



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 24, 2025 – Christmas Eve

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz

Musicians and Soloists: Andy Quam (*flute*) Soren Vienneau (*accordion*)

Acolytes: Lauren Koch and Beckett Nelson (3:30), Hannah Peterson (5:00)

Graceyn Millhouse and Autumn Wendorf (6:30)

Lectors: Ben Foltz (3:30), Greta Hanson (5:00), Kyla Betts (6:30)

Ushers: Gunder and Gage Nelson, Gatlin and Griffin Empey (3:30), James Hanson, Taylor Dyreson, Michael and Luke Vienneau (5:00) , Dan Manson, Kris Adams, Cassie Knudtson (6:30)

Nativity: Carrie Aide, Jerad Harter and Evan Michael (3:30)

Sydney Schwass Fuller, Mitch Fuller and Maverick (5:00)

Animals in the Manger: Mya Sehmer, Addie Passehl, Zane Deck, Greta Hanson, Graceyn Millhouse, Ben Foltz, Anna Foltz, Olivia Hays, Autumn Wendorf, Gretchen Wethal, Renee Wethal & Hannah Peterson.

Technical Support: Thomas Lehr and Roger Slack

PRE-SERVICE: “Silent Night” Anna Foltz (3:30)

“Away in a Manger” Hannah Peterson (3:30)

“It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year” Soren Vienneau

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Ben Foltz (3:30)

“Adagio” Andy Quam (5:00 & 6:30)

CALL TO WORSHIP: “He is Born” 1st Class Ringers

GREETING

P: Tonight God's Love comes to dwell among us. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Stand

OPENING CAROL "Love Has Come" ELW #292 vss. 1 & 3

vs. 1: Love has come—a light in the darkness!

Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;

Hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!

Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

vs. 3: Love has come and never will leave us!

Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us.

Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.

Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

ANTHEM: "Behold! A Virgin Shall Conceive" Handel's Messiah

Soloist: Kyla Betts (5:00 and 6:30)

CHRISTMAS LITANY

P: Tonight we hear the good news once again.

C: God's love for us is so strong and so deep, God comes to live among God's people.

P: Let us go quickly to Bethlehem and see for ourselves

C: We will find the baby with his mother and father in a stable.

P: Let us join the angels in their praise of God.

All: Glory to God in the highest and on Earth peace to all people with whom God is pleased.

CAROL OF PRAISE "Joy to the World" ELW #267 vss. 1 & 4

vs. 1: 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.**

**vs. 4: 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.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Sit

ANTHEM: "Do You Hear What I Hear" Colby Smith (3:30)

"What Child Is This?" Bergen Wendt (5:00)

"Let the Tiny Baby Come In" Chancel Choir (6:30)

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL Luke 2: 1-7

¹⁻⁵ About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant. ⁶⁻⁷ While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel.

P: To us a Savior is born.

C: Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL CAROL "Mary Had a Baby" Vs. 1

vs. 1: Mary had a baby, my Lord (repeat)

Mary had a baby (repeat)

Mary had a baby, my Lord

ANTHEM: "There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Field" &

"And Lo! The Angel of the Lord Came Upon Them"

Handel's Messiah Soloist: Kyla Betts (5 & 6:30)

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL Luke 2: 8-12

⁸⁻¹² There were shepherds camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

P: To us a Savior is born.

C: Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL CAROL "Mary Had a Baby" Vss. 2 & 3

Vs. 2: Where was he born? My Lord. *(repeat)*

Where was he born? *(repeat)*

Where was he born? My Lord

Vs. 3: Born in a manger, My Lord, *(repeat)*

Born in a manger, *(repeat)*

Born in a manger, My Lord

SPECIAL MUSIC: "And Suddenly There Was with the Angels" Handel's Messiah

Soloist: Kyla Betts (5 & 6:30)

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL Luke 2: 13-16

¹³⁻¹⁴ At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises: Glory to God in the heavenly heights, Peace to all men and women on earth who please him. ¹⁵⁻¹⁸ As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing.

P: To us a Savior is born.

C: Jesus Christ our Lord.

CAROL "Mary Had a Baby" Vss. 4 & 5

Vs. 4: Angels were a'singin', My Lord *(repeat)*

Angels were a'singin' *(repeat)*

Angels were a'singin', My Lord

Vs. 5: Glory, Hallelujah! My Lord, (repeat)

Glory, Hallelujah! (repeat)

Glory, Hallelujah! My Lord

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL Luke 2: 17-20

They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed. ¹⁹⁻²⁰ Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they'd been told!

P: To us a Savior is born.

C: Jesus Christ our Lord.

ANTHEM: "Mary, Did You Know?" Soloist: Kyla Betts (3:30)

"Mary, Did You Know?" Chancel Choir (5 & 6:30)

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: Eli and Caleb – Two Shepherds – Share Their Story

The shepherds are speaking with southern accents because Bethlehem is located in the south of Judea.

Stand

CAROL "Go Tell it on the Mountain" ELW #290

***Refrain:* Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**Vs. 1: While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**Vs. 3: Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain***

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,**

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Joining our voices with the songs of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world and all who are in need.

*Following each petition the congregation will sing a verse of
"I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve" ELW #271*

P: The shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is born!" Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing. **Hear us, O God.**

**Vs. 1: I am so glad each Christmas Eve, The night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth, And angels sang on earth.**

P: The angels sing, "Peace on earth!" Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care. **Hear us, O God.**

**Vs. 2: The little child in Bethlehem, He was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above To help a world in need.**

P: Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain and anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting. **Hear us O God.**

**Vs. 5: And so I love each Christmas Eve, And I love Jesus too;
And that he loves me ev'ry day I know so well is true.**

P: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The love of the Christ Child be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERING: "Hark! The Herald Angels" Ben Foltz (3:30)

"God Rest You Merry Gentlemen" Men's Choir (5:00 and 6:30)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: God of glory,

C: great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace through Christ our Savior. Amen.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy. The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

(All are invited to Holy Communion. Tonight we will serve communion by intinction. Come forward, receive the bread and dip your wafer into the wine. You may also commune in your pew.)

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION: “Adagio” Andy Quam (3:30)

“O Come, Little Children” Women’s Choir (5 & 6:30)

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our loving Lord Jesus bless you and keep you in his grace till life everlasting.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Incarnate God,

C: You are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born to us.

HYMN “Silent Night, Holy Night!” ELW #281

(Candles are lit as music is played.)

**Vs: 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.**

**Vs 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!**

**Vs. 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.**

(After the third verse is sung, the first verse will be re-sung a cappella)

BLESSING

P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, Abiding Comforter, +
bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: And peace to God's people on earth!

P: Go in joy! Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Joy to the World" Soren Vienneau and Linda Kunz

Poinsettias

Given By:	In Memory Of:	In Honor Of:
Myron & Mary Sime		Children & Grandchildren
Christy & Todd Tupper	Our Parents	
Kevin & Jean Johnson	Emma Thomas	
Kevin & Jean Johnson	Dave & Janet Thomas	
Al & Kris Adams		Family & Loved Ones
Gerry Ross	Deanna Ross	
Mark & Emma Ballweg	Vicki Ballweg	
Nancy Fuller & Family	Craig Fuller	
Barbara Entwistle	Dick Entwistle	
Erik & Heidi Smedal	David, Janice & Brenda Smedal	
Ray & Linda Spatt	Vicki Ballweg	
Colby & Rosanne Smith	Kevin, Elizabeth Pasqualone & Joan Smith	
Don Franklin	Ardith Franklin & Don & Jean Aide	
Marti Conant	Tommy Bryant	
Nancy Holzhuter		Thankful for Family
The Conant Family	Our Loved Ones	
Dee Bruns	Rev. Nartin K. Schreiber	
Gloria Hayne	Lonnie Hayne & Gladys Thompson	

The Hoverson Family	Sandra Spanton Nelson (loving Mother & Grandmother)	
Nick & Roxanne Hull & Family	Charles & Betty Hull	
Nick & Roxanne Hull & Family	Diane Ring	
Harry & Shirley Reese & Family	Monica Reese	
Mark & Rita Holzhuter		Nancy Holzhuter
Mark & Rita Holzhuter	Dona Berge	
Mark & Rita Holzhuter	Glenn Holzhuter	
The Tavenner Family		In Celebration of Christ's Birth
Jerry & Sharie Buskager	Loved Ones	Our Family
Dick & Sherry Shea		Our Family

Important Note for End of the Year Giving:
*Contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2025
to be included in 2025 gifting.*