



**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2018
6:00 PM**

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the Prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

****Congregation Processional Hymn**

"O 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; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us -adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God in the highest: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Invocation and Responsive Reading (*Hebrews 1:1-2; Isaiah 9:6; John 3:16*)

P We gather to worship on this holy night in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

C But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.

P For to us a child is born,

C To us a son is given ...

P And his name shall be called

C Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,

C That whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Prayer of the Day (in unison)

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.

Congregation Hymn:

“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 ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

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 the incarnate Deity! Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!

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 man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Meditation: “The Good Old Days:

Pastor Karen Sparling

Part 1: The Good Old Days

Drama Speakers: Marah Gruen, Vanessa Anderson, Ayawyn Conner,
Brodie Stanek

Reading ... Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Narrator, Thadyn Conner

Recitation: Collin Niedfeldt, Linus Arndt

Drama Speakers

Reading ... Isaiah 11:1-3, 6

Narrator, Thadyn Conner

Recitation: Carlee Niedfeldt, Alaina Holthaus

Drama Speakers

Congregation Hymn:

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

**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.**

**For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old, When down into
the circling years Came Christ as was foretold. His word of peace shall to the
earth God’s ancient promise bring, And all who take this gift will hear The
song the angels sing.**

Part 2: In Those Days

Drama Speakers

Congregation Hymn:

“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!**

Reading ... Luke 2:1-7

Narrator, Kaylin Gruen

Recitation: Jayda Leis, Ava Gruen

Song by the Children

“Away in a Manger”

Reading ... Luke 2:8-20

Narrator, Kaylin Gruen

Angel: Brooklyn Gruen

Angel Chorus:

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Recitation: Ben Gruen, Mia Anderson, Fynlie Stanek, Daphne Arndt,
Bria Gruen

Congregation Hymn:

“The First Noel”

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

Refrain

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

**And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.**

Refrain

**This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and
there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain***

**Then entered in those wise men three, full rev'rently upon their knee, and
offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.**

Refrain

Solo: “What Child is This?”

Lailah Eckes

Part 3: The Best Days Are Still to Come

Drama Speakers

Reading ... Galatians 4:4-6

Narrator, Thadyn Conner

Recitation: Miranda Arndt

Song by the Children

“God Loves Me Dearly”

Drama Speakers

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

Narrator, Thadyn Conner

Drama Speakers

Reading ... Revelation 22:20

Narrator, Thadyn Conner

Recitation: Katie Gruen

Drama Speakers

Congregation Hymn:

Angels From the Realms of Glory”

**Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all the earth; Ye who
sang creation’s story, Now proclaim Messiah’s birth.**

Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

**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.

Prayers: Hear us O God, **your mercy is great.**

Offering

***Offering Hymn:**

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

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

Refrain

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

**The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain***

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

****Offering Prayer**

**Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger
and your love flows from the cross.**

**As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us,
warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need.**

In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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.**

Come to the table where Christ meets you.
Eat, rejoice, and be glad!

*****Prayer after Communion***

**God of wonder,
in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near.
As you have come among us now,
send us out in joy, hastening to share**

**the good news of your love.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. Amen.**

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

******(Please turn your lights on)

PASTOR: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

ALL: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

PASTOR: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

ALL: In him was life, and the life was the light of humanity.

****Congregation Hymn:**

“Silent 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,
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 your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

Blessing

God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you,
and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you, ✠ bless you and keep you in
hope and peace.

Amen.

****Congregation Hymn**

“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
repeat 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.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

Thanks be to God

POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

In Memory Of:

By:

Wayne L. Brandau
Arline E. Budde
John P. Dougherty
Bernard L. Arndt

Smith-Nelson Funeral Home

Leonard & Galetta Brandau,
Herman & Clara Buchholz,
William & Ida Brandau

Rick & Lori Brueggen & Family

Earl and Anita Brandenburg

Leonard & Dixie Arndt

Elwin Steinke

Anita Steinke & Family

Ed & Shirley Ross, Sr., Ron Ross

The Ross Family

Parents, Grandparents, and
Loved Ones

George & Carolyn Dougherty

Raymond & Sybil Birkholz,
Paul Udulutch, Otto Savall

Barb & Ron Savall & Family
Annette Udulutch & Family

CALENDAR DECEMBER 25 – DECEMBER 30

Tues., Dec. 25

Christmas Day

Thurs., Dec. 27

Newsletter Deadline

Noon

Sun., Dec. 30

Worship Service (no communion)

10:15 AM

Please note there will not be Sunday School on Sunday, December 30. The worship service will be one of scripture and Christmas Carols.

Thank you to all students, parents, Sunday School teachers and all others who

helped make this Worship possible. A special thanks to Barb Ornes for costume supervision.

THOSE SERVING THIS SERVICE

Ministers: All God's People *Pastor:* Karen Sparling *Organist:* Nalani Bever
Greeters: Louise and Bob Buchholz *Communion Server:* Joel Arndt
Altar Committee: Lori and Joel Arndt
Ushers: Tim Deichler, Bart Arndt, Justin Arndt, George Dougherty

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Matt Zirk, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Robert Cale

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Shirley Meranti, Ron Clark, Carol Osteboe, Mildred Radke, Lorayne Denter, Marjorie Muhr, Ed Bauer, Jerry Eckelberg, Helen and Evan Summerfield, Linda Finnigan, Bob Sullivan, Lois Schultz, Stuart Thayer, Linda Bauer, Terry Robinson, Grace Eckelberg

In an emergency situation, please contact Caitlyn Stanek @608-633-1824 or Dan Buchholz @608-435-6126 (H) or 608-487-6525 ©

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FACEBOOK!! Home page: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Wilton WI

