

**Candlelight Service
Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL
December 24, 2025**

Prelude

Welcome

Prayer

Hymn: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Special Music: "The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon"

Choir, Angie Lombardo, and Hannah Greven

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-14

Special Music: "O Holy Night"

Men's Quartet

Sermon: "Don't Miss God's Generosity"

John 3:16-18

Carol/Candle Lighting: "Silent Night"

The Benediction

Postlude

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave
His only begotten Son, that whoever believes
in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
For God did not send the Son into the world to
judge the world, but that the world might be
saved through Him. He who believes in Him is
not judged; he who does not believe has been
judged already, because he has not believed in
the name of the only begotten Son of God."*

John 3:16-18

Make Way

“A voice is calling, “Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley; Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, And all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

Isaiah 40:3-5

In times past, when a dignitary visited a city, town criers would walk ahead of the processional shouting “Make way!” This was an announcement and a warning that someone greater was coming and anyone or anything lesser should step aside. Lack of attention or thinking too highly of yourself meant facing consequences.

Tomorrow, we celebrate the Advent, or coming, of “very God of very God”. The WORD of God, who spoke all creation into being, became flesh and dwelt among us, lived a perfectly sinless life, died our death on the cross, and rose victorious from the grave—all because He loved the world.

The prophets have cried out to us that someone greater was coming. Angels, shepherds, magi—even the stars themselves have shouted to us that He has come. And the WORD Himself has declared that He is coming again.

In our lives, what needs to “step aside” for this dignitary who is greater in every way? In our celebration of these holy days, what needs to “Make Way”?

Mrs. Chad Christian
Helmar Lutheran Church
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