

Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2021
5:30 PM

The Reverend Dennis W. Koch, Pastor
Reverend William Barrett, Visitation Pastor
Renate Williams, Director of Music, Organist & Pianist
Roger Johnson, Choir Conductor

Invocation and Call to Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

To us a child is born. To us a son is given.

And the government will be upon his shoulders, and he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

We proclaim the praises of him,

Who called us out of darkness

Into his marvelous light!

Silence is kept for reflection.



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



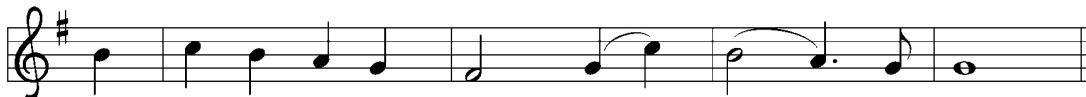
come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Confession and Absolution

The Holy Spirit has shone the light of God's love into our hearts, giving us faith to believe that the darkness of our sin has indeed been dispelled by the coming of Christ in the flesh. Let us, therefore, go to God's throne of grace, confessing our sins.

Wonderful Counselor, we confess that we have listened to the advice of the dark world around us. We have let the gloom of the nations and the difficulties of our personal lives blind us to the light of your love. Forgive us. Mighty God, we confess that we have ascribed too much power to the forces of evil in this world of sin. We have failed to recognize you as glorious Lord over all. Forgive us. Everlasting Father, we confess that in our daily dilemmas we have forgotten the great forgiving love that prompted Christ to become one of us to die for us. We have not always sought to live in your light. Forgive us. Prince of Peace, we confess that we have not recognized the peace that you have brought to our discordant lives. It does not fill our hearts and minds. Forgive us.

To us a Child is born; to us God's Son is given! Christ's eternal reign has broken through to our time and place with the brilliant light of his mercy and forgiveness. All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Arise, shine, for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

Prayer of the Day

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn

“The First Noel”

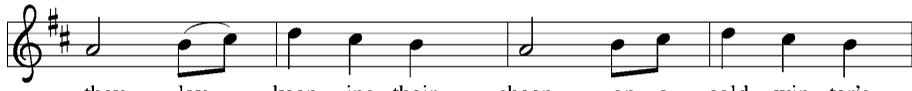
ELW 300



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional
 Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

²The 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.

Epistle Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-10

⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” ELW 270

Verse 1&2 before the Gospel Reading

Verse 3 following the Gospel Reading



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 Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-20

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** 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. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** 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. **8** In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** 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: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[b] praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”^[c]

15 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.”¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Prayers

Each petition will end with the words: *Light of the world*

The response is: **Hear our prayer, and shine on our darkness.**

The final petition:

Lord Jesus, you came to abolish death and bring life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Receive our praise and hear our prayers; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Musical Offering

“Jesus, What A Wonderful Child” – Duet by Lynn Bechdolt and Linda Koch

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Preface

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:

Hymn

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW 289 (Vs. 1)



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Great Thanksgiving

Holy One, ... 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word ... We look with hope for
his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit ... Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 Commune

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

The assembly may be seated.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond: **Amen.***

We invite all those who are Baptized, regardless of denomination, to join us for Communion. Please come forward using the center aisle. The pastor will meet you in the center with the bread. Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them. A person will be located to the left and right of the pastor. They will have the wine. Grape Juice is available for those who wish to refrain from the use of alcohol. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and communion will be brought to you.

Prayer After Communion

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Lighting the Candles

*Please do not tilt a lighted candle. Only tilt the candles to receive the flame.
When everyone has their candle lighted, we will sing the hymn "Silent Night".*

Hymn

“Silent Night”

ELW 281



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

Benediction

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
 so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,
 through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

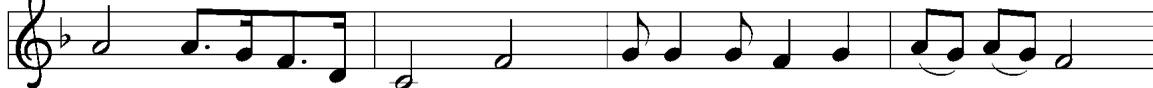
Please extinguish candles

Hymn

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

ELW 290

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

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

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

Dismissal

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

Thanks be to God.

Music and liturgical excerpts reprinted by permission One License.net #A-722106.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

WELCOME VISITORS. We extend a warm welcome to all who are visiting and hope you will return to worship with us again.

WE ARE EQUIPPED WITH A HEARING LOOP Assistive Listening System. Please switch your hearing aid or cochlear implant to “T” during worship. *Additional hearing devices are available from the Media Center.*

TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS

Deacon Bob Bonomo, Lisbeth Goetter. Our Sincere thanks to all!

FLOWERS in the sanctuary today given to the glory of God

MUSICAL OFFERINGS TODAY

“Jesus, What A Wonderful Child” –
Duet by Lynn Bechdolt and Linda Koch

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Stephanie Adams, Kent Meltesen, Pat Bentley, Harv Johnson, Carolyn Wall, Bob Moll, Sauny Williams, Tom Fowler, Caiden Fowler, Frank Wheatley, Gerri Fallanca, Dorothy Mensing, Jeremy Page-Wood, Michael Koch, Ilse Miles, Maria Thomas, Ray & Maxine Whitcomb, Dawn Clark, Isabelle Amundsen, Dave Boerger, Margaret Hehn, Bill Graham, Mireya Vera, Luna Bradford, Tommy & Rita Sillen, Karl Hertel, Joseph Dorwart, Alejandra Vukelich, Harper Wood, Heidi Rothmeyer, Steve Serafin, Adisynn Vincent, Tom Rice, Donna Brockschmidt, Billie Jean Chester, Nancy & Mike Kamm, Luna Jade Gonzalez, Nikki Robinette, Charlotte Clarke, Sandy Day, Arlene Mainster, Nancy O’Malley, Elisabeth Britt Busler, Steve Busler and Debi Wilson.

Attendance last Sunday

Total: In-Person, Facebook Live, You Tube 175

THIS WEEK AT GSLC

FRIDAY

5:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve
Worship

SATURDAY

10:00 a.m. – Christmas Day
Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDER TO ALL – As you enter the sanctuary, please lower your voices so as not to disturb those who are meditating and praying in preparation for worship.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE – We invite you to worship with us tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m. as we celebrate the Christ child's birth.

Listed below are the names of people who have donated poinsettia plants to help beautify our church for this most blessed Christmas.

Jeff & Isabelle Amundsen	In memory of Isabelle Hanse
Lynn Bechdolt	In honor of Dan & Claudette Bechdolt, Steve & Sandy Bechdolt & Deborah Martin
Margot Berger	In memory of Jim Berger
Deacon Robert Bonomo [3]	in honor of Annalise Bonomo, granddaughter In memory of Maryann Bonomo In memory of Bonomo, Tripi, Occhipinti, McCarthy, Deraffelli, and Tishman families
Jack & Maggie Bregger	In honor of children & grandchildren
Sue Buldiger	In honor of Anita Youngs
June Dreger-Parsons	In honor of my children
Rose Drennen	In memory of Kenneth Drennen
Robert Fowler [2]	In memory of Helene Fowler In memory of Lewis Fowler
Lisbeth Goetter	In memory of Herman Goetter
Dick Hildebrandt	In memory of Kathy Hildebrandt
Harv Johnson [2]	In memory of Glen Johnson In memory of Barbara Johnson
Roger & Carol Lee Johnson	In memory of our parents
Gladys Kean	In memory of loved ones
Pr. Dennis & Linda Koch	In honor of Michael Koch
Mary Krol	In memory of my parents
Barbara Lauer	In memory of Richard Lauer
Lois Lenhart	In honor of the Christ child's birth
Terry Lucente	In honor of the Christ child's birth
Leith Masters	In honor of parents, John & Helen Marshall
Ann Neville	In honor of family
Jeanine Pedersen	In memory of Ethel H. Cunningham
Frank & Elfrieda Romanelli	In memory of our loved ones
Betty Sanger	In memory of Naomi Domingus, mother
Ann Serafin	In memory of Ian & Isobel Bell, Rosemary Bell, and other loved ones
Faith Skelonis	In memory of parents & grandparents
Susie Steinour [2]	In memory of Lester Fetty

Barbara Lauer
Vera Thorne [3]

Sauny & Nate Williams [2]
Martha Zacharczyk [3]

In memory of Bill & Mildred Geppert
In memory of Richard Lauer
In memory of husband, Richard Thorne
In memory of siblings, Eva, Thor and Ray Thorsen
In memory of parents, Thor & Mally Thorsen
In memory of our parents
In memory of Walter & Jane Zacharczyk
In memory of C. Howard Rothfuss, MD & Jean E.
Rothfuss
In memory of June Neal



WORSHIP WITH US THIS
CHRISTMAS



10:00 AM