

The beloved Christmas carol "**Silent Night**" was written for the Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24, 1818, at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf in the Austrian Alps. As the organ had ceased to function on the day of the service, Father Joseph Mohr, assistant priest, decided to write a new hymn for the service. He took it to Franz Gruber, parish organist and teacher in the village school, who wrote the tune. The two sang the hymn that evening, with Gruber accompanying on the guitar, and the choir repeated the last two lines in four-part harmony. The carol was not published for twenty years, but in the meantime it came to be widely known.



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**

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Head Usher: Jim & Norma Halderson

Soundboard: Arnold Burgemeister

Greeters: Roy and Betty Ruff

**Ministers, all who worship here**

**Rev. Jon M. Beake, Pastor**

The  
people that  
walked in  
darkness  
have seen a

*Great  
Light*



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**

December 24, 2018

7:00 P.M.

# *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

December 24, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

## **Prelude**

### **Processional Christmas Carol**

#### **“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”**

Hymn 45

1. Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold Him, born The King of angels:

Oh, come let us adore Him, Oh, come let us adore Him,

Oh, 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,

Oh, come let us adore Him, Oh, come let us adore Him,

Oh, come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, in the highest:

Oh, come let us adore Him, Oh, come let us adore Him,

Oh, come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord! *attr. John F Wade*

## **Christmas Dialog**

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a Great Light. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome It.

**C: *Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has Light shined. We have beheld Christ’s Glory, Glory as of The Only Son from The Father.***

4. He rules the world with truth and grace

And make the nations prove

The glories of his righteousness

And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,

And wonders, wonders of His love. – *Isaac Watts*

L: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**All: *Thanks be to God.***

## **Postlude**

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*Poinsettias given  
to the Glory of God . . .*

## **Prayer for Christmas**

**All: 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 Only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and The Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His Face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. In The Name of The Father, and of The Son, and of The Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **“Joy To the World”**

Hymn 39

1. 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.

2. Joy to the earth, The Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. 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.

(9)

## **Scripture Reading** Isaiah 9:2-4,6-7; Micah 5:2-5a

## **“O Little Town of Bethlehem”** Hymn 41

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.

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, Emmanuel!

*Phillips Brooks*

## **“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”** Hymn 50

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Once you sang creation's story;  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2. All creation, join in praising, God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King. – *James Montgomery*

## **Christmas Gospel** Luke 2:1-7

(2)

## St. John's Choir "On That Christmas Eve"

### "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" Hymn 54

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
From heav'n's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow;  
Look now, for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing.  
Oh, rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing. – *Edmund H. Sears*

### "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Hymn 60

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!"  
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.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King." –  
*Charles Wesley*

***Jesus Christ is The Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.***

This will be a sign unto you, you will find The Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

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

*(Please tip only unlit candles to receive the flame from a lit candle. Do not tip a lit candle, lest hot wax spill.)*

### "Silent Night, Holy Night" Hymn 65

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! Shepherd's quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God loves pure light.  
Radiant beams from your holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*(Fourth verse in German)*

4. Stille nacht, heilige Nacht, Alles schlaft; einsam wacht.  
Nur das heilige Eltern paar, das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war,  
bei dem himmlischen Kind, bei dem himmlischen Kind.

– *Franz Gruber, Joseph Mohr*

## Liturgy of The Eucharistic Meal

|                                        |           |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|
| The Great Thanksgiving                 | Pg. 68    |
| The Sanctus: <i>“Holy, Holy, Holy”</i> | Pg. 69    |
| The Words of Institution               | Pg. 69-71 |
| The Lord’s Prayer                      | Pg. 71    |

**Hymns During Distribution** (LBW) 55, 67, 69, 71

**The Distribution: *Welcome to the Lord’s Table.*** Jesus The Christ is both The Host and The Feast. Know that God loves you and offers you complete forgiveness! If you have been prepared to receive Communion extend your hands palm up to receive the bread. If you would prefer grape juice to wine, let the server know. After receiving the bread and wine you may respond with *“Amen”* or *“Thanks be to God.”* **Please register for communion.** ***Cards are available in the pew rack. Please place it in the offering plate or give it to an usher.***

## The Blessing

## The Prayer

## The Candle Lighting Ceremony

**P:** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And God said, “Let there be light!”

**C:** ***Jesus Christ is The Light of the world, The Light no darkness can overcome.***

A star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.

***Jesus Christ is The Light of the world, The Light no darkness can overcome.***

The people who walked in darkness have seen a Great Light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them the Light has shined.

## Christmas Gospel Luke 2:8-20

## Special Music “O, Holy Night”

Marita Poulson & Ellen Kress

## “What Child Is This”

Hymn 40

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!

Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you; Hail, hail The Word made flesh, The babe, The Son of Mary!  
– English Ballad, 16<sup>th</sup> century

## “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” Hymn 44

Infant holy, infant lowly, For his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing, Bells are ringing, tidings bringing;  
Christ The Child is Lord of all!  
Christ The Child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
Vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, Praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you!  
Christ the child was born for you! – Edith M. G. Reed

## **Confession of Faith The Apostles' Creed Pg. 65**

### **Prayers of the Church**

Rejoicing that The Grace of God had been revealed in The Birth of Jesus Christ, The Light of the world, let us pray for the Church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*(A brief silence.)*

God of Grace, bless Your Church, that it may faithfully proclaim The Good News of Jesus' Birth and declare His Glory among the nations. Gracious God,

***hear our prayer.***

God of Glory, the heavens are glad and the earth rejoices on this holy night. The seas roar and the forests sing for joy. Move us to respond in loving care for all of creation. Gracious God,

***hear our prayer.***

God of Counsel and Might, grant Your wisdom to all world leaders, that they may serve in the name of justice and righteousness and all may live in peace. Gracious God,

***hear our prayer.***

God of Light, illumine the lives of all who walk in the darkness of oppression, homelessness, poverty, loneliness or sickness (*especially...*). Lift the yoke of their burden and give them rest from their weariness. Gracious God,

***hear our prayer.***

God of Welcome, lead this congregation to receive with love all who enter our doors, especially those for whom the world has no room. Gracious God,

***hear our prayer.***

God of Life, we give You thanks for all the saints who have gone before us and now sing a new song with You. Keep us faithful until that day when we join them in the brightness of your glory. Gracious God,

***hear our prayer.***

Hear the hopes and prayers of our hearts, O God, and magnify our joy at the birth of Your Light among us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Amen.***

L: The Peace of The Lord be with you always.

P: ***And Also with you.***

### **Offering**

#### **Offertory**

**Offering Response** (To tune of Hymn 47)

"Let All Together Praise Our God"

1. As saints of old their first-fruits brought, of orchard, flock, and field to God, The Giver of all good, The Source of bounteous yield, The Source of bounteous yield.

2. In gratitude and humble trust We bring our best today To serve Your cause and share Your Love with all along life's way, with all along life's way.

#### **Offering Prayer**

L: Merciful Father,

***All: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of Your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***