

Worship Guide – Sunday, December 24, 2023 10:45 am

Prelude: “The First Noel” arr. John Carter

W. Sandy's Christmas Carols, 1833; © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission OneLicense with license #A-711313.

Gathering Song: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” ELW 257 (v. 1, 6, 7)

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

Announcements and Greeting

To prepare for this service, please bring the following items to the place where you will be participating in worship:

- A plate with bread on it. Cover the bread with a napkin or cloth.
- A cup or glass with wine or grape juice. You may have small cups for each of the people who will be participating. You may pour from the one cup into the many cups later during the service.
- 4 candles as an Advent wreath with a 5th candle for Christmas
- A heart, soul and mind open to the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Gathering Song: “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” ELW 240 v4

Light four candles to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

He is coming, tell the glad tidings.

Let your lights be shining!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954; Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress Used by permission OneLicense with license #A-711313.

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.**

Kyrie

L: Kyrie eleison: C: Lord have mercy

L: Christe eleison: C: Christ have mercy

L: Kyrie eleison: C: Lord have mercy

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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.

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Word of God, word of life. ***Thanks be to God.***

PrayGround

Welcoming the Gospel “Angels We Have Heard on High” ELW 289 v1

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864; Text and music – public domain.

Gospel – Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Responding to the Gospel *“Angels We Have Heard on High”* ELW 289 v3

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Sermon – Susan Haukaas

Song of the Day: *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”* ELW 279 (video)

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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.

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Prayer Song: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” ELW 254 vs. 1

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

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Prayers of the People

L: Lord in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

Prayer Song: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” ELW 254 vs. 2

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

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Offering of Music: "Child of Love" Mark D. Lee, Matthew West, Steve D. Hindalong - Celebration

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Noisy offerings (coins collected in a metal bucket or clean empty food can) support the ministries of the Eastern North Dakota Synod. These ministries include Red Willow Bible Camp, Park River Bible Camp, Christus Rex campus ministry at UND, Crossroads campus ministry at NDSU, Dacotah O'Yate Lutheran Church on the Spirit Lake Reservation, The Way (Native

American Christian Ministry), South Sudan Lutheran Church in Fargo, and our partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory: “Your Little Ones, Dear Lord” ELW 286

- 1 Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.

- 2 With songs we hasten you to greet,
and kiss the ground before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night
that gave you birth, our soul's delight.

- 3 Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,
and to us all your grace accord;
true faith and love to us impart,
that we may hold you in our heart.

- 4 Until at last we too proclaim,
with all your saints, your glorious name;
in paradise our songs renew,
and praise you as the angels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, alt. Text and music – public domain.

Offering Prayer

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

Communion

At this time, please take the bread you have and uncover it.
Do the same with the wine/grape juice and pour it into the cup you will use.

Gathered together into the one body of Christ from the many places where we experience this holy time of worship, we come to the Lord's table:

Words of Institution

The 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**

Distribution

At this time, you may eat the bread and drink the wine, the body and blood of Christ, trusting in faith that Christ is with you.

If you are with other people, you may give them bread and the wine to eat and drink and then receive these gifts of God for yourself.

If you are not partaking in the meal at this time, receive this blessing:
Jesus loves you. This I know.

Communion Song: "What Child is This" ELW 296

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 on Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 while shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 haste, haste to bring him laud,
 the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898; Text and music – public domain.

Communion Song: “*Away in a Manger*” ELW 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.

2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.; Text and music – public domain.

Communion Song: “The First Noel” ELW 300

1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

4 This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

Text: English traditional; Text and music – public domain.

Prayer After Communion

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen**

Hymn: "Joy to the World" ELW 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.

- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

- 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; Text and tune – public domain.

Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude “How Great Our Joy!”

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