

Christmas Eve Service 2021



The Nativity of Our Lord

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

901 Cornwall Crescent

Dawson Creek, BC

Nativity of our Lord Candlelight Service

Service Note: You may wish to have a candle ready to light during the candle light portion of our service.

Prelude Music

AS WE GATHER

The shepherds had a sudden awakening when angelic light dispelled the darkness of night. God was entering human history in Bethlehem then, but for centuries He had been shedding light on His plans. This evening we thank God that His grace has dawned within us, giving us believing hearts to joyfully celebrate His birth. We not only recall what God has done in the past, but also we light our own candles to spread the warmth of God's love to one another. And then we go out into a world where many people still walk in darkness. What joy there will be when they see the Light!

HYMN # 357 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel [Sts. 1, 6, 7]

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 9:2-7*

- Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
People: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.
- Pastor: You have multiplied the nation;
People: You have increased its joy;
- Pastor: they rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest,
People: as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
- Pastor: For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder,
 the rod of his oppressor,
People: You have broken as on the day of Midian.
- Pastor: For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
 and every garment rolled in blood
People: will be burned as fuel for the fire.

Hymn # 338 – Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Pastor: For to us a child is born,
People: to us a son is given;

Pastor: and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
**People: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
 Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Pastor: Of the increase of His government and of peace there
 will be no end, on the throne of David and over His
 kingdom,
**People: to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with
 righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.**

✠ PSALMODY ✠

PSALM *Psalm 96; antiphon: v. 2*

Pastor: Splendor and majesty are before Him;
 strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.
 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
 ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!
 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;
 bring an offering, and come into His courts!

Pastor: Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble
 before Him, all the earth!
 Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!
 Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;
 He will judge the peoples with equity."

Pastor: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
 let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and
 everything in it!
 Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before
 the LORD, for He comes,
 for He comes to judge the earth.
 He will judge the world in righteousness, and the
 peoples in His faithfulness.
 Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation
 from day to day.

HYMN # 370 – What Child Is This**✘ READINGS ✘**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 9:2–7* (To us a child is born.)

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY *Matthew 1:21; Isaiah 9:6*

Pastor: She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus,

People: **To us a child is born, to us a son is given.**

Pastor: for He will save His people from their sins.

People: **To us a child is born, to us a son is given.**

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

People: **To us a child is born, to us a son is given.**

EPISTLE *Titus 2:11–14* (Our blessed hope is the appearing of Jesus.)

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD *Luke 2:1–20*

HYMN # 361 – O Little Town of Bethlehem [Sts. 1,2,3]

Pastor: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of

David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN # 364 - Away in a Manger

Pastor: And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

HYMN # 368 – Angels We have heard on High [Led by our choir]

Pastor: When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Pastor: And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN # 379 – O Come, All Ye Faithful [St. 1,2,3]

SERMON

✠ PRAYER ✠

LITANY

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace on earth proclaimed by angels and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace and Christmas joy in the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who respond here to the light of God's love, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all clergy and laypeople in the Church as they carry the light of Christ with them, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who work in national and local governments and agencies to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here rejoicing in God's great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our deliverance from all afflictions, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

People: Alleluia.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

People: To You, O Lord.

Pastor: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

CANDLELIGHTING

[During the following hymn, candles may be lit]

COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light.

People: Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven;

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN # 363 – Silent Night, Holy Night

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn # 387 - Joy to the World

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