

Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church

✠ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ✠

10:00 p.m.

December 24, 2016

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.



*Inspired by Christ,
living and growing in faith,
we are a loving and open community
of worship, witness, and service in God's world.*



Prelude

Welcome

Processional Hymn

*Please stand as
you are able.*

✠ Gathering ✠

*Following the call of God's Spirit, the community of faith gathers,
welcoming one another and praying for God's mercy to fill the church and the world.*

We invite you to use the prelude time to prepare your heart and mind for worship.

*Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth,
when man and woman were formed in God's own image;
long after the great flood, when God set the rainbow
in the clouds as a sign of the covenant;
twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom;
eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges;
a thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year
from the founding of the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
in the sixth age of the world, all earth being at peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father,
willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy,
was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.
Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.
O come, let us adore Him.*

Adeste Fidelis

**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:**

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

**The Highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a Mortal he comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! Refrain.**

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

**Yea, Lord, We greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: Refrain.**

Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God,
C: **you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Reading of the Christmas Gospel

Vom Himmel Hoch

**From heav'n above to earth I come To you this night is born a child
To bear good news to ev'ry home! Of Mary chosen virgin mild;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring This new-born child of lowly birth
To all the world, and gladly sing. Shall be the joy of all the earth.**

Saint Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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 first-born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Greensleeves

**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!
Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, 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!**

Saint Luke 2:8-17

In that place there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks 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 Christ, 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.

Gloria

*Saint John 1:1-5,
10-14*

*Please stand as
you are able.*

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

Refrain: **Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherd, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?**

Refrain: **Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

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

Refrain: **Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Gospel of the Incarnation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave the power to become the children of God, who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have beheld his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*The
congregation
may be seated.*

Choral Anthem

**Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child,
Make thee a bed soft undefiled
Within my heart that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for thee.**

**"Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us the Son has giv'n."
With angels sing in pious mirth
a glad new year to all the earth.**

Vom Himmel Hoch

Still, Still, Still

*Still, still, still, One can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, The world is sleeping,
Holy Star its vigil keeping. Still, still, still,
One can hear the falling snow.*

*Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'Tis the eve of our Savior's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you, Close your eyes,
Let sleep surround you. Sleep, sleep, sleep,
'Tis the eve of our Savior's birth.*

*Dream, dream, dream, Of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number,
Watch you as you sweetly slumber. Dream, dream, dream,
Of the joyous day to come.*

Sermon

✠ Offering ✠

Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church is supported through the generous gifts of time, talent and treasure of our friends and members. We thank you for your support and partnership in the proclamation of the good news.

Pueri Concinite

J.R.v. Herbeck

*Now, together children sing to the infant, newborn king
Rev'rent voices declaring,
"He has appeared our Savior Lord with Mary.
Now fulfilled as was foretold by Gabriel."
Rejoice, be glad, Oh, how great God's mercy is.
That the maiden chose to bear his only Son.
Now today he has appeared in Israel.
He is our King. Alleluia!*

In dulci jubilo

**Good Christian friends, rejoice, With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice, With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

✠ Meal ✠

*We lift our hearts with praise and thanksgiving as the table is set,
and we receive the bread and wine—the humble meal through which we are
fed by the presence of Jesus the Christ and united as the body of Christ in the
world.*

Offertory
Please stand.

**Offertory
Prayer**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, as you once visited us in the birth of Jesus, visit us now by the power of your Spirit in these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be to us the Body and Blood of Christ, the banquet of heaven here on earth.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Blessed God, shed your grace brighter than starlight on us that we may bear your good tidings to all and renew the weary world in your name: the name of Emmanuel – God-With-Us, to whom we give honor and glory in joy, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to me all who are tired and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. The table is ready. All are welcome.

Please be seated.

Distribution

Communion is by common cup or intinction: For the common cup, receive a piece of the bread, and drink from the white chalice. For intinction dip the bread into the brown cup with the wine (dark) or grape juice (light) as you prefer, then eat. At Lake of the Isles, we practice open communion. All who hunger for the presence of Christ in their life are welcome at this table.

Communion Hymns



Jeg er så glad hver ju - le - kveld, ti da blev Je - sus født;
1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!
3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, the Son of God to - day;
4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais - es then I sing;
5 And so I love each Christ-mas Eve, and I love Je - sus too;



da lys - te stjer - nen som en sol, og eng - ler sang så sødt.
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.
and still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they pray.
he o - pens now for ev - 'ry child the pal - ace of the king.
and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well is true.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959
Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863
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St. Louis

**O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in the dark street shinest The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.**

**How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessing of his heav'n.
No ear can 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;
O, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!**

We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Ushers will begin from the front and midway back to light the candles of those sitting on the aisle.

Stille Nacht

**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.**

Post Communion Prayer

Please stand as you are able.

Post-Communion Hymn

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly host sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior 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.**

Benediction

May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Antioch

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
:/: Repeat the sounding joy.:/:**

**Joy to the world! The Savior reigns;
Let men their song employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
/:And heaven, and nature sing.:/:**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
:/:And wonders of his love.:/:**

Postlude

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WELCOME AND MERRY CHRISTMAS

Pastor	Rev. Arden D. Haug
Organist	Kenneth Vigne
Choir Director	Dawn Allan
Soloist	Kathy Hering
Worship Assistant	Michelle McCreery
Ushers	Eric Mechels and Sean Coleman
Communion Servers	Susan, Emily and Abby Melbye
Altar Server	Kathy Hering and Margaret Coleman

Thank You

Thank you to all the people who have helped to decorate our church for the Christmas season, including Tom Madson, Dane Peterson, Lee and Marlene Wilson, and Pastor Haug and the Haug Family. Your labors are greatly appreciated.

Thank you also for the lovely poinsettias provided by:

Brenda Weigel, Ross and Wesley Bartels

John and Bev Bergford

*Patrick and Katherine Bracken in memory of Virginia
Bracken*

Mary Knoblauch and Marty Carlson

Phyllis Dahl

Debra Gilroy in memory of Jim Gilroy

Rick Gripentrog in memory of Warren, Julane and Lon Gripentrog

Charlie and Jill Gruys in honor of their grandparents

Amy, Elyssa and Emilia Gustafson

David and Carolyn Hagford in memory of Kimberly Susan Hagford

Kathy and Mark Hering in memory of Jerry and Grover Webster

Ryan and Kayla Hoel

Ellie Holmquist in honor of my family

Ruth Lee

John Madson in memory of Joyce Madson

Nancy McCutcheon in memory of Don and Abby McCutcheon

Linda Nelson in honor of Olivia, Wyatt and Drew Vant Hull

Pat and Laura Nortwen in memory of Dallas Nortwen

Rick and Suzanne Pepin

Reagan Riddle

Bruce and Mary Sabatke

Andrew and Megan Ulland in honor of Winnie and Jack Ulland

Peter Van Gerben and Catherine Carlson in memory of parents,

Frederick and Elinor Van Bergen and Roger Johnson

Denise and Anna Wilkens



Poinsettias may be taken home after the 10:00 Candlelight Service. If you do not remember what you ordered, please check the sheet on the Christy Room door.