

# Welcome to Worship

*Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service*



**Friday, December 24, 2021**

**Leader: Pastor Matt Hausken**

**Parish Minister: Jeni Nesburg Skeie**

**Musician – Karen Bleick – organist/piano**

**Justin Martinson – Trumpet (4:30)**

Prelude:

Special Music by Cara McLagan (Violin)

## **\*Call to Worship**

L: Do not be afraid, for to you is born this day a Savior, who is the Messiah!

**C: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all!**

Processional Hymn #283

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (vs 1 & 3)**

## **Advent Candle Litany: Christ Candle**

L: The shepherds watched their flocks in the field by night.

**C: Suddenly, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the shepherds were terrified at the glory shining all around.**

L: But the angel brought good news,

**C: A message of new hope, new peace, new love, new joy to be given.**

L: (Light Christ candle) And behold, today a sign has been given; a Son has been given—

**C: A babe wrapped in bands of cloth, lying in a manger. Hope, peace, love, and joy have taken on flesh, and he lives among us forever!**

**Special Music**      **by Olivia Hanson (4:30 PM)**  
                                 **by Quinn & Halle Bleick (9:00 PM)**

## **Litany of Confession and Forgiveness**

L: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

L: Faithful God,

**C: Your promises have never wavered, and yet we are not always willing to believe them. We descend into our own despair, unable to see past our immediate concerns. We drag others down with us and live to complain and commiserate. We ignore the miracles in front of our face. Forgive us for living such small lives, O Lord, and restore in us the wonder of what it is to be your people.**

L: God is faithful; God is merciful; God does not hold our sins against us! For this we give you thanks, O Lord. Receive the assurance of your deliverance by the One who promised from of old to set us free, and who seeks and finds us to this very day. Alleluia! Amen.

**Hymn #289**

**“Angels We Have Heard on High” (vs 1-3)**

### **Greeting and Prayer**

L: May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**Let us pray together our prayer of the day.**

**A brief silence**

### **Prayer of the Day**

L: Lord of new life,

**C: This is the most holy of nights. Gather us around our newborn savior in awe and wonder at what you have done and continue to do for us, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Song #271**

**“I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve” (vs 1&2)**

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

**Hymn - #277**

**“Away in a Manger” (vs 1-3)**

Psalm

Psalm 96

**Hymn #290**

**“Go Tell It on the Mountain” (vs 1-3)**

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

**Song #279**

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs 1&2)**

**Storytime: Jeni Skeie**

\*Gospel

Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)

Readers: Narrator, Angel, [Shepherd]

Narrator: 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. 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,

Angel: 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.

Narrator: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

Angel: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!

[Narrator: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

Shepherd: Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.

Narrator: 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.]

**Special Music (4:30 & 9:00)**

**“Mary Did You Know” sung by Ava Stratton**

Sermon – Pastor Matt Hausken

**Song #270**

**“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (vs 1 & 2)**

**\*Apostle Creed**

**The Prayers**

L: We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

L: On this holy night there are those who find it difficult to rejoice, in the grip of illness, grief or trials, who look to the Christ child as their only comfort. We bring before you especially...  
God of heavenly peace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: On this holy night we praise the newborn who fulfills the promise to our ancestors. We come as we are, to a place as ordinary as can be, to witness the most extraordinary miracle of your salvation. God of heavenly peace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: On this holy night the world pauses to hear again the good news of great joy for all the people: the Messiah who has come to save us. God of heavenly peace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**



## **\*Post Communion Blessing & Prayer**

L: Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all. Amen.

The Gospel of the Incarnation

John 1:1-14

Readers: Narrator 1, Narrator 2

Narrator 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

Narrator 2: What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Narrator 1: There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

Narrator 2: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

Narrator 1: But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## **Candle Lighting**

**\*Hymn - #281**

**"Silent Night, Holy Night" (Vs 1, 2 & 3)**

**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.**

**2 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!**

**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.**

**Blessing**

L: Grace from God's own heart, peace from the ☩ Child in the manger, and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings for you today and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Candles are extinguished.**

**Hymn - #267**

**"Joy to the World" (vs 1, 2 & 4)**

Dismissal

L: Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

**C: Thanks be to God!**



*The staff at Cross of Calvary would like to thank each of you for your presence here tonight and throughout the year. We are blessed by your gifts of support, friendship and love. May the blessings of the Christ Child be with you and with those you love.*

*Pastor Matt Hausken  
Jeni Skeie  
Sue Altmann  
Craig Boen  
Sister Sarah Hausken*