



**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385
(219) 462-6660 • clcvalpo.org



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
2025
7:00 p.m.

We welcome you to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure* of faith, grace, and love.

** The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."*

ABOUT WORSHIP

We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front of you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

RESTROOMS

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.

A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.

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. 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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

*The Holy Birth
Angels We Have Heard on High
Sonata for Two Cellos
In Dulci Jubilo*

arr. Krug
arr. Gramann
Boccherini
Crissafulli

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
**we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.
We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;
we have not always recognized
your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.
We confess our failure to make room
for those seeking refuge;
our participation in violent systems
that harm your innocent ones;
our reluctance to embody your good news.
Be born in us today
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.
Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you.

✠ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

Amen.

GATHERING CAROL: ELW #269 *Once in Royal David's City*

(st. 1 & 2, UNISON: st. 3—HARMONY: st. 4—UNISON)

As we sing, the Advent wreath is lit.

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

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.

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

CHILDREN'S TIME

The assembly is seated as children are invited forward for a time together.

ANTHEM

Night of Silence

Kantor/Ferguson

Cold are the people, winter of life, we tremble in shadows this cold endless night. Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, flowers that will echo the sunrise, fire of hope is our only warmth, weary, its flame will be dying soon. Voice in the distance, call in the night. On wind you enfold us, you speak of the light. Gentle on the ear you whisper softly, rumors of a dawn so embracing. Breathless love awaits darkened souls, soon will we know of the morning. Spirit among us, shine like the star. Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar; shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely, rising in the warmth of your Son's love, star unknowing of night and day, Spirit we wait for your loving Son.

READING: Isaiah 9:2-7a

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have deem - been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

READING: Luke 2:1-8

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. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father.**

CAROL: ELW #264

Prepare the Royal Highway

(st. 1 – ALL; st. 2 HIGH VOICES; st. 3 – LOW VOICES; st. 4 – ALL)



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

READING: Luke 2: 9-18

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."

**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.**

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

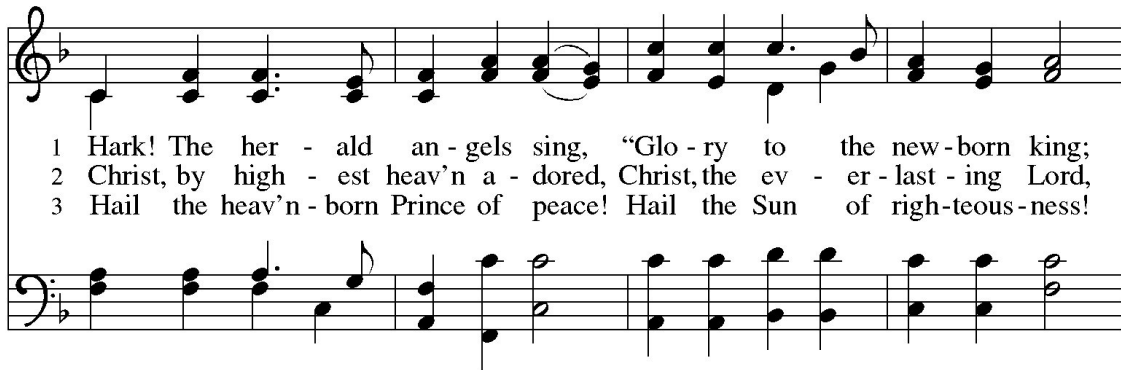
¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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.

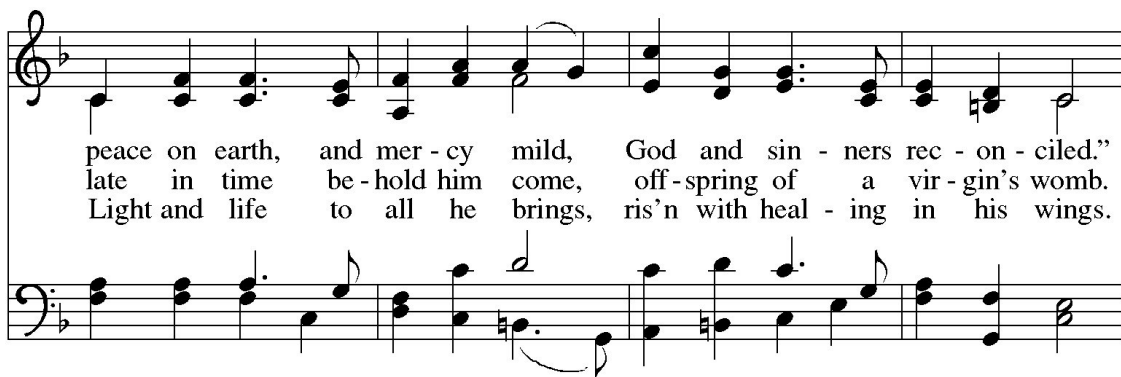
CAROL: ELW #270

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

(st. 1—UNISON: st. 2—HARMONY: st. 3—UNISON)



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born king!”

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Time for reflection follows the sermon.

CAROL: *Before the Marvel of This Night*

The assembly stands with the presiding minister.



1 Be - fore the mar - vel of this night, a - dor - ing,
2 A - wake the sleep - ing world with song, this is the
3 The love that we have al - ways known, our con - stant



fold your wings and bow, then tear the sky a - part with light
day the Lord has made. As - sem - ble here, ce - les - tial throng,
joy and end - less light, now to the love - less world be shown,



and with your news the world en - dow. Pro - claim the
in roy - al splen - dor come ar - rayed. Give earth a
now break up - on its death - ly night. In - to one



birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sor - row cease:
glimpse of heav'n - ly bliss, a teas - ing taste of what they miss:
song com - press the love that rules our u - ni - verse a - bove:



sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of
sing bliss, sing bliss, sing end - less
sing love, sing love, sing God is



peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!
bliss, sing bliss, sing end - less bliss!
love, sing love, sing God is love!

PRAYERS

As we wait for the one who is Good News, we pray for the world, for the Church, and for all people.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven.

We pray for your Church, O God, that we might see we are united as your Body. Inspire all your children to tell the good news of your mercy on all the mountains, and to be your hands and heart at work in all the world.

He was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

We pray for your world, O God, for all who suffer violence and abuse, for all who suffer for conscience's sake, for the end of hatred and humiliation, war and famine, drought and disease. We pray for crops and animals, drought and floods, that all your creations may flourish.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

We pray for those in need, O God, for those who are in prison, for those who are ill, for those who hunger and thirst, for those struggling with depression, for all who suffer. We pray for those who care for others in your name, for nurses and physicians, aides and technicians, custodians and cooks.

He suffered death and was buried.

We pray for siblings who are dying, O God, for hospice workers and chaplains, for funeral directors and cemetery workers. Embrace all who grieve in the long nights of this winter season.

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.

We pray in thanksgiving for the saints gathered around your throne, O God, who have shone your glory by sharing your light. May their lives inspire our living.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

O God, Creator of the universe and hope of all ages, your mercy is the sign we long for. We commend into your outstretched arms all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, our savior and our hope.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We invite those worshiping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

*This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with **Bethel Lutheran Church**, a diverse, urban ELCA congregation in the Miller neighborhood of Gary, Indiana (part of NW Indiana Conf. Of IK Synod) bethelmiller.org and facebook.com/bethelmillerbeach*



If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code or browse to our secure on-line portal at clcvalpo.org/give or use [our CLC app](http://ourCLCapp) (download at clcvalpo.org/app).

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Gesu Bambino

Yon

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night was born the child, the Christmas Rose, the King of love and light. The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced, and at his blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night that gave the world its Christmas rose, its King of love and light. Let every voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell from paradise to earth he came that we with him might dwell. O come, let us adore Him.

OFFERING PRAYER

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

God of glory,
**great are your wonders among us
and many are the blessings you bestow.
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,
through Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

TABLE PRAYER

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

You spoke your word of power and created all things, and without you not one thing was made.

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

You spoke your word of promise to Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, and created a people bound to you.

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

You spoke your word of longing through prophets and priests, outcast and unclean, calling your people to return to you.

who has spoken through the prophets.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your beloved children.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

On that day angels and shepherds sang for joy as your Word became flesh, coming among us as a defenseless baby. As his arms were tied in swaddling clothes, so later his hands were nailed to the cross, yet you made his birth and death the gateway to resurrection life.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

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.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

Remembering his word of hope given for us, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.
Amen and Amen!

LORD'S PRAYER

Children: The Spirit makes us one, we 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing.
Come to the feast of joy!
Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION

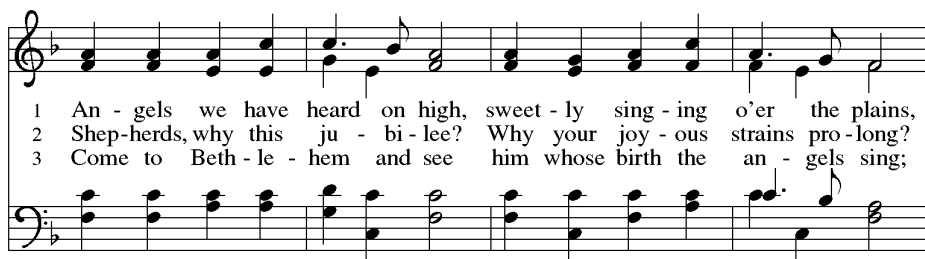
*The assembly is seated. The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.
Amen (receive the bread)

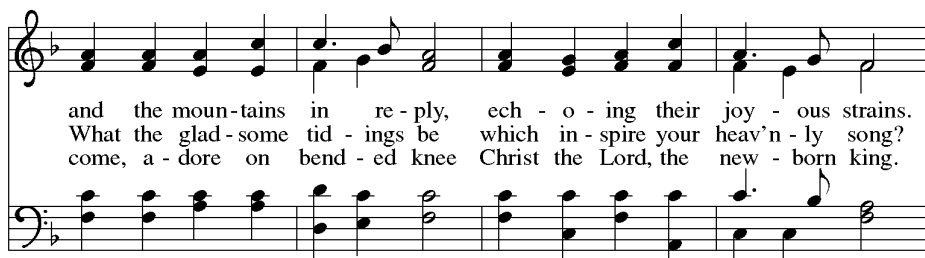
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen (receive the cup)

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. **WINE** is lighter-colored and **GRAPE JUICE** is dark; wine is received either by Common Cup or from individual cups in the trays. **USED GLASSES** are placed in the basket located near the ramp. **GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE**, please indicate to the server that you require this.

COMMUNION CAROLS ELW #289 *Angels We Have Heard on High*



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

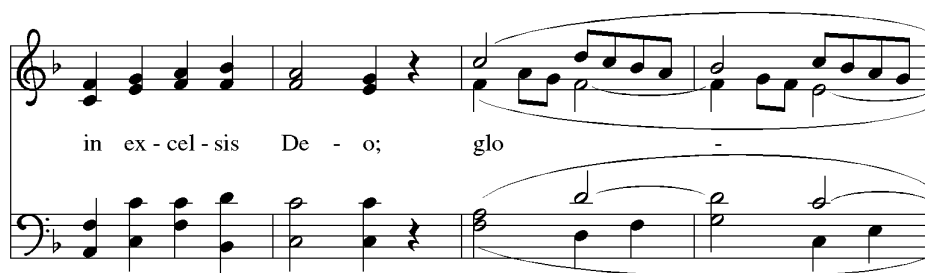


and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

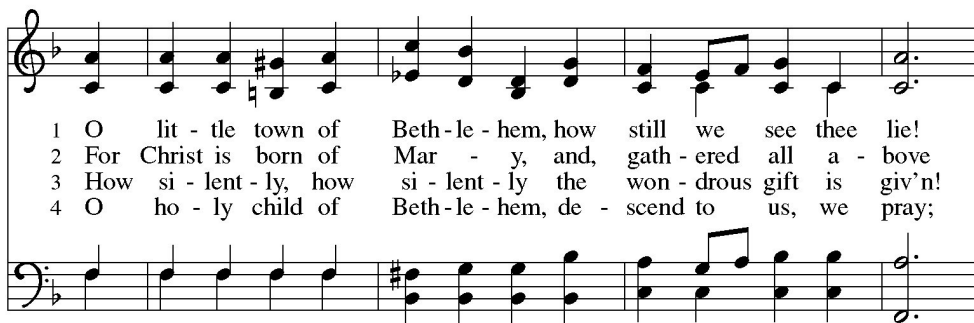


ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

ELW #279

O Little Town of Bethlehem

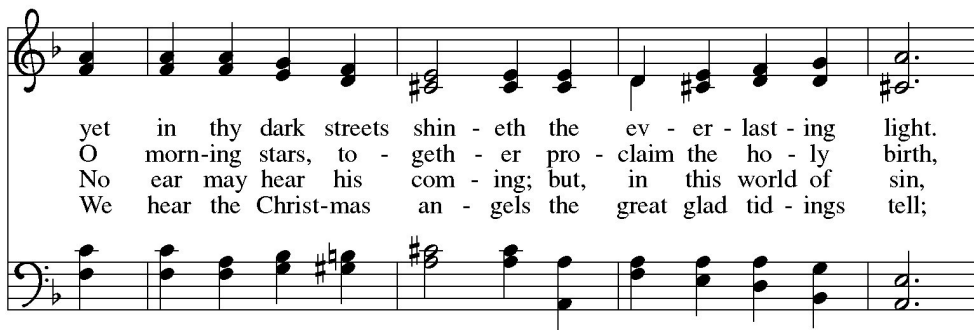
(st.1 – UNISON; st.2 – HIGH VOICES; st. 3 – LOW VOICES; st. 4 – UNISON)



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

ELW #300 *The First Noel*



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts
the mystery of your presence.
Move us to discover the wonders of your love
in the everyday moments of our lives,
through Christ born in us.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

CANDLE LIGHTING

As the light is shared, remember: the lit candle is never tilted. The unlit candle is lifted up for lighting.

READING: JOHN 1:1-14

CHOIR: *Stille nacht, heilige nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hoch-heilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.*

ALL: *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.*

*Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!'*

*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.*

READING: Luke 2:19-20

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.

BLESSING

The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Children: Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

Extinguish candles with care; place them in the baskets on the way out of the sanctuary.

Stay and listen to the postlude-or if you prefer, please take your conversations out to the Gathering Place.

POSTLUDE

Festival Prelude on "Joy to the World"

Jones

BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!



Worship Leaders

Acolyte:	Olivia Hernandez
Lector:	Sara Long
Prayer Assistant:	Darla Hernandez
Communion Assistants:	Darla Hernandez Sara Long Phyllis Schroeder Linda Mapes
Ushers:	Vickie Copeland Gregg Copeland
Light and Sound:	Zach Wehner
Livestream Tech:	Tony Reinhold
Pastors:	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even
Director of Music Ministries:	Brian Bartusch
Worship Participants:	Adam Gibson-Even, baritone soloist Celebration Ringers Handbell Ensemble Daniel and Lena Gibson-Even, cello

THANKS to all who have given the beautiful poinsettias to the Glory of our Lord on
this Christmas Eve:

Wes and Karina Barlow ~ In Honor of Carol Barlow
In Memory of Jon R. Barlow

Vickie and Gregg Copeland ~ In Honor of our Family
In Memory of Mary Jirik

Lucas and Sally Ecklund-Baker ~ In Memory of Jake Baker

Becky Fry ~ In Memory of John and Bea Beyer

Phil Hahn ~ In Memory of Laurel Hahn

Darla Hernandez ~ In Honor of the Hernandez Children
In Memory of Doris Peterson

Candace Jacques ~ In Honor of Janet Powell
In Memory of Margaret Rounds

Linda Mapes ~ In Honor of my Family

Tom Muchesko ~ In Honor of Betty Walkura
In Memory of Karen and John Muchesko

Robin Nelson ~ In Honor of Maddox and McKenna

Kathy Page ~ In Memory of Tom Page and Jody Steward

David and Charlene Smith ~ In Memory of Louise Huber and Christina Back

Ellen Swayne ~ In Honor of Family
In Memory of Gladys and Charles Swayne

Cheryl Watson ~ In Memory of Ken Watson

Vickie White ~ In Memory of Tom

Bethany White ~ In Memory of Nicholas

*Plants may be picked up after the 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve or
the following week.*

What Really Matters

“All the world should be registered” (Luke 2:1). This announcement from the emperor was an order for all people to stand up and be counted, to prove their worth by stating their name, their lineage, and the details of their existence, like the stats on the back of a trading card.

But an angel made a different sort of announcement: “This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:12). The shepherds would need to look for a baby just lying there, doing nothing but existing in all his God-given glory.

This baby is such good news in a world that tells us every day, in every possible way, that we need to prove our worth, that we need to convince the world and everyone around us that we matter. In what ways do you repeatedly try to prove your worth to the world? To your friends and family and colleagues? To yourself? To God?

What would it feel like—in your body, in your heart, in your gut—to just exist in all your God-given glory? To remember that the Savior of the world came to us as a baby who couldn’t do a single thing besides lie in the straw? And what would it be like for you—for all of us—to live each day in response to this wild grace?

Each of us matters to God, who sent Jesus into the world for us and all creation. God loves us, claims us in baptism, and continues to sustain us in holy communion. This indeed is good news of great joy for all people. Glory to God!



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