



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Christmas Eve
Worship

December 24, 2022
7:00 PM

Minister: Rev. Diana Edis
Videographer: George Edis

Musician: Sheila Seidemann
Reader: Aurora Martin

Our worship will be live streamed on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/princerupertlutheran/>.

Welcome to Worship with St. Paul's Lutheran Church. In winter's deepest night in the Northern hemisphere, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Discipleship Information

1. This is a candlelight service. Those of you who worship off-site may have a candle at hand for each person worshipping. Near the end of the service we will light these to both remember and yearn for the brilliance of Christ which was birthed into the world so many years ago and promises to return in all the glory of God.

2. This is also a service of Holy Communion. Should you hear the call of the Holy Spirit you are welcome to receive the body and blood of Christ. Please prepare your home worship space with bread and wine or juice.

3. We will have a relaxed, Christmas Day worship at 11:00 tomorrow, December 25. Bring your hot cocoa and wear your fuzzy slippers if you like. There will be Holy Communion. Come to worship the Saviour, newborn and coming again.

3. Pastor Diana and George thank everyone for their support, love, and prayers throughout the year. Your gifts and good wishes have been much appreciated. May your holidays be blessed with the hope and joy of our Saviour. And may the new year bring you peace, love, and joy.

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* Our Bible readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version, covered under AF license # SB157842.

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

Hear the good news. We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 283 (vs 1, 3, 4)

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!

L: 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.

Let us pray together our 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.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

L: Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin. As we light this candle, turn us again toward mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; love us, restore us and give us life that we may be saved. O house of David, come,

let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.

Special Music

O Holy Night

L. Cullen, D. Edis, S Seidemann

Our first reading is from Isaiah, beginning at the 9th chapter

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. You 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. For 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For 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.

His 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

Christmas Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

No. 289

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.

Refrain on following page

Refrain

Glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

Our second reading is from Titus beginning at the 2nd chapter

2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L: The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Go Tell It on the Mountain

No. 290 (refrain, vs 1, refrain)

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

The holy gospel according to Luke, beginning at the 2nd chapter 2:1-20
Glory to you, O Lord

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.

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!”

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.

L: The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Go Tell It on the Mountain

No. 290 (refrain, verse 3, refrain)

Sermon

Rev. Diana Edis

Hymn of the Day

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

No 270

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!"

We join with the whole church, confessing our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed. We confess:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to
come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession: (petition response: L: God of grace.
C: Hear our prayer.)

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*Offerings may be mailed to the church, placed in our mailbox or sent by e-transfer to offering2stpauls@citywest.ca. You
may also give through CanadaHelps to St. Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert.*

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these
your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of
your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

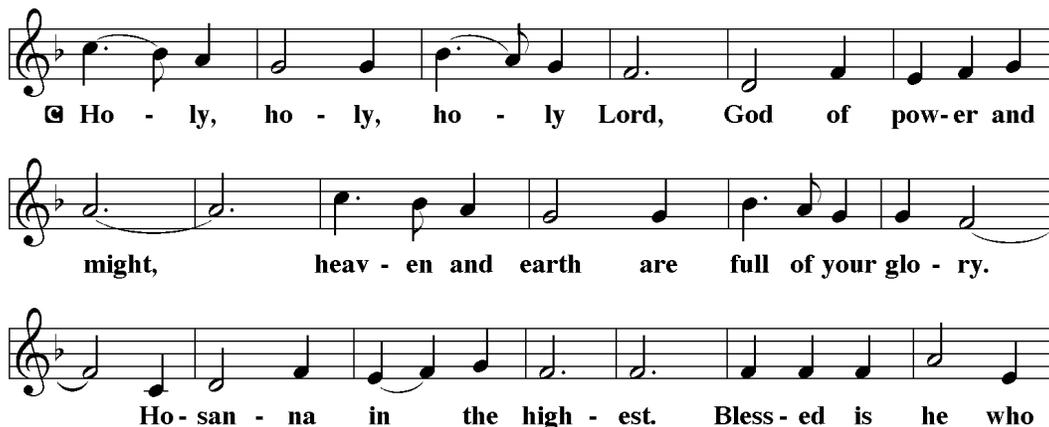
*We enter into a time of communion. All people are invited to join in God's meal, however you may choose whether or not
to participate. If you feel called to receive communion, it is for you. If you are worshipping off-site, you may prepare your
worship space with bread and wine or juice.*

L: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



L: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord...
...be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit across time and space, let us pray as Jesus taught us. Using whatever version of that prayer comforts you, we pray...

**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.**

Hymns during Communion

Away in a Manger

No. 278 ELW (red)

I Am so Glad Each Christmas Eve

No. 271 ELW (red)

Communion

L: This is the body of Christ, given for you.

C: Amen

L: This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

C: Amen

L: The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour strengthen you to eternal life.

C: Amen

L: Let us pray,

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

Candlelighting

The pastor receives the light from the altar candle and shares it with an assistant. They then share the light of Christ with the person sitting in the aisle seat of each row. The flame is then shared with all in that pew.

Always tilt the unlit candle to receive the flame from the lighted one so that hot wax does not spill.

As the candles are being lighted in the sanctuary, remote worshipers may light their own candles.

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them the light has shined.

Hymn

Silent Night

No 270

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,

Hol - der 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.

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

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin, and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

L: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
 Thanks be to God.