

Carols by Candlelight Christmas Eve Services December 24, 2024

As We Gather

He came, but He didn't have to. He came, even though He knew He would be rejected, hated and executed on a cross. He came anyway. He came to give us a way out. He came to give us a new birth, a new name, a new life. He came to give us hope, not only for eternity, but for tomorrow. On this day we hear again the angel's words and listen to the surprising, yet wonderful, news that our Savior has been born in Bethlehem. He came. "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." -Jesus

Prelude

Rick Helderop, organist

The Entrance of the Light in the tradition of St. Lucia

Invocation

P: We begin our Christmas celebration in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Congregational Carol

○ Come, All Ye Faithful

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!*

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, glory in the highest; - *Refrain*

Prayer

P: Heavenly Father, with joy we enter into the contemplation of the holy mystery of Your Son's incarnation for us and our salvation. Open our minds to understand, our hearts to believe, and our mouths to proclaim the glory of Him who took on human flesh and blood through the blessed virgin in order to suffer and die in our place. Prepare our hearts to be fitting manglers to cradle Your Son that He may dwell in us and we in Him today and throughout all eternity; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

Voluntary - (8:00 p.m.)

Carol of the Bells - Wilhousky
Chancel Choir

Children's Message - (10:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.)

(Please rise for the Gospel Reading and Congregational Carol)

A Reading from the Gospel of John

John 1:1-14

(Please be seated)

Congregational Carol

What Child is This?

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?

Refrain:

*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 Christians, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. -*Refrain*
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. -*Refrain*

(Please be seated)

Sermon

"100 Years of Gathering in the Light"
Rev. Randall J. Schlak

John 1:1-14

Gathering of Offerings

At this time, please take a moment to record your attendance here with us today. There are two simple ways to do this:

1. Scan the QR code on the front page of the announcements and fill out the online attendance form.
2. Use the worship card found in your pew. You may drop it in the offering plate or simply leave it in your pew after you fill it out.

Congregational Carol *(sung during the offering)*

We Three Kings

1. We three kings of Orient are: bearing gifts we traverse afar —
Field and fountain, moor and mountain — following yonder star.

Refrain:

*○ – star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain: gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. -*Refrain*
3. Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising, worship Him, God on high. -*Refrain*
4. Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom —
Sorr'wing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. -*Refrain*

(Please rise for the Lord's Prayer)

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Lighting of our Christmas Candles

During the Lighting of the Candles

(10:00 a.m.)

Away in a Manger/Normandy Carol - arr. Hayes
Justin Wicker, *vocalist*

(4:00 p.m.)

Breath of Heaven - Grant/Eaton
Kate DeBoer and Alison Ristovski, *vocalist*

(8:00 p.m.)

Wexford Carol - arr. Hamilton
Chancel Choir; Kate DeBoer, solo

Congregational Carol

○ Little Town of Bethlehem

1. ○ 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.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
○ morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God, the King, and peace to men on earth.

The First Gospel Reading from Luke

Luke 2:1-7

Congregational Carol

Away in a Manger

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes,
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

The Second Gospel Reading from Luke

Luke 2:8-14

Congregational Carol

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men, from heav'n's all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
2. And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
○ rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

The Third Gospel Reading from Luke

Luke 2:15-20

Congregational Carol

Silent Night

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, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.
3. Stille nacht, heilige nacht, Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nür das traute hoch heilige paar, hölder knabe in lockigen haar.
Schlaf' im himmlischer ruh, schlaf' im himmlischer ruh'!

Pastoral Benediction

(Depart in peace - Merry Christmas!)

Extinguish Candles/Pealing of the Bells

Postlude

Rick Helderop, organist

Please place the candles in the receptacles at the doors as you leave.



Sanctuary altar flowers were placed by Lynn Dutton in celebration of the birth of Andrew William Dutton II, son of Danielle and Douglas Dutton. Sanctuary lectern flowers were placed by Marilyn Ripson and Sue Zimmerman in memory of our parents Michael & Kathryn Ripson.

Altar Guild

Kaki Mammel, Corinne Chesna, Sandy Springer, Jane Zehnder
Kris Ortale, Jamie Burstein, Ann Marie Violante
Susan Laramie, Rosemary Scheidt

Ushers

10:00 a.m. - Tom Boyce, Jim Grove, Raymond Dobring,
Mike Grattan, Bryan Grattan

4:00 p.m. - Steve Ortale, Ron Curcio, Bob Meyer, Scott Kamm,
Ben Kamm, Paul Quasarano, Ryan Teahan, Greg Bloom

8:00 p.m. - Brian May, Rick Russ, Karl Bush.,
Eric Rolf, David Eberly, Cliff Clark

Elder Cross Bearers

10:00 am - Tim Springer Jr.

4:00 pm - Chris Lagoe

8:00 pm - Ron Curcio

Audio and Video Operators

10:00 a.m. - Mike Lapinski

4:00 p.m. - Jim Wingo

8:00 p.m. - Jim Endress and David Hardoin

Acolytes

10:00 a.m. - Giuliana Chioini and Sawyer Kiriluk

St. Lucia Chimes

10:00 a.m. - Alivia Calvaneso

4:00 p.m. - Joshua King

In the tradition of St. Lucia, our candle bearers are:

10:00 a.m. - Edith Vella

4:00 p.m. - Rachel King

The pastors and staff of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer extend to you their wishes for a Christ-filled Christmas and a blessed New Year!

December 25 - NO Worship Service

**Church Building will be closed 12/25/24 and 12/26/2024*

December 31, 2024 and January 1, 2025

NO Worship Services

**Church Building will be closed 1/1/25*

