



# GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 Concession 3 N Amherstburg, ON

Pastor : Rev. Tim Schneider      Organist: Yvette Erickson

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2021

Tonight is a most holy and mysterious night. There is a hushed excitement as we gather to worship the Christ child, remembering His birth, His compliant yielding to the Father's will, and His emptying of Himself to take on the nature of a servant. Simultaneously we are eager to break into exultant praise, joining the company of heaven singing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom His favour rests."

### INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### VERSES

**P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**C** **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

**P** For to us a child is born,

**C** **to us a son is given;**

**P** and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

**C** **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**P** Oh sing to the Lord a new song;

**C** **sing to the Lord, all the earth!**

**P** Sing to the Lord, bless His name;

**C** **tell of His salvation from day to day.**

### SALUTATION & COLLECT

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*At the end of each reading:*

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **THE FIRST LESSON**

Genesis 3:8-19 *The first promise of a Messiah.*

## **HYMN** LSB 370 What Child is This

1. 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 shepherd guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe the son of Mary!

2. Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christians, 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!

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts  
enthroned Him.

Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

*William C. Dix, 1837-1898. Public Domain*

### **RESPONSIVE READING** *Titus 2:11-14*

- P** For the grace of God has appeared,  
**C** **bringing salvation for all people,**  
**P** training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions,  
**C** **and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,**  
**P** waiting for our blessed hope,  
**C** **the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,**  
**P** who gave himself for us  
**C** **to redeem us from all lawlessness**  
**P** and to purify for himself a people for his own possession  
**C** **who are zealous for good works.**

### **THE SECOND LESSON** *Isaiah 40:1-11 Behold your God!*

#### **HYMN** LSB 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God  
appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.
2. O Come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who or-d'rest all  
things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge Show, And teach us in her  
ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes  
on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty  
and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.
4. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from  
Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry  
o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.
5. O Come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our  
heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path  
to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.
6. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by  
Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark  
shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.
7. O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all  
mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King  
of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Latin, c. 12<sup>th</sup> cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Public Domain.*

### **RESPONSIVE READING 1 John 4:9-11**

- P** In this the love of God was made manifest among us,  
**C** **that God sent his only Son into the world,**  
**P** so that we might live through him.

- C** In this is love,  
**P** not that we have loved God  
**C** but that he loved us  
**P** and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.  
**C** Beloved, if God so loved us,  
**P** we also ought to love one another.

### THE THIRD LESSON

Micah 5:2-5 *The Messiah will come from Bethlehem.*

### HYMN LSB 361 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;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel

*Phillips Brooks, 1835-93; Public Domain.*

**RESPONSIVE READING** *Titus 3:4-7*

- P** But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,  
**C** **he saved us,**  
**P** not because of works done by us in righteousness,  
**C** **but according to his own mercy,**  
**P** by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,  
**C** **whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,**  
**P** so that being justified by his grace  
**C** **we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

**THE FOURTH LESSON**

Luke 2:1-14 *Jesus, our Saviour, is*

*born.*

**HYMN** LSB 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. 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!"
2. 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 God-head see, Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Please as Man with man to dwell, Jesus our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

3. 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!"

*Charles Wesley, 1707-1788. Public Domain.*

**SERMON**      Luke 2:8-14  
*The Angels of Christmas*

## **OFFERING**

### **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

*The pastor takes the light from the Christ candle to the assistants. They pass the light on to the congregation. Tip only the unlighted candle. Do not tip the lighted candle to avoid dripping the wax! Hold the candles straight up and the wax will not drip. Thank you.*

**P** As the light of these candles brings light to the darkness, it reminds us of Christ, our Light, the child in the manger of Bethlehem, a Saviour suffering our death on the cross, and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice! The Light of the World has come. The light transforms us with the brightness of His glory.

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaimed to you, that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.

**C** **If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.**



**P** But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

**C** **and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

*1 John 1:5-7*

*As a symbol of God coming into our midst to live with us the Lectionary is carried into the midst of the congregation, where the Holy Gospel is read. The congregation turns to face the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

## **THE FIFTH LESSON** John 1:1-14

### **HYMN** LSB 363 Silent 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 Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848; tr. John F. Yong, 1820-1885. Public Domain.*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** Let us pray for the whole church of God, and for all people, according to their needs.

That we may receive the angel's message with faith and share it boldly with others; let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** That we may live sober, upright, and godly lives, displaying our faith in words and deeds that testify to the Good News we have heard this night; let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** That we may treasure this good news in our hearts and hold it fast all the days of our lives; let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** That God may bless our Church and all her leaders; that God may bless our pastor and this congregation, and that we may do the good work of the kingdom with all our energy and conviction; let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** That God may bring peace to our world of war, violence, and hate; that our leaders and governments may protect the poor, provide for the equal justice for all, and preserve the dignity and freedom of all people; let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** That God may grant healing to the sick, relief for the suffering, hope for the grieving, and peace to the dying, especially all those that we name before the Lord in our hearts (*Silence*); let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**C** 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.

*You may carefully extinguish your candles now.*

#### **BENEDICTION**

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you, the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The LORD look upon you with favour, and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

#### **CLOSING HYMN** LSB 387 Joy to the World

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 nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their song employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows 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 the curse is found.
  
4. 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 of His love.

*Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Public Domain.*

*On behalf of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,  
God bless you in your celebration of our  
Saviour's birth. Merry Christmas!*

*You are invited to join us for our Christmas  
Day Divine Service at 10:30 a.m.*