



# MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Setting 10

December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve

PRELUDE

What Is This Lovely Fragrance

Paul Manz

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

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!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

## **ADVENT WREATH**

To you is born a Savior

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 people: to you is born a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

**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!” We light the Christ candle to remind us that our Savior is born!**

Let us Pray. Almighty God, **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**

### **Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup>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.

**<sup>3</sup>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.**

<sup>4</sup>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.

**<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.**

<sup>6</sup>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.

**<sup>7</sup>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 Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

### **Luke 2:1-20**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of

David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of our Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

### The Nicene Creed

**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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and 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,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### The Prayers

Holy God, When all of time is crushed into a few moments on the edge of everything teetering on the brink of a new belief in the future

**here is where we meet you, O God.**

In the last moments of darkness before the breaking in of the light and the cry of a woman and the birth of love

**here is where we meet you, O God.**

As silence deepens and the wonder stretches and the ancient past, becomes our longed for future and the word of the prophets slip into fulfilment

**here is where we meet you, O God.**

Creating God, hold this moment made of every time. May we breath along with all those who have been here before to the heartbeat of hope. May we know this moment, so full of expectation, is as sacred as time can be, for contained here is all the hope of the future and the fulfilling of ancient longings

**here is where we meet you, O God.**

In the snarl of silence as the universe bends with the weight of anticipation, where the worry is greatest and the moment most urgent

**here is where we meet you, O God,**

in flesh.

**here is where we meet you.**

Here is where you meet us, and so we come, seeking and hoping, believing and praying, sorrowful and weeping, for we know that you come to us

**That we might meet you. Amen**

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Reflection of Word and Light**

*Individual candles may be lit during the reading. Please tilt unlit candles into lit candles to prevent dripping.*

In the beginning was the Word,

**In the beginning when God began to create the heavens and the earth,**

and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep while a spirit from God swept over the face of the waters.**

He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

**Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.**

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 did not overcome it.

**And God saw that the light was good.**

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. And God blessed them.**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth

**God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.**

From the fullness of the Word made flesh we have all received grace upon grace.

Genesis 1: 1-4a, 26-17, 31; John 1: 1-5, 9-14

# Silent Night, Holy Night!

## *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*

*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.

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,  
<sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions,  
and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,  
<sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior,  
**Jesus Christ.**

<sup>14</sup>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. Titus 2:11-14

## Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Johannes Brahms

Messiah Lutheran Church  
 11/30/2020

	Actual Nov-20	Actual Jan - Nov 20	Budget Jan - Nov 20
Revenue	\$8,692.64	\$142,970.41	\$135,905.00
Expenses	<u>14,237.45</u>	<u>142,984.44</u>	<u>150,977.80</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u><u>-\$5,544.81</u></u>	<u><u>-\$14.03</u></u>	<u><u>-\$15,072.80</u></u>
Reserve Balance	<u><u>\$70,284.07</u></u>		

## **Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray**

### **Members of Messiah:**

Rolland Christenson, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis, Betty Peterson, Gloria and Gene Holdsworth, we pray especially for the family of Har Shogren

### **Friends of Messiah**

Donna Stejksal	Daniels' friend	Karla Goewert	Friend of Kirsten Bruce
Denise	Pari Ford's mother	Orin Shogren	Har's brother
Bill Stephenson	Joy Janis's brother	Danielle	Robbie Peterson's
Dawn	Sharon Hoffman's Daughter	VanDeVyvere	granddaughter
Dorothy Carmichael	Friend of Messiah	Krista Bahler	Betty Peterson's Niece
Erin Erb	Friend of Sherry Peterson	Betty Finney	Sharon Hoffman's friend
Stephani White	Betty Holcombe's daughter	Meghan Presley	John & Margaret Presley's daughter

### **Serving the U.S.A.**

Alex Klapp	Betty Russin's grandson	Vicki Charboneau	Elaine Eller's granddaughter
Ben Youngquist	S Hoffman's nephew	Jeremy Guy	Hensley's son-in-law
T.J. Paulsen	Barb Malm's child		

### **Serving the U.S.A. Overseas**

Daniel & Miranda Norland	Randy/Gretchen's son & wife
Luke Hammontree	Daniel's grandson

### **Seminary**

Kaylie Ines

**Please pray for all affected by Covid-19:** Healthcare workers/administration/staff, residential staff and residents, those who seem unaffected and those who are currently aware they are infected and are fighting the virus. Also, we pray for all who are being negatively affected by the virus and it's social disruption.

# DECEMBER 24-25, 2020 CHRISTMAS EVE, CHRISTMAS DAY



*Jesus is born for those in need.*

## CHRISTMAS BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Christmas celebration.

**Thursday**      **Luke 2:1-20**                      **The birth of Jesus**  
                      **Isaiah 9:2-7**                              **The reign of the coming king**

**Friday**            **Psalms 96**                                      **Sing a new song**  
                          **John 1:1-14**                                  **The Word became flesh**

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS

*But the angel said to [the shepherds], "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." **Luke 2:10-11 (NRSV)***

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### **A Prayer for Christmas:**

Amazing God, for good news given to peasants, to shepherds, and to us, we give you thanks and praise through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

With this gift of food we remember you are to be praised for all you do for us through Jesus Christ, born in a manger in Bethlehem. Amen. (Psalm 96:4)

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the God who comes to save you, bless you with joy. (Titus 2:11)

## **HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS**

*Silent Night*

# CHRISTMAS MILESTONES CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about a time when you surprised someone.
- Tell or think about a time when someone surprised you.
- How does Jesus' birth in Bethlehem amaze you?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 2:1-20.

The shepherds in the fields have a startling encounter with God, bringing them good news of Jesus' birth. In that time and place, shepherds were described as "sinners." Their work in the fields kept them from observing the Sabbath. They were unclean and seen as liars, thieves, and generally unsavory. With this social stigma, they are likely people who had themselves given up on God. More than outcasts, they had simply walked away from hope in the mercy of God. In Luke 2, God does not give up on the shepherds—or us—as God reaches out to them in the fields. God didn't wait for them to show up at the temple or the synagogue. God doesn't have to wait for us to show up at "church," either. The startling news of Jesus' birth is that it is for those who need God most. When have you felt like giving up on God? How does this birth story help you hear good news?

*Pray:* **Loving God, help us to hear the good news of Jesus' birth for all the world, especially when we feel far from you; in the name of Jesus, the Savior, Messiah, and Lord, amen.**

## SERVICE

There are those around us in need of seeing God's love in action. Is there a local soup kitchen or shelter where you can volunteer time or donate items this week for those in need of seeing the good news of Jesus birth in action?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Make your Christmas Day into a celebration of Jesus' birthday. Use some Christmas pastries or a cake to help celebrate. Place a white candle in its center and on Christmas Day, light the candle, sing "*Happy Birthday*" to Jesus, and then take time to complete this sentence:

*Say:* **The birth of Jesus is special to me because \_\_\_\_\_.**

Then sing some Christmas carols.

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)