

American Lutheran Church

Newport, Washington - (509) 447-4338

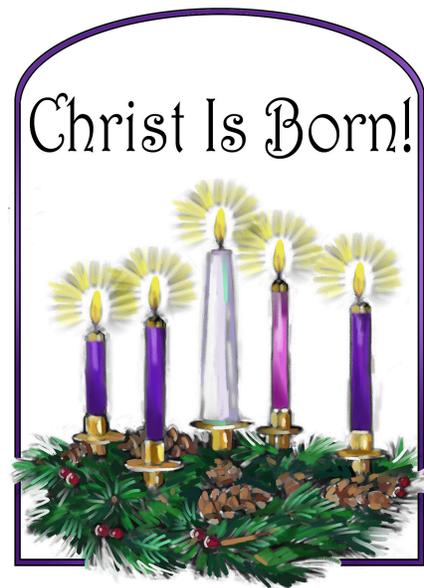
americanlutheranchurch.net

Interim Pastor Bob Albing

Ministers: All the People of God

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 24, 2024



Thank you for being the Body of Christ gathered here this evening.

We have committed as a church to pray for all those in our community who are living in the darkness of addiction. We have lit a candle in the front of the sanctuary as we pray for the light of Christ to break into their lives. Before worship begins, you are invited to light a candle for a friend or family member for whom you are praying.

WELCOME

Choir

Advent Candle Lighting

Voi - ces cry out from a world in grief:
prayers of those who seek re - lief.
End their dark - ness, hear their call for
peace on earth, good will for all.

Light of Light (Christ Candle)

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and grant us peace.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and bring us true joy.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and fill us with love.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Candle Lighting

Tonight we light all five candles - the candles of hope, peace, joy, love, and finally, the Christ Candle, celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. The candle of hope reminds us that in sending Christ, God sent hope to the earth. The candle of peace reminds us that peace will one day reign. The candle of joy is a reminder that we have been given eternal life and have no reason to be fearful. And the candle of love represents God's redeeming love for us, brought to earth in the form of a tiny child.

Light of light reprise: (Everyone sings)

Voices cry out from a world in grief: prayers of those who seek relief. End their darkness, hear their call for peace on earth, good will for all.

Advent Prayer

Tonight we celebrate Christmas; we give thanks that God became human. That is what Christianity is all about. We believe and we proclaim that out of love for humanity, God took on human flesh and bone. God became like us, to make us like him. Now we are holy, even as we are human, and limited, and broken and we hurt one another. God is among us. Thanks be to God. Tonight we hear the story and sing songs and remember.

Quartet: 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'

THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS Luke 2:1-5 Reader: Amber Reynolds

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

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. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

JESUS IS BORN Luke 2:6-7

Reader: Greg Turner

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

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 Christians, 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.

JESUS' BIRTH IS ANNOUNCED TO THE SHEPHERDS Luke 2:8-14 Reader: Lee Shaver

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

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"

Hark! The herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King!"

2. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son 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; Born to give them second birth

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

THE SHEPHERDS FIND THE BABY JESUS Luke 2:15-18

Reader: Mike Meade

When 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.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,

And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

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 heavenly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Choir: 'Prayer at the Cradle'

THE WISE MEN BRING THEIR GIFTS TO JESUS Matthew 2:1-12

Reader: Elaine Peterson

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." ' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**2. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.**

Noel, noel, noel, noel. Born is the King of Israel.

**5. Then entered in the wise men three, full reverently upon the knee.
And offered there in His presence their gold and myrrh and frankincense.**

Noel, noel, noel, noel. Born is the King of Israel.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Christmas Hallelujah

1. I've heard about this baby boy, Who's come to earth to bring us joy
And I just want to sing this song to you
it goes like this, the fourth, the fifth, the minor fall, the major lift
With every breath I'm singing Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.
2. A couple came to Bethlehem, expecting child, they searched the inn
to find a place for You were coming soon.
There was no room for them to stay, So in a manger filled hay God's only Son was born,
Oh Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.
3. The shepherds left their flocks by night, to see this baby wrapped in light.
A host of angels led them all to You,
it was just as the angels said, You'll find Him in a manger bed Immanuel and Savior,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.
4. A star shown bright up in the east, to Bethlehem, the wisemen three
came many miles and journeyed long for You
and to the place at which You were, Their frankincense and gold and myrrh. The gave to You
and cried out
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.
5. I know you came to rescue me, this baby boy would grow to be
A man and one day die for me and you.
My sins would drive the nails in You, That rugged cross was my cross too! Still every
breath You drew was
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,

CHRISTMAS OFFERING: *You may put your offerings in the box on the table at the back of the church - or you are invited to make your offerings online on our website: americanlutheranchurch.net or mail them to American Lutheran Church at PO Box 653- Newport, WA 99156*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!
O sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord all the earth!
Those who lived in a world of deep darkness, on them has the light shined!
Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice; let the plains exult and the trees of the forest sing
for joy before the Lord who comes to us.

1. Joy to the World , the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.
2. 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.

Choir: 'Star Carol'

PRAYERS

May the wonder of the grace of Christ Jesus be reborn in you this night.

And also in you.

Gracious God, those who came that first night to find baby Jesus saw your amazing gift of love and offered their hearts in worship and praise. So we, too, come bringing our gifts and offering our praise. **Receive our gifts, bless them, and use them to make your love real to all of those in need.**

Our God, Immanuel, while we meet tonight in warm fellowship and love, we pray for those who are still out in the cold.

May the light of Bethlehem's greatest Child touch every dark place.

For those who because of persistent hatreds, terrorism or war, are far from the promise of peace and goodwill;

Come, Immanuel, and help your servants complete the works of love and peace which you began..

For those who this night live in refugee camps, squat in derelict buildings, or sleep in back alleys or on park benches.

Come, Immanuel, and aid all your lost and homeless children to find their true inheritance.

For those who are ill, in body or mind, for the survivors of natural disasters and man-made ones.

Come, Immanuel, and bring comfort and hope through first responders, hospital and hospice staff who do your healing work this night.

For all who are grieving and facing Christmas without a precious loved one at their side. **Come Immanuel, and give to the grieving that deep soul peace that no human voice or hand can offer.**

And now, Lord God, we pray for ourselves, that this Christmas may not pass in vain. O Spirit of Christ, you are the very Word of God who became flesh; give each of us the will and the wisdom to let our lives reflect our prayers in all we do.

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.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Ushers will light a candle at the end of each row. As you pass the flame, please hold the lit candle upright and tip the unlit candle to receive the flame.

- 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; Heavenly 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 Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord at thy birth; Jesus Lord at thy birth.**

BENEDICTION

This Christmas, 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.

Thanks be to God!

Please extinguish your candle by blowing gently.

Be sure to hold it upright until the wax hardens. Thank you!

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