

CHRISTMAS EVE



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
December 24, 2022
4:30, 6:30, and 8:30 P.M.

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Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music

☐ = Pastor ☑ Congregation ⬆ Please stand as you are able. *ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (hymnal)*

PRELUDES

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion. Communion is offered by intinction: you may receive a wafer and dip it in the chalice with wine or white grape juice. Or you may pick up a prefilled communion "kit" on the altar rail as you approach the altar. Please tell an usher if you need a communion kit brought to you where you sit. At home you may prepare ahead of time wine/grape juice and bread appropriate for your family. Our liturgy declares we celebrate with "the church on earth and the hosts of heaven."

We acknowledge that communion always connects us "remotely" and powerfully with the Church through time and space.

⬆ PROCLAIMING CHRISTMAS and TOLLING THE BELL

⬆ **CAROLS:** *In the Bleak Midwinter*

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.**

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

Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine

**1. "Joseph, Dearest Joseph mine, help me cradle the Child divine.
 God reward thee and all that's thine in paradise," so prays the mother Mary.**

Chorus: **He came among us at Christmas time, At Christmas time in Bethlehem.**

Men shall bring him from far and wide Love's diadem.

Jesus, Jesus; Lo, he comes and loves and saves and frees us.

2. "Gladly dear one, Lady mine. Help I cradle this Child of thine."

"God's own light on us [all] shall shine in paradise," [so says the humble Joseph]. *Chorus*

German Carol, translated by Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936, altered; Music: *RESONET IN LAUDIBUS*, 14th Century German carol 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

O Little Town of Bethlehem

**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

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.**
Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, altered 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: Matthew 1:18-25

- ☐ Today's First Lesson is from the Gospel according to Matthew, the first chapter.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7a

- ☐ Tonight's Second 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 ...
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.

- ☐ This is 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; translated by H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

↑ HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14

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

⁴In 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.

WOMEN: 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.

MEN: 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.

P ¹⁰But the angel said to them,

All “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.”

P ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

All 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 Miriam

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *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

Public Domain

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

When the petition concludes “God of grace,” please respond, “hear our prayer.”

The prayers are ended with these words, “Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.” Please respond, “Amen.”

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OFFERING MUSIC



↑ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW page 144

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 and join their unending hymn:

- ☐ O HOLY CHILD of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

—*ELW Hymn 279, St. 4*

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893 Public Domain

↑ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- ☐** 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

- ☐ 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. Please approach down the diagonal aisles and return to your seat by the middle or outside aisles. At home, commune each other or yourself, with these ancient words of promise: "The body of Christ for you" and "The blood of Christ for you."

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: *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, altered Public Domain.

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; translated by John F. Young, 1820-1885 Public Domain

↑ PASTORAL BLESSING and 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.**

- 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**

- P** Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

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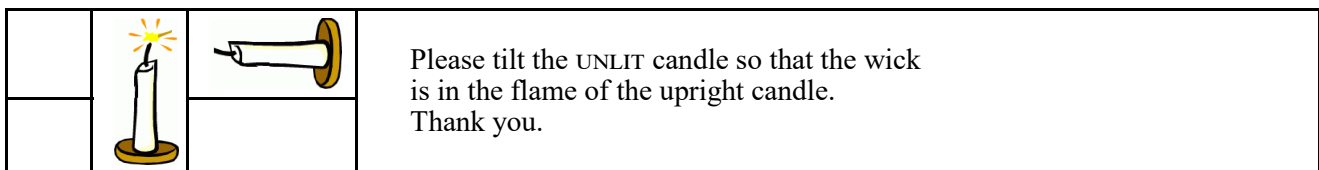
Altar Guild: Carol and Paul Talbott, Linda and Mark Barbour
Tech Crews: Joni Siepert, Linda Volckmann, and Brad Milburn

*We welcome you to worship on this night of miracles.
As with the shepherds on that dark night long ago we, too, are greeted
with the angel's Good News as Christ makes his way among us.
May worship give you joy and peace; and may you know goodwill in your relationships.*

CANDLE GUIDELINES AND CAUTION

Candlelight services are beautiful, but also dangerous. Please use extreme care in the lighting and use of your candle. Hot wax burns the skin and is difficult to remove from clothing and furniture. Precautions are required when many people hold lit candles. Therefore, in conjunction with the Fire Marshall and the staff of the church, we ask you to follow these simple rules:

- AGE LIMIT:** Candles are to be held ONLY by those who are 12 years old and older.
Please, NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF 12 SHOULD HOLD A CANDLE AT ANY TIME. Battery-powered candles will be available to parents to share with children under 12 years of age at candle lighting time.
- TO PREVENT BURNING:** Please keep the candle close to you at all times to prevent burning the person in front of you.
- HOT WAX:** Please be careful not to tip a candle while it is burning or while the wax is still liquid.
- TO LIGHT A CANDLE:**



- TO EXTINGUISH A CANDLE:** Please blow gently so the wax does not splatter. Keep the candle upright for 15 seconds after it is extinguished until the wax hardens
- FIRE EXTINGUISHERS** are readily available in the narthex of the church.
- TO RETURN A CANDLE:** As you leave, please deposit candles in boxes at the exits. Your child may keep the battery candle or return it to a box as well. **THANK YOU** for your cooperation. *Please be careful.*

GIFTS of POINSETTIAS or SUPPORT of LANDSCAPING

Kevin and Laura Hawkins

Bill and Linda Volckmann, to the Glory of God

Miriam and David Beecher, in honor of their sons, Matthew and Andrew

Carol Jensen-Linton, in honor of her children and grandchildren

John and Laura Musil, in honor of their grandchildren: Troy, Laurel, Emma, Abigail, and Sam

Linda and Bill Volckmann, in honor of our children and grandchildren

Linda and Bill Volckmann, in honor of our siblings and families

Cathy Brinkman, in memory of her parents, Pastor Richard McLeroy and Barbara Foster McLeroy

Miriam and David Beecher, in memory of Sunny Wilkerson Beecher

Miriam and David Beecher, in memory of parents, Red and Mary Helen Acker, and Ray and Betty Beecher

Brad, Kendra, and Olivia Milburn, in memory of Michael Campbell and Mary Milburn

Tom and Eileen Conrad and family, in memory of her mother, Margaret Jordan

Leona Davis, in memory of her father, mother, and sister, Paul, Nancy, and Evelyn Davis

Jim and Marty Hagberg, in memory of Christopher Hagberg, Glo Hagberg, Sue Blenderman,
and Norm and Jan Zuerner

Carol Jensen-Linton, in memory of Ron Linton and Colin Linton

John and Marilyn Lehmann, in memory of John's sister Alice

John and Marilyn Lehmann, in memory of Marilyn's brother, Ronald Wood

Katharine Manes, in memory of her husband, John Manes

Katharine Manes, in memory of her parents-in-law, John Bruce and Madelyn Manes

Katharine Manes, in memory of her father and mother, Hal and Elizabeth Rhodes

Katharine Manes, in memory of Hal Rhodes III

Kim and Jim Mashburn, in memory of Jim's parents, Walter and Lee Mashburn

Kim and Jim Mashburn, in memory of Kim's parents, J.R. and Mildred Wren

Judy Owen and the Cline family, in memory of Bob Owen and Barbara Cline

Guy, Elizabeth, and Jack Richards, in memory of their daughter and sister, Catherine Crosby Richards

Brian, Shannon, and Vera Robinson, in memory of our daughter and big sister, Nora Robinson

Nancy Shepack, in memory of her parents, John and Lynn Hart

Linda and Bill Volckmann, in memory of Bob, Avalyn, and Claude Cook

Linda and Bill Volckmann, in memory of Mary and Claude Cook

Linda and Bill Volckmann, in memory of Bob, Betty, and Janet Volckmann



