



Desert Cross Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve 2020 Worship Service 

PRELUDE MUSIC:

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel with Born That We May Have Life" – Joni Van Rossum (piano)
"The First Noel" – Christine Soll (piano) and James Soll (guitar)

WELCOME:

WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING:

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

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

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Let us pray.

On this Christmas Eve all the candles on the wreath are lit as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The advent candles together remind us that Christ is our light and the source of eternal hope, everlasting peace, endless joy, and boundless love. The Christ candle reminds us that God's perfect gift in Jesus was sent to us as the light of the world that we might have abundant life. Joy to the world and peace on earth. Let us worship Christ, the newborn king!

OPENING CAROL: ELW 283 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Verse 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!

Verse 3

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: **Refrain**

Verse 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; tr. unknown, st. 2



The Gospel in Scripture and Song

Luke 2:1-7

¹In 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. 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.

CAROL: ELW 279 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

- | | |
|---|--|
| 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. | 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. |
| 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth! | 4 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! |

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Luke 2:8-14

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. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "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." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

CAROL: ELW 270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Verse 1

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Verse 2

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,

offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! **Refrain**

Verse 3

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. **Refrain**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.



Luke 2:15-20

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

CAROL: ELW 277 "Away in a Manger"

Verse 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.

Verse 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.

Verse 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.

SERMON: Pastor Andrea Cain

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL: ELW 292 "Love Has Come"

Verse 1:

Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Verse 2:

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Verse 3:

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695

APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. The Peace of the Lord be with you always

P: Gracious God, on this holy night your Son our Savior was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God

C: hear our prayer.

P1: On this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God

C: hear our prayer.

P2: On this holy night the Christ Child came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our present world. Holy God

C: hear our prayer.

P3: On this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world. Holy God

C: hear our prayer.

P4: On this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to share the good news of Christ's salvation. Holy God

C: hear our prayer.

P: On this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the babe lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God

C: hear our prayer.

P: On this holy night people the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today and every day.

C: Amen.

OFFERING: "Emmanuel" – Christine Soll (piano) and James Soll (guitar)

HOLY COMMUNION:

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

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.

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER: *(Spoken, Traditional)*

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 SPECIAL MUSIC:

"Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head with Breath of Heaven" – Joni Van Rossum

DISTRIBUTION:

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING:

John 1:1-5, 14 [The Eternal Word and True Light]

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

P: Jesus, light of light, come to us with your gift of light so that we might break the powers of darkness in our world and bring the blessings of your light to people in every time and place.

Jesus, Son of God, Come to us with the message of your love and forgiveness and transform us. Jesus, child of Bethlehem, come to us with the brightness of your light and the joy of your peace. Come into our hearts with the glory of God's love. Amen.

CAROL: ELW 281 "Silent Night"

Verse 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.

Verse 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!

Verse 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; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885



BENEDICTION:

The wonder of Mary,
the joy of the angels,
the proclamation of the shepherds,
and the peace of the Christ child +
Be with you this Christmas, and evermore.
Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever. Amen.