

December 24, 2020

Nativity of Our Lord



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Messiah Lutheran Church

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SERVICE of WORSHIP
Setting 2 from Lutheran Book of Worship

THE PRELUDE: *Gesu Bambino*

THE INVOCATION

THE CHRISTMAS DIALOG (*from John 1*)

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 has light shined.

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

HYMN: "The First Noel" vs 1,2

Rebecca Alferink, hand bells

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The First Noel

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say Was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star Shin - ing
3 And by the light of that . . . same star Three . .
4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, O'er . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where .
in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; And to the . .
Wise . Men came . . from coun - try far; To seek for a
Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; And there it . .

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's
earth it gave . . . great light, And . . so it con -
king was their . . in - tent, And to fol - low the
did both stop . . and stay Right . . o - ver the

Refrain

night . that was . . so deep.
 tin - ued both day . . and night. No - el, No - el, No -
 star . . wher - ev - er it went.
 place . where Je - sus lay.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

RESPONSIVE READING

The prophet Zechariah prophesied, “By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Jesus Christ, you are the Light of the world.

Joseph, son of David heard these words, “Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Jesus Christ, you are the Light of the world.

The angel Gabriel announced to Mary “You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High.”

Jesus Christ, you are the Light of the world.

“All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet Isaiah: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,’ which means, ‘God is with us.’”

Jesus Christ, you are the Light of the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

CLARINET SOLO: *What Child Is This*

Anna Flowers

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9

1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,
"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,

and he will be my Son”?

⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷ Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,

and his servants flames of fire.”

⁸ But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,

and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you

with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

VOCAL SOLO: *Still, Still, Still*

Sarah McCutcheon

THE GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

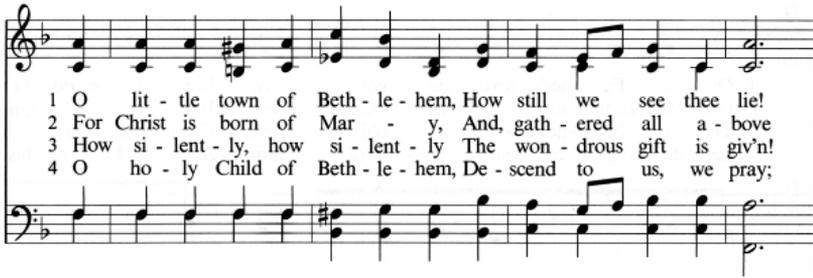
1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

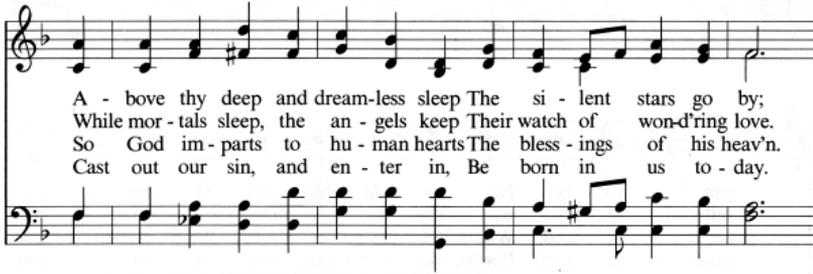
10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And 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.

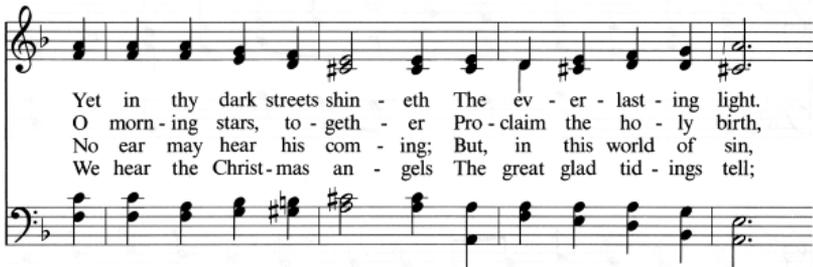
O Little Town of Bethlehem



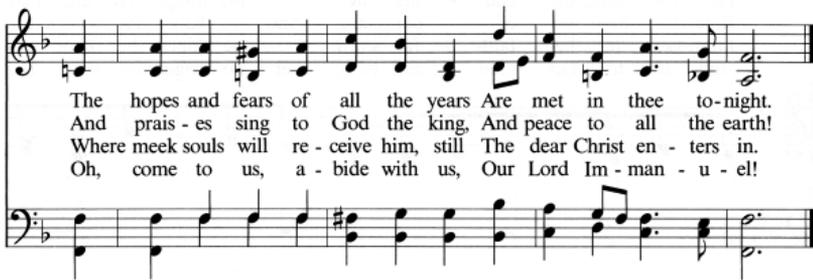
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



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.
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



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,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



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.
 Oh, come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

THE SERMON

VOCAL SOLO: *O Holy Night*

Erin McDaniels

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Lord Jesus, thank you for coming down into this world and into our
lives. Thank you for entering our darkness in order to bring us into
your light. Be born in us so we may share your love and your life in
all we say and do. Amen**

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Silent Night, Holy Night!

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round you
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 stream from heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 beams from your ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

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

*THE CANDLELIGHT PRAYER

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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

THE BENEDICTION

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive its
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs em -
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make his bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

THE POSTLUDE: *And the Glory of the Lord* (from Handel's *Messiah*)