to the congregation and light the candle of the person on the end of each row. The flame should then be passed on down the rows. Please remember to tip the **unlit** candle into the flame. A lit candle should not be tipped, because it will drip wax.*

The organist/pianist will play softly as the candles are being lit. When it appears that all of the candles in the congregation are lit, the lights of the church will be turned off. Then the music will swell and we will sing together by candlelight:

**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!**

(At 7:00pm, the Choir will sing "The Lord Bless" before the final hymn, if you would like to join in, come forward during the final verse of "Silent Night" and join the choir in the choir loft.)

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

***Pastoral Prayer at the Altar**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, 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.

Congregation: Amen.

Please extinguish your candles. The lights of the church will be turned back on.

*** Benediction – Pastor will give the benediction at the 4:00 service.**

The choir & friends will sing "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" as the benediction at the 7:00 service only.

*** Closing Hymn # 267**

"Joy To The World"

*** Dismissal P:** Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude