

Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church

✠ Christmas Eve Family Service ✠

4:30 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.



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

✠ 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.

Prelude

Welcome

Please stand as you are able.

Call to Worship

Isaiah 9:2-6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

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

authority rests on his shoulder 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.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Processional Hymn

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.:/:

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.

Children's Message

The Reading of the Christmas Gospel

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.

**Away in a manger, No crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing the poor baby wakes,
The little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

Saint Luke 2: 8-16

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.

**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 angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
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, Ris'n 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!"**

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 generous support and partnership in the proclamation of the good news.

Please stand as you are able

Offertory Carol

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!**

**So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him.
The king of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe the son of Mary!**

Service of Holy Communion

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.

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

O Holy Night

Solo

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 streets shineth 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 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;
O, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

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 to back to light the candles of those sitting on the aisle. Turn to light the candle of the person sitting next to you. Please **tip the unlit candle** to receive the flame and take care to hold your lighted candle **upright** to avoid dripping wax.*

Hymn

Silent Night

**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,
Heav'nly hosts 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.**

Closing Hymn

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Refrain **Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'ry where;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**The shepherds feared and trembled When, lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain***

**Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.**

Refrain

Postlude

Rhapsodie sur des Noels

E. Gigout

You are invited to remain for the Postlude to enjoy this musical offering of thanksgiving and praise or leave quietly.

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WELCOME

We thank you for celebrating the love of Jesus Christ with us this week, and we invite you back again—for prayer and worship and to any of the events our congregation has scheduled. We hope the message of God's grace will guide and strengthen you as you grow in love and faith in your daily life.

YOUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Pastor
Organist
Worship Assistant
Soloist
Holy Family
Ushers
Altar Servers
Communion Assistants

Rev. Arden D. Haug
Kenneth Vigne
Marty Carlson
Debra Gilroy
Vitali, Gina and Natalya Haug
Joel Koepp and David Hagford
Carolyn Hagford
Mary Knoblauch, Carolyn Hagford
and _____

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

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*