

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
December 24, 2021  
5:00 p.m.

... and he is named

**Wonderful**  
*Counselor,*  
**Mighty**  
*God,*  
**Everlasting**  
*Father,*  
**Prince**  
*of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6, NRSV

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
December 24, 2021

5:00 p.m.

IN THE NAME OF JESUS, WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S!

PRELUDE

Noel no. 10  
Louis-Claude Daquin

CALL TO WORSHIP (Stand) #384

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

*(Stanza one is sung by solo voice.)*

1 Of the Father's love begotten  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.

3 **This is He whom seers in old time  
Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long-expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.**

4 **O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;  
Angel hosts, His praises sing.  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him  
And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Ev'ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.**

INVOCATION

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

**Amen.**

INTROIT

from Psalm 98

Oh sing to the LORD a new song,  
**For he has done marvelous things!**

His right hand and his holy arm  
**have worked salvation for him.**

The LORD has made known his salvation;

**He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

**Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

*PRAYER*

Let us pray. O God,

**because you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #379*

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

*(As the cross is brought forward, the Congregation turns to face the front)*

**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***

**2 Highest, most holy,  
Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

*Refrain*

**O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!**

**3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: *Refrain***

## *BIDDING PRAYER*

P: Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God and the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all His people, for unity within the Church He came to build, and especially in this congregation. And because this would rejoice His heart, let us remember, in His name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love. Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man could number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore.

**C: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*OLD TESTAMENT READING (Be seated)*

Isaiah 9:2–7

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.  
You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.  
For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (ESV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*NEW TESTAMENT READING*

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our 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 lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

HYMN #376 vs. 1, 2, 4

*"Once in Royal David's City"*

1. Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven,  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.
4. And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN #388

*"Go Tell It on the Mountain"*

**Refrain:**

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While Shepherds kept their watching, O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. *Refrain*
2. The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
3. Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL (Part 1)

Luke 2:1-7

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus,

that all the world should be taxed. And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David; to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

*GOSPEL HYMN #361 vs. 1, 3, 4*

*"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.**

**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!**

*THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL (Part 2)*

Luke 2:8-14

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in

a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

*GOSPEL HYMN #368*

*“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

- 1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.**

***Refrain:* Glo- - - ria in excelsis Deo; Glo- - -ria 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***

- 3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain***

*THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL (Part 3)*

Luke 2:15-20

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they had heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. (KJV)

*GOSPEL HYMN #364*

*“Away in a Manger”*

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

*SERMON (Be seated)*

*HYMN #380 (Stand)*

*“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!”**

**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 the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain***

*Refrain*

**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, *Refrain***

*OFFERING*

*Offerings can be placed in the box at the sanctuary entrance following the service. Please place Fellowship Cards there too.*

*PRAYER OF THE DAY*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

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. Amen.**

*SHARING THE CANDLELIGHT*

*(The congregation's candles are lighted from the Christ Candle. In passing the flame, **DO NOT TIP A LIGHTED CANDLE.** The candles remain burning until after the benediction.)*

*HYMN #363*

*"Silent Night, Holy 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 your holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*PRAYER*

*BENEDICTION*

- 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 men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, 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, 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, wonders of His love.

POSTLUDE

*Joy to the World*

Setting: 1. Wilbur Held 2. Hugo Gehrke

THOSE SERVING IN OUR MIDST:

Greeter:

Lay Reader: Anne Kauzlarich

## Acknowledgements

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