



December 24, 2020
Christmas Eve
Peace Lutheran Church of Plymouth
The Birth of Jesus

GATHERING

PRELUDE

In Dulci Jubilo
My Favorite Things

14th c. German Carol
Richard Rodgers and
Oscar Hammerstein II
15th c. French processional
Traditional Irish Carol

GATHERING HYMN

verses 1-3

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

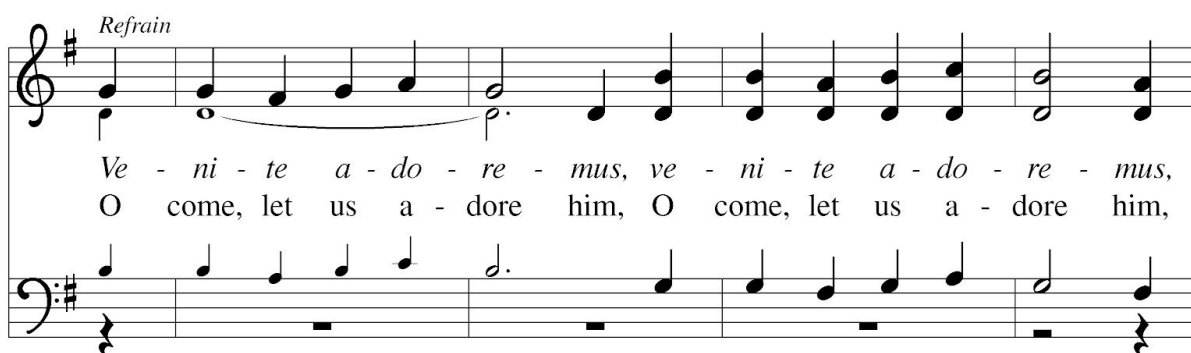
1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

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



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

ONE: We gather to hear the mighty choirs of angels sing God's promises. Let the One who is born today, be born in us, that the light of Christmas might shine in our hearts the whole year through. Praise to you, Emmanuel! Glory to the newborn babe!

MANY: AMEN

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ONE: The Light of the World comes to live with us, born this night as a vulnerable child to heal a broken world; this child has come for you and for me.

We come with joyful hearts, knowing that Christ came to forgive our sins, heal our wounds, and bind up our divisions. We humbly lay at the manger our failings, our anger, our greed, our self-centered ways. Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us our sins.

Silence for reflection and contemplation

ONE: Comfort, O comfort my people, says our God. Lift up your voice with strength and do not fear. God is here! God has come with might to give the people justice and mercy; to hold us near and lead us into the paths of peace. The strength of those who wait for the Messiah shall be renewed.

MANY: AMEN!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

ONE: Our living God gives hope.

Light the first blue candle.

Our forgiving God brings peace.

Light the second blue candle.

Our loving God promises everlasting joy.

Light the third blue candle.

Our in-breaking God is love.

Light the fourth (pink) candle.

Now our waiting comes to an end.

The time for rejoicing is here!

Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

We will sing to the Lord! We will bless God's holy name!

Light the white Christ candle.

“Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people.”

ONE: Jesus Christ is born!

MANY: AMEN

ADVENT CANDLE SONG

Emmanuel

W&P 36



THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL IN WORD AND SONG

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-7

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. 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.

HYMN

Away in a Manger

ELW 277

verses 1 & 2

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

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-14

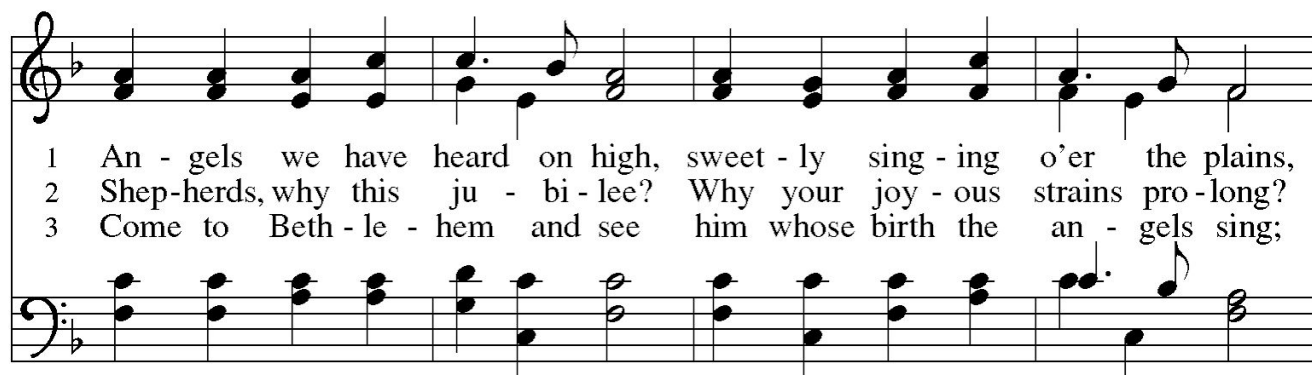
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great 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!”

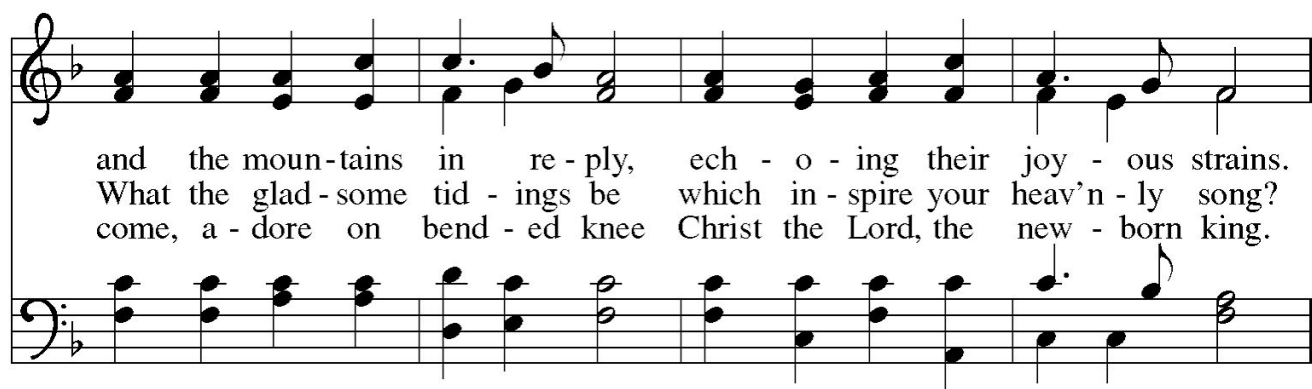
HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
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.
What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Refrain

Glo - ri - a

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

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

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 15-20

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. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

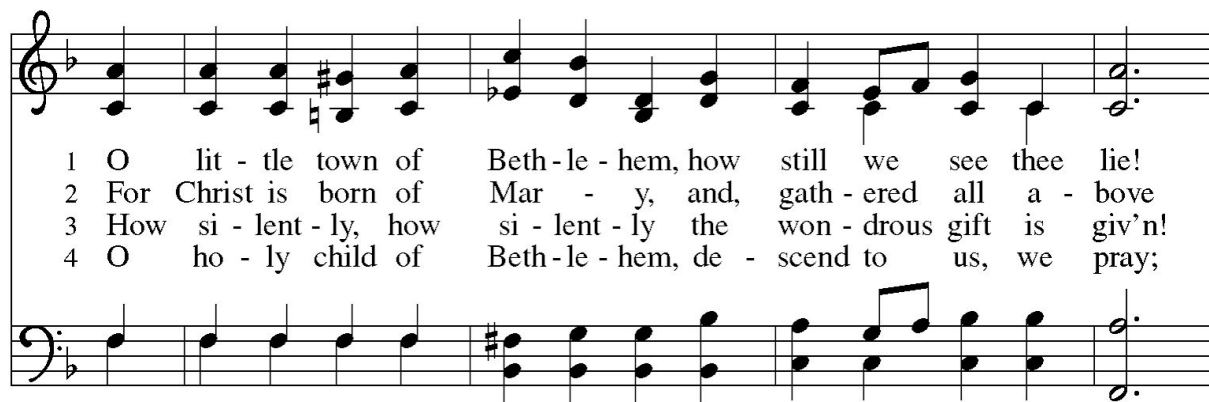
ONE: Word of God, Word of Life.

MANY: Thanks be to God!

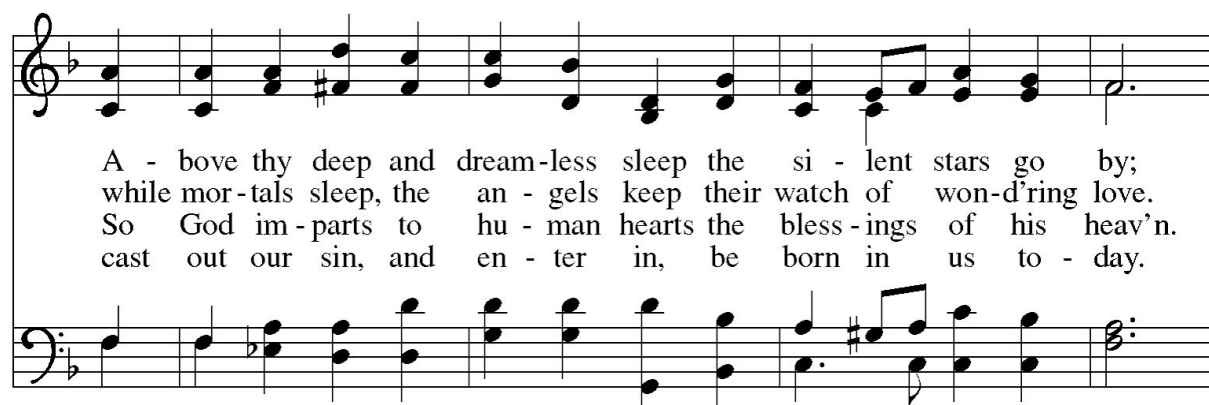
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Rev. Kjell M. Ferris

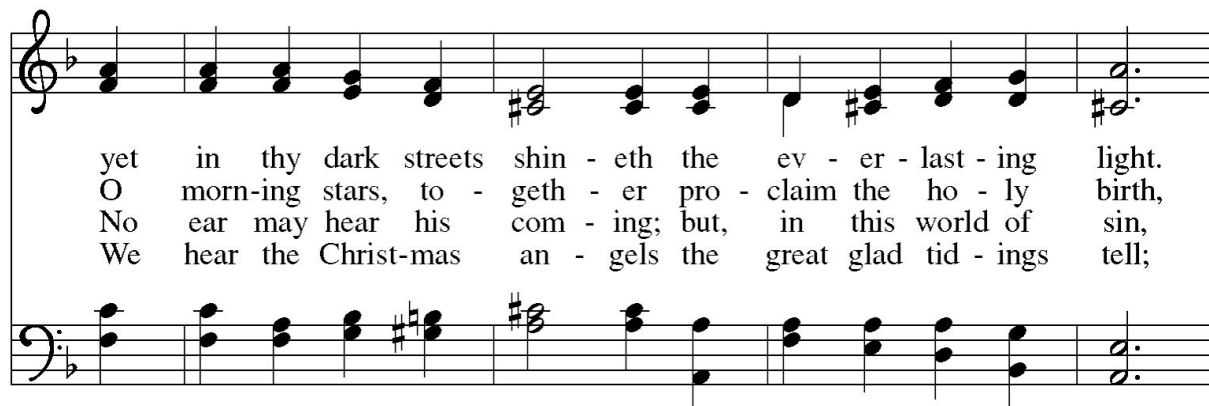
verses 1-3



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!
 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!

APOSTLES' CREED

ONE: Called, gathered and enlightened by the Holy Spirit, let us profess our faith in the Triune God through the words of the Apostles' Creed:

MANY: I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day Jesus rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and will come 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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you always.

MANY: And also with you.

ONE: Let us share a sign of God's peace with one another.

MEAL

OFFERING

Christ Was Born on Christmas Day

arr. Alice Parker and
Robert Shaw

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US

ONE: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,

MANY: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. AMEN

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Richard S. Willis

COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

ONE: Jesus is born and the joy of Christmas begins. May we 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.

May the Light of the World shine in and through us, tonight and always.

Almighty God, Creator, Emanuel and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

MANY: AMEN

All are invited to light candles and sing in their homes.

SENDING HYMN & CANDLELIGHT

Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW 281

CHOIR: Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all.

This is a time for joy, this is a time for love.

Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.

Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all.

This is a time for joy, this is a time for love.

Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.

ALL SING:

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
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,
ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
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 your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
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 your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

DISMISSAL

ONE: Go in peace, filled with Jesus' love.

MANY: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Silent Night

Franz Gruber

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W&P 36 *Emmanuel*

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ELW 289 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Text translated by H. F. Hemy, traditional French carol,
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ELW 279 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Text by Philip Brooks, music by Louis Redner, ST. LOUIS,
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ELW 283 *Silent Night*

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Serving today:

Preacher

Rev. Kjell M. Ferris

Organist

Anne Phillips

Pianists

Iris Ferris, Sonja Leppa

Flautist

Eden Weinhandl

Violinist

Sylvi Leppa

Lector

Peter Leppa, Bob Samuelson

Vocalists

Iris Ferris, Nick Bonow, Don Davidson, Donna Daubendiek,
Charlie Fiser, Bobby Isbell, Stefanie Fiser Kleven, Dick Knutson,
Martha Knutson, Janelle Leppa, Peter Leppa, Lisa Novak,
Matt Peterson, Inger Trooien

Handbell Ringers

Andrew Hess, Liese Peterson, Nancy Peterson

Worship Assistants

Eleanor Ferris, Heidi Ferris

Zoom & Livestream Coordinators

Stefanie Fiser Kleven, Scott Rusten,
Bob Samuelson & Jason Tofteland



PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH