



*Worship Booklet for Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24, 2020, 7:00 pm
=== Christmas Eve Service with Full Eucharist, via Zoom ===
THE ORDER OF SERVICE*

Introduction – Rev. Dr. Lois Williams

The Word of God

Opening Hymn – Hymnal #56, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," v. 1, 4, 6 & 7

Verse 1:

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Verse 4:

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Verse 6:

O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Verse 7:

O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Opening Acclamation

Presider All honor and glory is yours, God the Creator, Christ Jesus the Son, with the Holy Spirit.

People *O come, let us honor God's kingdom and adore Christ the Lord this night.*

Presider Let us pray:

All **O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven, where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Liturgy *From Discipleship Ministries, United Methodist Church*
For Christmas Eve – The Christ Candle

Reader 1: Advent hope moves us.

Reader 2: Advent love leads us.

Reader 1: Advent joy stirs us.

Reader 2: Advent peace stills us, that we might affirm our King Jesus.

Reader 1: It is time we set flame to this Advent affirmation by lighting the Christ Candle.

Reader 2: Let us say together—

All **We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied. The same Jesus lives today in our hearts. He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment. In Jesus Christ our hope is fulfilled; our love is consummated; our joy is complete; and our peace is sealed.**

Reader 1: Rejoice, a Savior is born!

All **A Savior is born, indeed!**

Hymn – Hymnal #105, “God Rest You Merry Gentlemen,” v. 1 & 4

Verse 1:

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay;
remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan’s power
when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Verse 4:

Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and charity
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
doth bring redeeming grace.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!

The Lessons

The First Reading: The Old Testament – Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader:

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

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

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 96 *Cantate Domino*

Reader:

Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

The Second Reading: The Epistle – Titus 2:11-14

Reader:

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People *Thanks be to God.*

***Gradual -- Celtic Alleluia**

After a brief introduction, sing two times through

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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The Gospel – Luke 2:1-20

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People *Glory to you, O Christ.*

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.

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!"

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.

Presider The Gospel of our Savior.

People Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn – Hymnal #96, "Angels We Have Heard on High," v. 1 & 2

Verse 1:

Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.
Glo—ri-a in excelsis Deo.
Glo—ri-a in excelsis Deo.

Verse 2:

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Glo—ri-a in excelsis Deo.
Glo—ri-a in excelsis Deo.

The Sermon – Rev. Lois

The Nicene Creed *From the Book of Common Prayer*

**All We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
 and became truly human.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Reader: Circle us with the light of your presence, bright within this dark world.
 Enable us to be overcomers of fear and temptation.
 Enable us to be victors over sin and despair.
 Enable us to become that which you would desire.

(silent prayer)

People Lord of creation, Lord of salvation,
Circle us with the light of your presence.

Reader: Circle our family within the shelter of your outstretched arms.
 Protect them in each moment of their daily lives.
 Protect them in the decisions that they face.
 Protect their homes and relationships.

(silent prayer)

People Lord of creation, Lord of salvation,
Circle our families with the light of your presence.

Reader: Circle this nation with love and hope.
 Create a desire to listen to your message.
 Create a willingness to understand and respond.
 Create a need to reach out to the Christ Child.

(silent prayer)

People Lord of creation, Lord of salvation,
Circle our nation with the light of your presence.

Reader: Circle this world with the joy of your Salvation.
 Where there is sickness and disease, bring healing.
 Where there is hunger and despair, bring hope.
 Where there is torture and oppression, bring release.

(silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of salvation,
Circle this world with the light of your presence.

People

Reader: Circle all of us who are in grief or mourning.
For those who have died, shine light perpetual upon them.

(silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of salvation,
Circle all in this world, and the next, with the light of your presence.

People

Reader: God of Peace, we are confronted with so many overwhelming needs in our world. Walk with us as we set aside our own desires and wants and join the call to alleviate human suffering. Transform the financial gifts we have made to Christ the Lord Church and our community into genuine acts of concern and ministry to others. In the name of the One who surpasses all understanding, we pray. **Amen.**

Add your prayers for yourself and the world, and thanks for God's blessings, out loud or in the chat.

Officiant: Circle us in the light of your love, your light, and your hope, O Lord. Hear our prayers. **Amen.**

Invitation to The Holy Communion

The Offertory Sentence

Presider May we share the light of Christ with each other through our praise, thanksgivings, and gifts to God.

The Doxology

All **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving *From the Australian Prayer Book*

Presider The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

Presider It is right to praise you, faithful God, always and everywhere,
for with your only begotten Son and life-giving Spirit,
You are the one true God from everlasting to everlasting.

At the dawn of time you wrought from nothing a universe of beauty and splendor,
bringing light from darkness and order from chaos. You formed us, male and
female, in your image, and endowed us with creative power. We turned away

from You but you did not abandon us. You called us by name and searched us out, making a covenant of mercy, giving the law and teaching justice by the prophets.

And so we praise you, joining with your faithful people of every time and place, speaking the eternal song:

***Spoken Sanctus**

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider When the fullness of time was come, you sent your Son to be born of Mary. Bright image of your glory, he learnt obedience to you in all things, even to death on a cross, breaking the power of evil, freeing us from sin, and putting death to flight. You raised him from death, exalting him to glory, and the new day dawned.

On the night he was betrayed your Son Jesus Christ shared food with his friends, his companions on the way. While at table he took bread, blessed, and broke it, and giving it to them, said: "Take, eat: this is my body."

He took a cup of wine and giving thanks, he gave it to them and said, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Do this in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Therefore, living God, as we obey his command, we remember his life of obedience to you, his suffering and death, his resurrection and exaltation, and his promise to be with us for ever and ever. With this bread and this cup we celebrate his saving death until he comes again.

Accept we pray, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration that all who eat and drink at this table may be strengthened by Christ's body and blood to serve you in the world.

As one body and one holy people, may we proclaim the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

***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, for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread *After a short silence, the following is said:*

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Presider The gifts of God for the people of God.
You may participate at home by taking your prepared hosts at this time if you
so desire.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *The Presider and People pray together*

**Almighty God, giver of all good things,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the precious body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
We thank you for your love and care
in assuring us of your gift of eternal life
and uniting us with the blessed company
of all faithful people. Amen.**

Hymn – “The Lord Is My Light” by Taizé Community
To be sung a capella 3 times

Lyrics:

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation.
In him I trust, in him I trust.

At the end of the Hymn, the Presider and People pray together

**O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence;
Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship
with one another your abounding grace may increase among us;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Closing Hymn – Hymnal #111, “Silent Night,” v. 1, 2 & 3

Verse 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.

Verse 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!

Verse 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.

The service ends in silence.

