

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2021

Rev. Kelley L. Pedersen, Interim Pastor



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.

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(*please stand as you are able)

(Congregation reads **bold** print)

Welcome & Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who sends the word with angels,
who is made flesh among all peoples,
and who breathes peace on all the earth.

Amen.

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess our sin before you.

We replace compassion with competition.

We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.

We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.

We have not put on love in harmony with you.

Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.

Swaddle our hearts with your peace,

that all we do, in word or deed,

may reflect your love born among us.

Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy for all people:

God has come among us

in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.

† In Christ your sins are forgiven

and you are clothed in peace.

Amen.

*Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #279

***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.**

***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.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

²The 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.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 96

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)

¹Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the
peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity.
Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of
our Savior's final appearance.*

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation -- p. 102**

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd Chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord**

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14[15-20]

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

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. 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!"

[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.]

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Message

Hymn of the Day "Joy to the World" #267

***Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
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.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
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.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night (*especially*). Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

***Peace**

May the peace of God be with you all.
And also with you.

Offering and *Offering Prayer

Gracious God,
your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,
prepare us to receive the grace and truth
you offer at this table
and renew in us the song of your salvation,
in Jesus 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.

***Holy, Holy, Holy** p. 144

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer** p. 145

***Invitation to Communion**

In Christ's manger, at Christ's table,
come, see what God makes known for you.

Communion (continuous)

Come forward in the center aisle, distancing as desired. Please cup your hands to receive the bread. Move to the right or left to receive the wine. Return to your pew via the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available in the container in front of the font.

Those who wish to be served at their seats or use the individual pre-packaged elements at their seats may stand to hear the words for individual distribution.

Distribution Hymns: "The First Noel" #300, "Love Has Come" #292, "He Came Down" #253 & "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #270

***Prayer after Communion**

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,
God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.
As we have shared this feast of love,
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Lighting of the Candles

Hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night" #281

***Blessing**

The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.
Thanks be to God.

Baptized believers sent into God's world to share God's love and grace.

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Welcome! May you be blessed as we worship together!

Pr. Kelley can be reached at 402-750-9944 (cell).

Upcoming Events:

Sun. Dec 26 9:00	Lessons and Carols Service
Sun. Jan 9	TLC Council Meeting after worship
Mon. Jan 10	Annual Meeting reports due; please drop off in the church office or email to tlchurchmoville@gmail.com
Sun. Jan 23	TLC Annual Meeting Preview Discussion after worship
Sun. Jan 30	TLC Annual Meeting after worship

Worship Assistants for December:

Organist: Ruth Chartier	Altar Guild: Roger & Susan Christiansen
Scripture Reader: Roger Christiansen	Offertory Accountants: Steve & Lisa Rippke
Tech Assistants: Casey & Jill Stratton	
Acolyte: Rex Morgan	Crucifer: Carson Coulter

Worship Assistants for January:

Organist: Ruth Chartier
Scripture Reader: Ann Hopp
Tech Assistants: Casey & Jill Stratton
Acolyte: Leah Cross

Altar Guild: Dave & Patti Christiansen
Offertory Accountants: Irv Martin & Roger
Christiansen
Crucifer: Natalie Stamm

Prayers

For those battling cancer: Denise Arpino-treatment; Doug Dahlke-Cancer has returned and seems to be spreading, is at home recovering from chemo; Brad Pautsch (Cindy Ploen's brother)-started his immunizations Michelle Stovie (Harry Kloewer's daughter)-chemo, PET scan at the end of October.

We also pray for Norma Thies-meeting with hospice; Carla Boggs; Jon Kleemeier-rehab at home; Barb Kunkel; Ed Kunkel (Barb's son)-heart and lung issues, hospitalized with Covid; Drake Malm; Tucker Malm (10-yrs old)-Crohn's, doing well at home while waiting for surgery; Kelly Martin; Paula Roling; Kereen Swanger-recovering from stroke; those in addictions/recovery; all who are grieving; victims of COVID-19, extreme weather and natural disasters, violence and domestic abuse.

THANK YOU!

- Thank you to everyone who participated in the Giving Tree project. It is always heartwarming to see the response of our members to provide gifts for others. This year we provided gifts for 55 individuals with CAA and 10 children from LSI. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. May you be blessed as you have blessed others. Gloria Healy

On Ushers' Table:

- Children's bulletins
 - Lutheran Disaster Response - US Wildfires information, Haiti earthquake relief
 - 2021 January Devotional (large and small print available)
 - Seminal sheets for confirmation students
 - Survey for the Call Committee
 - Worship Helpers sign-up sheet
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