



“Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ’s love.”

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

308-632-8023

CHRISTMAS EVE 2020

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces ‘the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light’. Paul reminds us that the grace of God brings 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—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

Prayer Before Worship: Dear Lord, help us make room for you this night of all nights; room in our minds and hearts; room also in our life together. Let your word be born in us anew so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, your splendor shines in us and through us. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

(In preparation for our worship together, you are invited to pause now and offer your own prayers of worship and praise.)

***INDICATES PLEASE STAND IF ABLE.**
Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD**

Prelude

Rhonda Boettcher

‡WE LIFT OUR HEARTS IN PRAISE AND WORSHIP‡

Hymn:

“Oh Come, All Ye Faithful”

**ELW #283
vv. 1&2**

**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!**

Refrain

Welcome and Announcements

The Christmas Greeting and Prayer

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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

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

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

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

May the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, ✠ Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all.

And also with you.

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.

✠THE GOOD NEWS FOR ALL PEOPLE✠

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2-3a, 6-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn:

“What Child is This”

**ELW #296
vv. 1&2**

**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 shepherds 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 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!**

Second Reading: Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn:

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW #289

vv. 1-2

**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?**

Refrain

‡THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL‡

The Good News: A Child is Born. Luke 2:1-7

Response after the announcement of the gospel:
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hymn:

“Away in a Manger”

ELW #277

vv. 1&3

**1. 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.**

**3. 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.**

The Good News is Proclaimed: The Angels Sing. Luke 2: 8-14

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

***Hymn:**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**ELW #270
vv. 1&2**

**1. 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!"**

**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 Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

Refrain

***The Good News is Received: The Shepherds Came. Luke 2:15-20**

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Response after the gospel reading concludes:
Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn:

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**ELW #279
vv. 1&2**

**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!**

The Christmas Message

Pastor Sheryl

Hymn:

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

ELW #275

vv. 1&2

**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. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GIFT OF A SAVIOR‡

***Profession of Faith: the 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 and the Son,
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.**

The Prayers of the People

Each petition ends with:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude with:

Hear our prayer, gracious God, and bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

‡WE CELEBRATE IMMANUEL-GOD WITH US‡

***Confession of Sins and Assurance of Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, ‡ Son and Holy Spirit who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Amid the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of grace and truth,

In Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, and have not trusted the good news of great joy. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the fullness of your love, trusting in the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.

The angel said, you shall call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins. With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ‡ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***Words of Institution**

In the night in which our Lord Jesus Christ...We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit...Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours...now and forever. **Amen.**

***Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

Hymn:

“Joy to the World”

**ELW #267
vv. 1&2**

- 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.**

Christmas Candle Lighting Ceremony

The minister lights a candle symbolizing Christ is the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. Those at home are invited to light their candles at this time as well.

The Gospel of the Incarnation *(read as the candles are lit)*

John 1:1-5, 14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

After all candles have been lit, we sing:

Hymn:

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

ELW #281

**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!**

Instrumental

(Candles are raised)

**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.**

Spoken Prayer

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW #279 v.4

(Spoken together softly)

**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!**

The candles are extinguished.

*The Blessing and Dismissal

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

Postlude

Rhonda Boettcher

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✠In Our Thoughts and Prayers✠

Prayers for healing: **Bonnie** (pneumonia & fluid around her heart—cousin of Susan Martin), **Beth Janeczek** (Treatment), **Rich** (COVID-19 recovery—brother of Barb Gorr), **Joann Pullen** (COVID-19 recovery—friend of Elnora Sell), **Chad Schmidt** (COVID-19 recovery—granddaughter's husband of Wes & Elnora Sell), **Cathy Rahrs** (rehab), **Gary Eskam** (pneumonia - non COVID related), **Tracy, Nancy and Bill Steele** (COVID-19 recovery), **Harlan Meyer** (Lonnie Miller's uncle), **Shelia Colson** (hospitalized—mother-in-law of Nannie Walsh's sister), **Claudia** (bedrest for pregnancy), **Myron Loseke, Jerry Weekes** (recovering from a horse accident), **Reuben & Gloria Gorr** (health issues), **Alan** (recovery of vision—Kathy Randall's cousin), **Jordan Hein** (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), **Michael Dietrich** (friend of Dave & Penny Stevens), **Julie** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family), **Barb** (cancer—Marlene Downer's sister-in-law), **Joan** (cancer—niece of Marj Nikont), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

Prayers for comfort and peace for: Family and friends of **Ardella Miller** (Lonnie Miller's mother), **Julius Diers** (grandfather of Nannie Walsh & great grandpa of Rayce & Merrick Walsh)

Prayers for our church, community, nation, and world: in this time of Covid-19 and general unsettledness. For everyone in need!

Thank you to everyone who provided a poinsettia for our sanctuary this Christmas.



The Holub Family
In memory of:
Lyle and Loretta Holub
Norman Hoff