

# December 24, 2022: Christmas Eve

## THEME: A SAVIOR BORN TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Preservice: “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come,”  
“The Angel Gabriel,” “Away in a Manger”

Handbells (2, 4PM)

### Hymn: 354 O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come\_ ye to Beth - le - hem!  
born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes!  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee\_ be all glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:  
On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:  
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786  
Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786, alt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution - Titus 2,3

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

This Christmas Eve, let us confess our sin, the very reason God needed to give us his Son.

**At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved  
by all kinds of passions and pleasures.**

**We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.**

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,  
**he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done,  
but because of his mercy.**

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,  
whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ + our Savior,  
**so that, having been justified by his grace,  
we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.**

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.  
**It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions,  
and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,**

while we wait for the blessed hope—  
the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,  
**who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness  
and to purify for himself a people that are his very own,  
eager to do what is good.**

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

# 346 Angels We Have Heard on High

sts. 1, Ref, 3



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - - -



- - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.; French  
Tune: French  
Text and tune: Public domain

## The Word

### Salutation

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Micah 5:2–5a*

<sup>2</sup>“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.”

<sup>3</sup>Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.

<sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup>And he will be our peace

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn: 333 O Little Town of Bethlehem

sts. 1-3



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893, abr., alt.  
Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**10 AM and 2 PM: “Strangers in Bethlehem”**

*Adult Choir*

**4 PM: “Come, Lord Jesus”**

*Male Chorus*

**6 PM: “Immanuel, Immanuel”**

*Joyful Noise*

**Christmas Gospel**

*Luke 2:8–14*

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

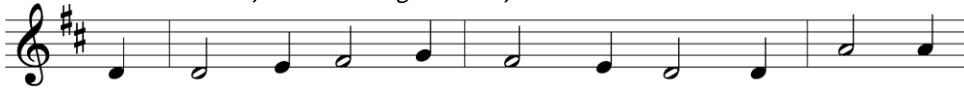
<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn: 335 To Shepherds as They Watched by Night

sts. 1-4

The children are invited forward during stanza 2 for a Children's Lesson.



1 To shep - herds as they watched by night ap - peared a  
2 "At Beth - le - hem, in Da - vid's town, as Mi - cah  
3 O then re - joice that through his Son God is with  
4 What harm can sin and death then do? The true God



host of an - gels bright; "Be - hold the ten - der  
did of old make known. It is the Christ, your  
sin - ners now at one; made like your - selves of  
now a - bides with you. Let hell and Sa - tan



babe," they said, "in yon - der low - ly man - ger laid,  
Lord and King, who will to all sal - va - tion bring."  
flesh and blood, your broth - er is th'e - ter - nal God.  
storm and rave, Christ is your broth - er— you are safe.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800-1887, alt.  
Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:15-20

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Hymn: 340 Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
and take us to heav - en to live with you there.

Text (sts. 1–2): The Myrtle, Boston, 1884; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, Louisville, 1892, alt.  
Tune: James R. Murray, 1841–1905  
Text and tune: Public domain

**Sermon: Luke 2:1-20**

*Pastor Timothy Prieue*

Stand

## Hymn: 338 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

sts. 1-2



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the  
2 When sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then life and health come



an - gels bring, on Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to  
in its place, when sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then



hear the news the an - gels bring, news of great joy, news  
life and health come in its place; an - gels and saints with



of great mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.  
joy may sing, all for to see the new - born King.

Text: Text: English, abr.  
Tune: English  
Text and tune: Public domain

*Be seated*

## Offering

## Prayer of the Church

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

Gracious Father, when the time had fully come, you sent your Son to carry out your plan to save the world from the tyranny of sin, the threat of death, and the power of Satan. On this holy night, strengthen our faith as we ponder the depth of your divine love.

**Lead us to quiet awe as we remember your gracious compassion.**

Lead us to kneel at his manger with hearts of faith and to see there the God-man who takes away the sins of the world. Guide and guard us so that the happiness shared with family and friends does not delay or discourage our journey to his holy crib.

**Make the birth of Christ our highest priority and deepest pleasure.**

Fill us with an eager joy that moves us to share the good news with others, especially those who may have forgotten or dismissed the love of God in Christ. Give us faith-filled maturity to recognize that the best gift we can give to children is the story of Jesus who was born as a baby and died on a cross to save them for heaven.

**Move us to tell the good news we have seen and heard.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

During this hectic holiday, provide us with quiet times to remember what the birth of Jesus really means for us and all people, that he came to free us from the evil forces that separated us from your love, that he lived and died to forgive our sins, and that he rose in triumph to prepare a place where we will live with you forever.

**Move us to sing with hearts of faith, "Glory to God in the highest!" 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.**

## Blessing

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.

**Amen.**

## Hymn: 337 Silent Night, Holy Night

sts. 1-3



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885; Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848

Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787-1863

Text and tune: Public domain

**Presiding Ministers: Pastor Robert Raasch, Pastor Joel Zank**

**10 AM, 2 and 4 PM Organist: Klint Kaddatz**

**Adult Choir: Klint Kaddatz**

**Adult Accompanist: Michele Pfeifer**

**Instrumentalists: Ben Fulcer, Julie Neujahr**

**Male Chorus: Jerry Gronholz**

**Male Chorus Accompanist: Sharon Meyer**

**Handbells: Amy Nogar**

**6 PM Joyful Noise: Michele Pfeifer, Ben Fulcer, John Kehl, Kathy Kolander, Julie Neujahr, Amy Stern**

## **Acknowledgments**

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