

C H R I S T M A S - E V E



VISITING? Welcome! Here is some information you may find helpful:

Our affiliation .. Our Saviour is part of Lutheran Church-Canada.

Contributions .. Our Saviour is funded by our member's offerings, many doing so by direct deposit. We receive you as a guest, and see this service tonight as a gift we offer you, in celebration of the birth of Jesus, God's gift to bring joy to all peoples. Of course, if you would like to support this, you are welcome to make a contribution. Guest envelopes are located in the pews if you wish to use them.

The ushers .. at the entrance are here to help with tonight's service. If you, or someone you see, needs assistance, or has a question, just ask. Thanks!

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME ... Pastor Craig

CAROL: 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.

Chorus: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. *Chorus:*

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star. *Chorus:*

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One. *Chorus:*

PRAYER

(see Hebrews 1:1-4, 12:22 in the Bible)

Pastor: O God, because you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of your glory,
grant that all gathered here this night may know the reality of the mystery of that true Light here on
earth, and may come to the full measure of its joy in the company of thousands upon thousands of
angels in joyful assembly; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen

CAROL: It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats, o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds, the blessed angels sing.

All you, beneath your heavy load, by care and guilt bent low,
who toil along a dreary way, with painful steps and slow:
Look up for golden is the hour, come swiftly on the wing,
the Prince was born to bring you peace; Of him the angels sing.

**For lo, the days have come to pass by prophets seen of old,
when down into the circling years came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring,
and all who take this gift will hear the song the angels sing.**

A READING FROM THE BIBLE: Isaiah 9:2-7 (NIV)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

**CAROL: Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
 Oh come ye, oh come ye, to Bethlehem;
 come and behold him - born the king of angels.**

Chorus: **Oh come, let us adore him, Oh come, let us adore him,
Oh come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing!** *Chorus:*

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

A READING FROM THE BIBLE: Luke 2:1-14 (NIV)

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. 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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.



But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

CHOIR Never Been a Night Like This!

A READING FROM THE BIBLE:

Luke 2:15-20 (NIV)

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

CAROL:

**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.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love.**

**O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing, to God the king, and peace to all on earth.**

**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.**

**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!**

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION Joy for all people

A CHRISTMAS OFFERING

*... most important ...
... (after God's to us) ...
... our openness to receive God's.*

**The grace of God that brings salvation
has appeared to all men.
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 glorious appearing 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.**

Titus 2:11-14 in the Bible
(one of three traditional readings to celebrate Christmas Eve)

*One expression of this ...
the money we give this evening, in faith in God's generosity.*

T I T U S 2 : 1 1

·The·GRACE·of·GOD·HAS·APPEARED·



·BRINGING·SALVATION·to·ALL·

CAROL: **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!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."**

**Christ, by highest heaven 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, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."**

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."**

A CHRISTMAS OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor Lord Jesus, on this night of your birth, we celebrate that we have seen your glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. With angels and with all the Church on earth we say and sing, "Glory to God in the highest," for your gracious coming among us in the flesh. Help us to glorify you in our gathering together tonight as family and friends in this place and in our homes.

Congregation **Glorious Lord, in places in this world where your light does not yet shine, let your glory be transported there by the words and actions of those who celebrate your birth.**

P Shining Saviour, glow in the hearts of those who are now dwelling in the darkness of sickness and injury and sadness and the shadow of death. Brighten their lives, we pray, with healing.

C **Mighty God, grant them, we pray, the fullness of joy that can come only through knowing that your Light has come with the power to dispel every darkness.**

P Wonderful Counselor, enlighten the lives of every person present here with the glory of your splendid love.

C **Everlasting Father, bring to light each day your grace and goodness, your freedom and forgiveness, that we may bask in the many gifts you have given us and illuminate them for others all our days.**

P Prince of Peace, bring justice and righteousness amongst, and through every people that gather in your name to worship, pray and work together, so that the message of your salvation would be heard, and more people arise, and shine, and come to the brightness of your dawn, precious Jesus, Light of the world.

C **Amen**

A SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHT ... *Please tip unlit candles to lit candles to avoid wax drips.*

The lights in the Sanctuary are put out, and the announcement is made:

Jesus said: "I have come into the world as a light,
so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness."

The candlelight is shared a quartet sings "News of great joy"

The announcement is made:

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.

CAROL:

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake - at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born! Christ the Saviour is born.**

**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.**

A time of silence is observed.

A PRAYER IN THE DARKNESS (See John 1:1-, 8:12; Luke 11:1-13; Matthew 6:9-13 in the Bible.)

Pastor: God, we thank you the light of the world shining in Jesus is not just something nice for us to look at, but most wonderfully, is the way you would open our minds and hearts to your life changing glory. We pray this for ourselves, and the whole world, as Jesus has taught us.

All: 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

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

(See Isaiah 60:1; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Ephesians 3:20-21 in the Bible.)

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

Congregation: For God, who said, “Let
light shine out of darkness,” made his
light shine in our hearts to give us the
light of the knowledge of the glory of
God in the face of Christ.

*The lights in the Sanctuary come back on,
and the candlelight is put out.*

P: Now to him who is able to do immeasurably
more than all we ask or imagine, according
to his power that is at work within us, to him
be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations, forever and ever!

All: Amen!



CAROL: Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
let every heart - prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour 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.

No more let sin and sorrow 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.

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.

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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NEWS and NOTES

Tomorrow we meet at our regular time of 10:00 am, and will celebrate Christmas with more Carol singing, Holy Communion, and a time of reflection on God's Word being spoken in the form of a child..

The church office is closed over the holiday period. It will reopen with regular hours (Monday – Friday, 9 am to noon) on Tuesday, January 3.

Pastor Craig will be checking phone messages but will be away from Monday thru Wednesday. If you, or someone you know, needs pastoral care, leave a phone message, or contact the elder on duty for the week – Gary Carlson, at 250-752-7214.

A big thank you! To all who put in extra time and effort for this evening's celebration of the birth of Jesus – musicians, choir, readers, ushers, parking lot attendants – and each one of you that has take the time to come here this evening.

May you all have ..

A Joyful Christmas!