

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Peachtree City, Georgia

Christmas Eve ☩ December 24, 2020 ☩ 2:30, 6:00, 8:00 P.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music
Marty and Jim Hagberg, Musician Leaders

P = Pastor **L** = Lector [reader] **C** = Congregation *ELW* = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (hymnal, if you have one at home)

**PLEASE NOTE: We will not distribute paper copies of this Worship Guide. All will be projected on the screens.
If you would like, you could print a copy and home and bring it with you,**

PRELUDES

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion, so please prepare ahead of time wine/grape juice and bread appropriate to the number in your family. Our liturgy declares we celebrate with "the church on earth and the hosts of heaven." So in these days of required distancing, longing to share the Lord's Supper again soon physically together at one table of the Lord, we acknowledge communion always connects us "remotely" and powerfully with the Church through time and space. This will be another form of that connection. We understand no precedents are being set in these unique times.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Fritz

CALL TO WORSHIP and RINGING THE BELLS

CAROLS: *In the Bleak Midwinter, St. 1*

ELW Hymn 294

**1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW Hymn 279

**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.**

**3 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.**

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893 Public Domain

Away in a Manger

ELW Hymn 277

**1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

Text: North American, 19th century Public Domain

In the Bleak Midwinter

**3 What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part; yet what I can I give him—give my heart.**

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894 Public Domain

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

ELW Hymn 282

**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, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876 Public Domain

Angels from the Realms of Glory

ELW Hymn 275

**1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king. ►**

2 **Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

2

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-2 Public Domain

GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
☑ **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ 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.**

LESSON: Isaiah 9:2; 4; 6-7

Pastor Miriam

- ☐ Today's Lesson is from Isaiah, the ninth chapter

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 ...
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 ...
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.

- ☐ The word of the Lord.
☑ **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

ELW Hymn 289

- 1 **Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 3 **Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Refrain**

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14

- ☐ The Holy Gospel according Luke, the second chapter.
☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.
²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.
⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Fritz

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

ELW Hymn 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!**

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

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

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

When the petition concludes “Hear us, O God.” please respond, “your mercy is great.”

The prayers are ended with these words, “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.” Please respond, “Amen.”

INVITATION TO OFFERING: *Link to give:* <https://coslutheran.org/give/>

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

SHARING COMMUNION

*As the pastors and worship team commune, please join them and the whole Church remotely by communing each other/yourself with these ancient words of promise:
 “The body of Christ for you” and “The blood of Christ for you.”*

SONG DURING COMMUNION: *O Come, All Ye Faithful**ELW Hymn 283*

**1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
 come and behold him, born the king of angels:**

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

**4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain***

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN: *Silent Night**ELW Hymn 281*

**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.**

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

PASTORAL BLESSING**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 a star,
 bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.

☩ Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *Joy to the World**ELW Hymn 267*

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 Public Domain

DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
 Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.

☩ Thanks be to God.

Altar Guild: Linda Barbour and Carol Talbott

Tech crew: Will Friedrichs, Carol Jensen-Linton, Joni Siepert, David Turk, Sara Turk

Gifts of poinsettias and landscaping are listed on a separate sheet.