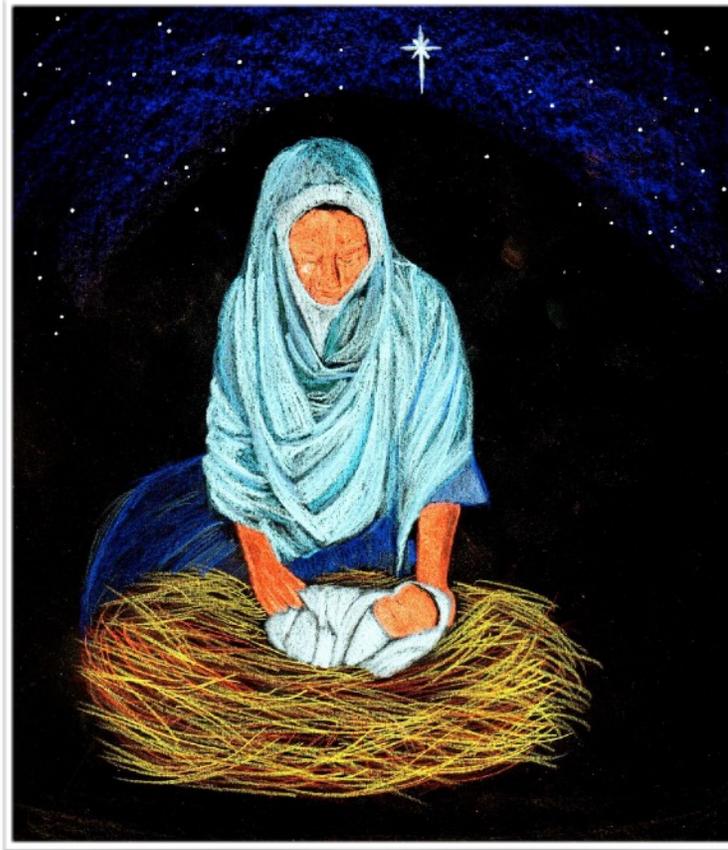




**Christmas Eve Candlelight and
Holy Communion Worship**
December 24, 2020



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Rev. Trina Johnsten

A congregation of the Montana Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

PRELUDE

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 283 Oh, Come All Ye Faithful

*O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!*

*O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:*

Refrain

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

*The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin,
a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! **Refrain***

*Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest! **Refrain***

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE DIALOG

ISAIAH 9

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.**

For unto us a child is born!

Unto us a Son is given!

Authority rests upon his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor!

Mighty God!

Everlasting Father! The Prince of Peace!

And he shall reign forever and ever. Hallelujah!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Mary Did You Know?

Pastor Steve Nelson and Warren Johnson

FIRST READING: MICAH 5:2-5A

A reading from the prophet Micah:

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me

one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up
until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred
shall return to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure,
for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

HYMN

ELW 279 O Little Town of Bethlehem

*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.
For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together*

*proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!*

*O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.*

*We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!*

LUKE 2:1-7

A reading from the gospel of Luke:

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.

HYMN

ELW 277 Away in a Manger

*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.*

*The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh. Hymn*

THIRD READING: LUKE 2:8-14

A reading from the gospel of Luke:

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:
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you:

you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth

and lying in a manger.'

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

HYMN

ELW 270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*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!"*

Refrain:

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!
Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. **Refrain***

FOURTH READING: LUKE 2:15-20

A reading from the gospel of Luke:

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.

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.

Hymn

ELW 290 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

*Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching

*o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. **Refrain***

*3. Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain***

FIFTH READING: MATTHEW 2:1-11

A reading from the gospel of Matthew:

In the time of King Herod,
after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,
wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,
'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?
For we observed his star at its rising,
and have come to pay him homage.'

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened,
and all Jerusalem with him;
and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the
people,
he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea;
for so it has been written by the prophet:
"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people
Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men

and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,
'Go and search diligently for the child;
and when you have found him, bring me word
so that I may also go and pay him homage.'

When they had heard the king, they set out;
and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its
rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.
When they saw that the star had stopped,
they were overwhelmed with joy.

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother;
and they knelt down and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure chests,
they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh..

Hymn

WOV 646 We Three Kings of Orient Are

*We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.*

Refrain

*Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!
Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,*

*gold I bring to crown him again;
king forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. **Refrain***

*Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worshiping God Most High. **Refrain***

*Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **Refrain***

*Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. **Refrain***

SERMON

Pastor Trina Johnsten

HYMN

ELW 296 What Child Is This

*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?*

*This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!*

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace.

You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.

You share our humanity.

**Have mercy on the sick, the dying,
and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God.

You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in Word and Sacrament
that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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. 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 our thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SPECIAL MUSIC
Angels We Have Heard On High
Brass Ensemble

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace,
now and unto life eternal,
in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray:
Emmanuel, God with us,
**you grace us with life and breath
and give us bread for the journey.**
**Send us out in service to this world that you love,
telling the amazing news of your coming
to be Savior and Lord of all. Amen**

The Gospel of the Incarnation

JOHN 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through him,
and without him, not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.
There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
He came as a witness to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.
He himself was not the light,
but he came to testify to the light.
The true light, which enlightens everyone,
was coming into the world.
He was in the world,
and the world came into being through him;
yet the world did not know him.
He came to what was his own,
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who received him,
who believed in his name,
he gave power to become children of God,
Who were born, not of blood or of the flesh
or of the will of man, but of God.
And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

HYMN

ELW 281 Silent Night, Holy Night!

*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,
heav'nly 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 your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.*

Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Dave Scholten

SENDING HYMN

ELW 267 Joy to the World

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.*

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

*Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains r
epeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.*

*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..*

POSTLUDE

SERVING TONIGHT

Accompanist Mary Seim - hymn, Lynn Ryan - duet, & Connie Titcomb - choir

Vocals

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <i>O, Come All Ye Faithful</i> | Patrick, Lynn, Kian, Kendall, & Kari Ryan |
| <i>Oh Little Town of Bethlehem</i> | Dave and Tamy Scholten |
| <i>Away In A Manger</i> | Kian, Kendall, & Kari Ryan |
| <i>Hark! The Herald Angles Sing</i> | Pastor Trina, Dennis Trotter, Dan, Jenny, Claire Woods |
| <i>Go Tell It On the Mountain</i> | Jo Ann Dullum |
| We Three Kings of Orient Are | Patrick and Lynn Ryan |
| What Child Is This? | Marilyn Carlson and Donna Vinnedge |
| Silent Night | Jubilate Choir |
| <i>Joy To The World</i> | Pastor Trina, Dennis Trotter, Dan, Jenny, Claire Woods |

Brass Ensemble

Dave Scholten, Lynn Ryan, Kurt Mueller, Adam Elkin & Jeff Skogley

Tech

Colter McCarty

Readers

Walt Nuessle, Andrew Dullum, Sue Hesse, Carrie Ann Elkin, & Jim Carlson.



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Worship Songs: O, Come All Ye Faithful, Oh Little Town of Bethlehem, Away In A Manger, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Go Tell It on the Mountain, We Three Kings of Orient Are, What Child Is This, Angels We Have Heard on High, Silent Night, and Joy to The World used with permission under One License A-704354

Special Music: Mary Did You Know? used with permission under CCLI #556986

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