

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
December 24, 2017



Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister

Regi Hedahl, Pianist

Mike & Dale Tessman, Lay Readers

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Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

The assembly stands.

Rejoice, for God is with us — Emmanuel.

In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.

Now there is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.

God is truly with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God!

OPENING HYMN (ELW 283)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God,

With joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people.

We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth.

**In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts
that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time.**

Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world.

Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors."

This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

THE PROPHECY OF THE MESSIAH

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, John 1:1-2, 4-5

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

**Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God,
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God with us, Emmanuel.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

THE COMING OF JESUS IS ANNOUNCED TO MARY AND JOSEPH

Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25

DUET: *Breath of Heaven*

Pastor & Roxanne Dorn

THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Luke 2:1-5

O Little Town of Bethlehem

(ELW 279 verse 1)

JESUS IS BORN

Luke 2:6-7

Away in a Manger

(ELW 277)

JESUS' BIRTH IS ANNOUNCED TO THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:9-14

Angels We Have Heard on High

(ELW 289)

THE SHEPHERDS FIND THE BABY JESUS

Luke 2:15-18

The First Noel

(ELW 300)

OFFERING We bring our gifts and place them in the manger.

OFFERING SONG

(ELW 294, Verse 3)

In the Bleak Midwinter

OFFERING PRAYER

God with us:
You came as a baby to a manger.
You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.
You come again in bread and wine.
Remind us how good you are at blessing
ordinary things.
And then, through these gifts,
help us to bless the lives of others
in the strength of your holy name.
Amen.

Dios con nosotros:
viniste como un bebé a un pesebre.
Dormiste en paja y saludaste a los pastores.
vienes de nuevo en pan y vino.
nos recuerdan lo bueno que eres para
bendecir las cosas ordinarias.
y luego, a través de estos dones,
nos ayudan a bendecir la vida de los demás
en la fuerza de su santo nombre.
Amén.

HOMILY

REV. ARDEN DORN

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy One of Israel,
the Word made flesh,
the Power of the Most High,
+ one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Merciful God, we confess that often we find darkness more comfortable than light.

**We confess that we find your good news frightening and unsettling,
especially when we consider its demands as well as its promises.**

**We confess that Christmas has become more to us than the birthday of the Christ,
partly because we do not want a Christ-Child in our lives or in our world.**

Forgive us, break us, bend us, remake us.

Give us the courage to lay ourselves open to the wonder and healing of your coming.

Be born again into our world, be born again into our hearts and lives.

Hear now our silent and personal confessions as we prepare ourselves for your nativity.

The true light that enlightens all has come into the world.

That light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to put it out.

This is the good news: God has heard our confession. God has forgiven our sin.

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.

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:

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

(ELW 271)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.
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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: *(The assembly joins hands 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation. The Word made Flesh is with us!

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We are filled with joy for we have heard good news of great joy.
We are filled with love for we have tasted the sign of God's great love.
We are filled with hope for the angels still sing in our world
and there is a Light for us to follow. **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT

Ushers will come forward for the lighting of the individual candles.

Silent Night

(ELW 281)

BLESSING

May Christ, who by his incarnation
has filled us with grace and truth,
give you peace this Christmas and always.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CELEBRATION HYMN (ELW p. 267) *Joy to the World*

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to God's people on earth!
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN (ELW p. 288)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul's by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul's. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us.

A Nursery is located at the rear of the sanctuary in the overflow area.

If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance, please signal an usher.

For Prayerful Consideration

Ill or Injured

Elvira Boehm, Lorain Chandler, Pauline Davidson, Shane Edens, Linda Franke, Norma Foreman, Ann Gary, Helen Grimm, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Steve Kelly, Evalina, Francis Kempe, Carol May Liberty, Ella Manka, Charles Pierce, Eli Rios, Steve Scotten, Tom Shockome, Marlane Smith, Yvonne Watkins, Mary Ruth Witte, Kyle Worthy, Cody Zaiontz, and Norma Zamzow.

For those in the military

Nick Adams, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Michael Rosales, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva.

Sunday, December 31, 10:30 a.m. – Service of the Word