

Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve, 2025 - Candlelight Worship

Prelude

Dave Roos

Gathering

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

GATHERING CAROL ELW #283 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

- 1 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!**

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

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

- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing: **To Refrain**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH/CHRIST CANDLE

PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, **we praise you as we light candles of this wreath. Because you sent your Son, Jesus, the light of the world, the troubles of the world – despair, loss, hatred and suffering – are being dispelled. Your**

love overwhelms all. We thank you for your gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love, but most especially, for the gift of Jesus, your Son. By your grace adopt us as your children. By your Holy Spirit, enlighten us to live humble and holy. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

DIALOG AND LIGHTING OF WREATH

WREATH CAROL ACS #901 "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"

- 1 Now the heavens start to whisper,
as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen
to the stirring, faint within:
seed of promise, deeply planted,
child to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline,
hearts grow soft to welcome him.
- 2 Heavy clouds that block the moonlight
now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness
shines the hope of coming day.
Christ, the morning star of splendor,
gleams within a world grown dim.
Heaven's ember fans to fullness;
hearts grow warm to welcome him.
- 3 Christ, eternal Sun of justice,
Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
come to bless with fire and fragrance
hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger,
in the outcast, hid from view;
Child who comes to grace the manger,
teach our hearts to welcome you.

Word

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

Let us pray. 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.**

BIBLE READING Isaiah 9:2-7

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

BIBLE READING Titus 2:11-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION TFF #45 "Emmanuel" (*sing 2x*)

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel:
God with us, revealed in us!
His name is called Emmanuel.

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

SERMON "A Word That Moves You" Pastor Julie Brenden

CAROL OF THE DAY ELW #279 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

- 1 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.
- 2 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!

3 How silently, how silently
 the wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts to human hearts
 the blessings of his heav'n.
 No ear may hear his coming;
 but, in this world of sin,
 where meek souls will receive him, still
 the dear Christ enters in.

4 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!

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, 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

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

Responses: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Meal

OFFERING AND CAROL ELW #289 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? **To Refrain**

- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. **To Refrain**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Responses:

We praise and magnify you, O God.

We praise and magnify you, O God.

Blessed are you,...We join in the multitude of angels to praise and magnify your name, singing: **Glory to God in the highest heaven,
today, tomorrow, and forever.
Amen. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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.**

COMMUNION and DISTRIBUTION CAROLS 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.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

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!**

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. ***To Refrain***
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. ***To Refrain***

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

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. 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

VERSES ON LIGHT *(Hand-held candles are lit during the reading of the verses.
The sanctuary lights are turned off as the candles are lit.)*

CAROL ELW #281 "Silent Night, Holy 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!
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!
- 3 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.

SILENT PRAYER

BLESSING

The triune God, glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,

abiding Comforter, †
 bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
Amen.

(Lights turned on.)

SENDING CAROL 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!"**

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
 Christ, the everlasting Lord,
 late in time behold him come,
 offspring of a virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
 Hail, incarnate deity!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel! ***To Refrain***

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. ***To Refrain***

DISMISSAL

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.