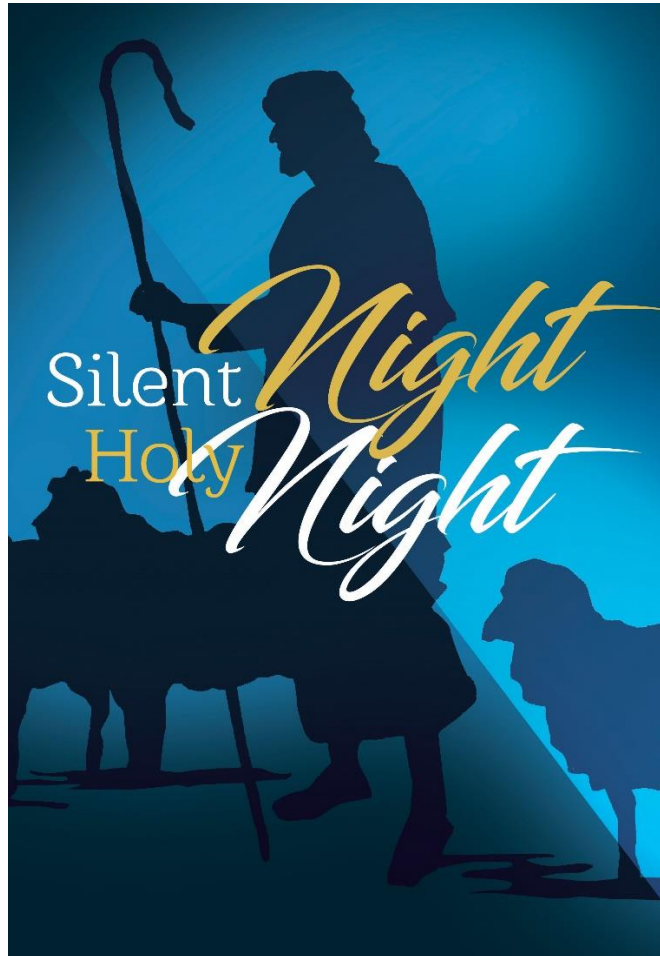


Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2020



**Trinity Lutheran Church
812 N. Fifth St.
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho**

*Trinity is a Christ-centered community of believers,
saved and enlightened by God's grace.
We serve God by serving others.*

For unto us a child is born! We gather this night at the stable, to give thanks for the birth of Christ our Lord. Into our darkness shines God's light; into our violence comes God's peace. Welcome this night to the hope of God's promise made flesh.

Prelude

- Jonah Malone

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who was in the beginning,
who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and
mercy.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of goodness and lovingkindness,

C **we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.**

We have turned away from your invitation to new life.

We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.

**In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and
those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live
among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P Hear the good news of peace and salvation!

God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through †
Jesus Christ, made known to all people.

With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

C Amen.

Hymn

In the Black Midwinter

Solo – Mike Grabenstein

***Greeting**

P The grace of the child born for us and the joy of the Son given to us be
with you all.

C And also with you.

***Prayer**

P 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.

C Amen.

WORD

The season of Christmas begins this night with the story of Jesus' birth, and with the hope carried by Israel that God's promise would be so kept. We, too, come to the manger, to confess our faith and our wonder at God's marvelous grace.

The Promise

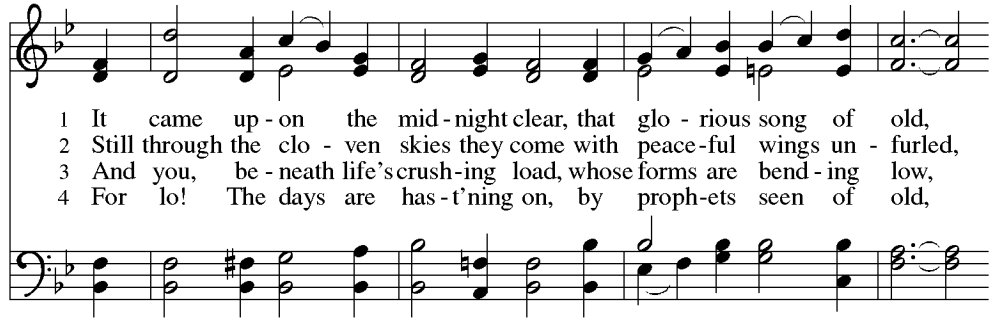
Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness -- on them light has shined.³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

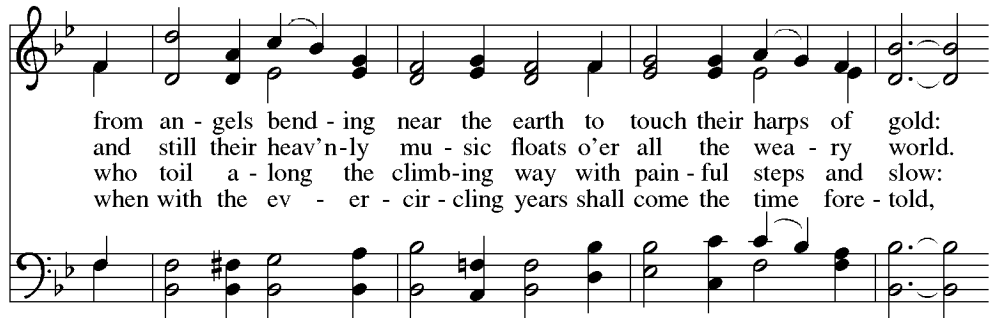
⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hymn

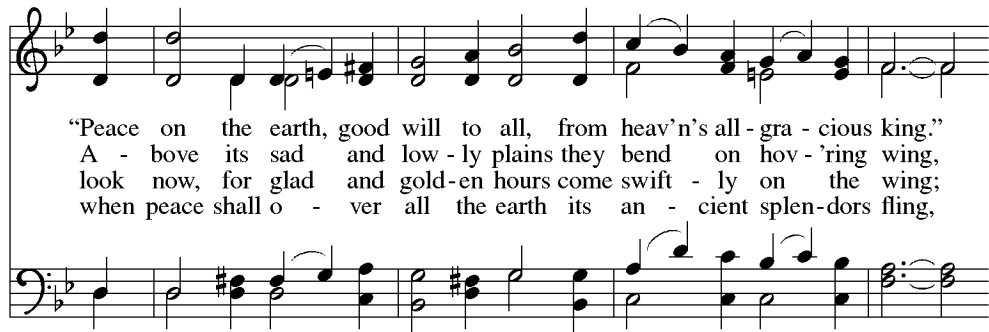
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear



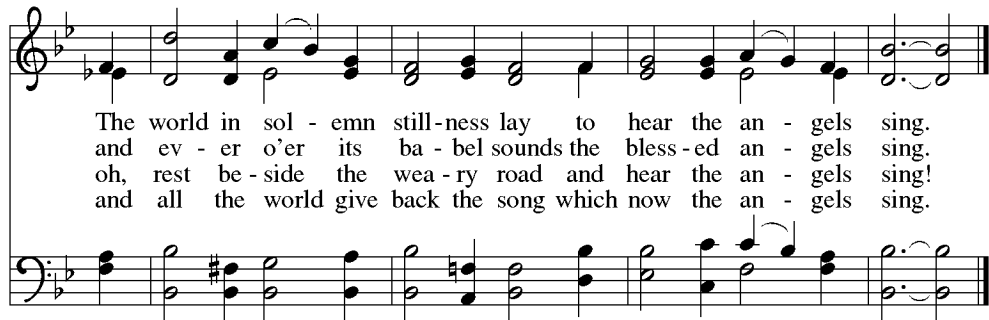
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876
Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

The 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.



Hymn

Away in a Manger

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.
Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921; arr. David Willcocks, b. 1919
Arr. from *Carols for Choirs 1*, © Oxford University Press 1960.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

The 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!”



Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

The Story

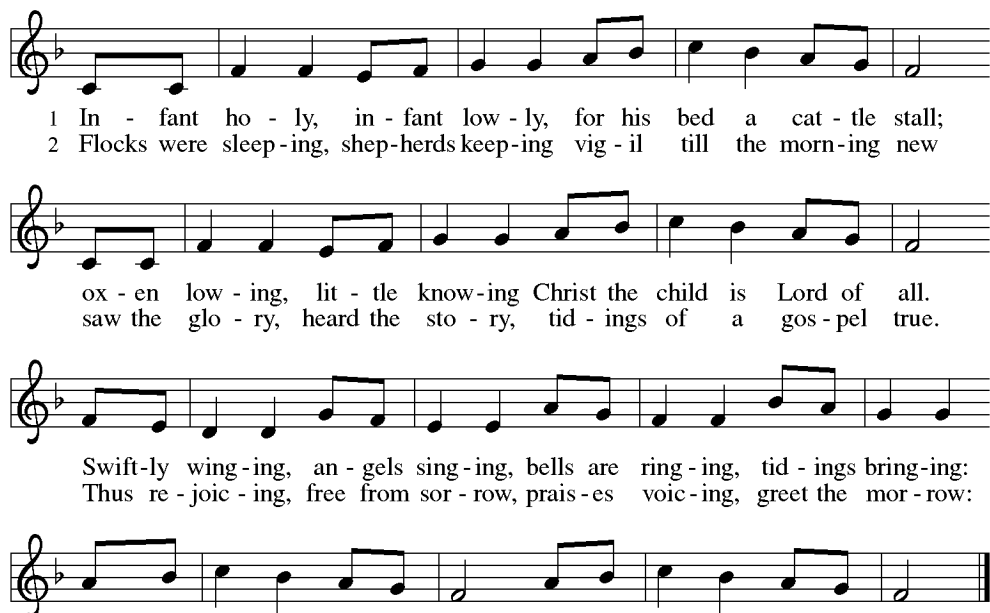
Luke 2:15-20

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.



Hymn

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new
ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.
Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Music: W ZŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

Sermon

- Pastor Dan Forsgren

Hymn

Ring Silver Bells

- TLC Choir

Christmas Creed

C I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room,

and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible:

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself.

I believe in Jesus, the son of the living

God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.

*Prayers of the People

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

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.

C Your mercy is great.

P Heaven and nature sing, "Joy to the world!" Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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.

C Your mercy is great.

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 or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting especially Jacob Markham, Sarah Brehm, Linda Seitz, Lee Ray, Michael Mundt, Ron McCray, Loretta Olson, Jim McDonnell, Marion Keating, Sally English, June Gittel, Delores Luttrupp, Mavis Fuchs, and Susan Kirkpatrick. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Love sings through the sound of a new baby's cry. Bless new parents and expectant parents. Comfort those who long for children, especially those running out of hope or options. Surround families of every shape and size with your love and care. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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.

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.

Hymn

A Spiritual Christmas

-TLC Choir

*The Story of Light

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 To us a child is born; to us a Son is given.

C In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

John 1:1-14, 16

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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

SONG

Silent Night

TLC Bell Choir

SENDING

So again, we have told the story to one another. Now, we are called to share that story of good news for all people with the whole of God's world.

***Benediction**

P 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 a star, bless you this day through the Word made flesh.

C Amen.

***Postlude**

Many thanks to the following people who shared their
Spiritual Gifts to make this Christmas Eve worship special!

Bells

Gloria Hammon

Pam Hunt

Jan Gruber

Sandy Patano

Gerry Fairchild

Terry Fairchild

Director: Rose Dempsey

Choir

Gloria Hammon

Pam Hunt

Jan Gruber

Beverly Knutson

Dolores Johnson

Director: Gerry Fairchild

Accompanist: Rose Dempsey

Videographer & Editing by: Stephen Johnson