

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022

8 pm and 11 pm



*For unto
us a
Child
is born*



279 Years of
"Joyously proclaiming the good news of God's love"

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

SPRING CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Founded in 1743



Saturday, December 24th, 2022

Christmas Eve Candlelight

INTRODUCTION

In winter's deepest night, 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.

PRELUDES

"Christmas Eve Reflection"

by Franklin Ritter

"From Bethlehem Hills"

By Mary Helen Moorehead, Arr. J. B. Calkin

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Text: Medieval Latin carol; Music: German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall

Bell Choir

WELCOME

Opening Dialogue

P: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

C: for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

P: He has raised up a mighty savior for us

C: in the house of his servant David.

P: As he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

C: that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hands of all who hate us.

P: Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

C: and has remembered his holy covenant,

P: The oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us,

C: that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

P: In holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, who is, who was,

and who always will be, our God. Amen.

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, Oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of Angels.

Refrain **Oh, come, let us adore him,**
 Oh, come, let us adore him,
 Oh, come, let us adore him,
 Christ the Lord!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Luke 1:26-38 **Mary's Story**

R: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.

R: The Lord himself will give you a sign.

C: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son.

R: And they shall name him Emmanuel,

C: Which means, God is with us.

PRAYER

R: Let us pray. Almighty God, in choosing the virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, you made known your gracious regard for the poor and lowly. Grant us grace to receive your Word in humility, and so to be made one with your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" - #270 ELW - 1st Verse

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

Matthew 1:18-25 **Joseph's Story**

R: Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace,

planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

RESPONSORY

R: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse.

C: **And a branch shall grow out of his roots.**

R: The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him.

C: **The spirit of wisdom and understanding.**

R: The spirit of counsel and might.

C: **The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.**

Isaiah 11:1-2

Prayer

R: Let us pray. God, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and the spouse of his virgin mother: Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW #279

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.

Luke 2:1-7

Jesus' Birth

P: 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.

RESPONSORY

P: Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

C: **but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.**

P: And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death

C: **even death on a cross.**

Philippians 2:6-8

Prayer

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have made yourself known in your Son, Jesus, redeemer of the world. We pray that his birth as a human child will set us free from the old slavery of our sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

HYMN

Away in a Manger

ELW #277

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.

Luke 2:8-20

The Shepherd's Story

P: 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. 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, "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. ¹⁹ 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.

RESPONSORY

P: Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings.

C: Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings.

P: Lift it up, do not fear.

C: Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

Isaiah 10:9

PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Gracious father, your angels sent the shepherds to Bethlehem. There they found the angels' words were true. With awe and joy they praised God carrying the good news in their hearts. May we like the shepherds glorify God and cry out the good news of Jesus birth.

Amen.



HYMN

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"- ELW #290

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
 Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching, o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light.
2. The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth
3. Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE by Pastor Tina Mackie

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Let us share the peace with one another

OFFERING INVITATION

December 24, 2022

Luke 2:19 –But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The Messiah is born, so let us celebrate! Long after the presents have been opened and the decorations packed away, the amazing gift of Jesus remains. Let us ponder the story in our hearts and share this very good news wherever we go.

Please be seated

OFFERING with Special Music

9 PM - "He is Born"

Words & Music: Traditional French Carol

Zion Choir

11 PM - "The Coventry Carol"

Traditional French Carol

Flute Trio- Lily Staley, Heather Staley, & Lori Hoshaw

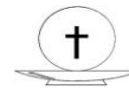
OFFERING PRAYER

A: Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

P: Amen.



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION



Believing in the real presence of Christ, this church practices communion hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to participate in the Lord's Supper. Parent(s)/Grandparent(s) will place their hands on untutored young people for a blessing given by the Pastor. The response when receiving the bread and wine could be: "Amen" or "I believe." (Grape juice and Gluten Free wafers are available)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

C: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

P: Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray,

C: 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 COMMUNION

P: The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine. Come meet Christ in this meal.

C: Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"The First Noel" - #300 ELW

"Angels We Have Heard on High" - #289 ELW

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

After the prayer, the Pastor, taking a large candle, which symbolizes Christ as the light of the world, then says:

P: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you...
And nations shall come to your light, and to the brightness of your rising.

Jesus said, "I have come as Light into the world, that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness...The Light is with you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you...While you have the Light, believe in the Light."

***The Ushers pass the light to the first worshipper in each pew, who in turn passes it on.
The lighted candle is NEVER TILTED, but is always upright when giving light to another.***

Candle Ritual

Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW #281

- 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.
- 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!
- 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.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.

C: Amen

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.

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.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Gesu Bambino"

Tune: Pietro Yon, Arr. Juliet Calkins

Bulletins Sponsored by Laura Clark

In honor and memory of Ronald B. Clark, a wonderful husband, father,
and grandfather by Laura Clark and family.

Worship Assistants 8 pm Service

Jena Dietrich	Assistant Minister/ Communion
Evan, Katy, Jacob Dietrich	Lay Readers/Communion
Maggie Munz	Usher
Elaine Weinstein	Communion
Landen Siedlecki	Acolyte
Emily Hoshaw	Acolyte
	Crucifer

Worship Assistants 11pm Service

Dan Bauman	Assistant Minister/ Communion
Amy Kirk	Lay Reader/Communion
Shawn Rogers	Usher
	Communion
Robbie Dickson	Acolyte
Lily Staley	Acolyte
Ryeleigh Kirk	Crucifer


Thank you all for your dedicated service.

THE CONGREGATION OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH welcomes all guests worshipping with us this Christmas Eve. We invite you to return to worship with us again! You are always welcome to join our Church Family for faith, fellowship, and fun. Our Worship Hours are on Sundays at 9 am. We hope you will join us!



We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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"**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**" -Text: Medieval Latin carol; Music: German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall- **Bell Choir**

"**O Come, All Ye Faithful**- #283 ELW- 1st Verse Text and Music attr. John Francis Wade

"**Hark, the Herald Angels Sing**"- #270 ELW- 1st Verse Text: Charles Wesley. Music: Felix Mendelssohn; arr. William H. Cummings

"**O Little Town of Bethlehem**"- #279 ELW Text: Phillips Brooks, Music: Lewis H. Redner

"**Away in a Manger**"- ELW #277 Text: North American, 19th cent. Music: James R. Murray

"**Go Tell it on the Mountain**"- ELW #290 Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., stanzas, alt. Music: African American spiritual

"**He is Born**"- Words & Music: Traditional French Carol,- **Zion Choir**

"**The Coventry Carol**"- Traditional French Carol- Flute Trio- Lily Staley, Heather Staley, & Lori Hoshaw

"**Silent Night, Holy Night**"- ELW #281, Vs. 1, 2, 3, Text: Joseph Mohr; tr. John F. Young, Music: Franz Gruber

"**Joy To the World**"- ELW #267- All Verses Text: Isaac Watts, Music: English melody; arr. Lowell Mason

"**The First Noel**" -#300 ELW-- Text: English traditional Music: English traditional; arr. John Stainer

"**Angels We Have Heard on High**"- Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes

"**Gesu Bambino**", Tune: Pietro Yon, Arr. Juliet Calkins

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Congregation of the Southeastern Pa. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Reverend Tina Mackie
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Jack Florio, Financial Secretary
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Amy Kirk, Social Media Editor

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Online giving link: <https://www.zionofspringcity.org/electronic-giving/>

If you wish to make an electronic offering at this time, please visit our website (listed above) to make your contribution.