

# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 2020 at 7pm



Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church

---

## Communion

We will celebrate Holy Communion together via zoom -- a temporary practice during this time of forced social distancing. Please have bread/cracker(s) and a cup of wine/grape juice ready, if you and those with you would like to participate. If you do not have access to wine/grape juice, you may receive Communion without the cup – Christ is present in the bread, as Jesus said, “I am the bread of Life.

## Advent/Christmas

Please have your Advent Wreath nearby with a 5th candle in the center. If you don't have a Wreath, please have a single candle ready for lighting during the service when instructed.

You will also need a candle you can hold—one for each person who shares your space and is able—for use during the singing of “Silent Night”.

Tonight you are also invited to have some jingle bells or any small bell to ring by hand. It would be great if everyone—especially the children—had a bell to ring.

## Call to Worship (based on Isaiah 9 & John 1)

The people who walked in darkness—and 2020 has been a year of much darkness—have seen a great light.

**Life has come into the world in Christ, and that life is the Light of all people.**

*(First Advent Candle is lit)*

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them Light has shined.

**The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

*(Second Advent Candle is lit)*

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

**To all who receive this child, power is given to become children of God.**

*(Third Advent Candle is lit)*

This child's name is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**And the Word became flesh and lived among us.**

*(Fourth Advent Candle is lit)*

The authority of this child grows continually, and there shall be endless peace.

**From the fullness of this child we have all received, grace upon grace.**

*(Christ Candle in center of Wreath is lit, or single candle if you don't have a Wreath)*



Hymn

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!

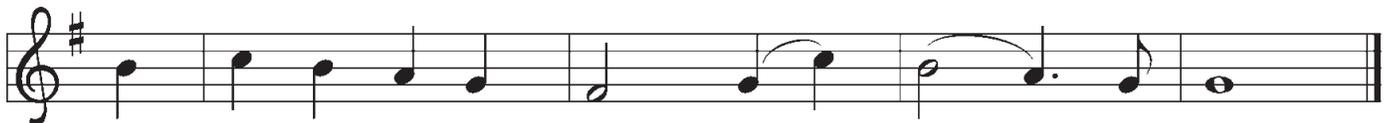


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*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!



## Contemporary Song

## Hope Was Born This Night,

Ben MacDonald, Dave Frey

Tonight I can see a star shine  
And its splendor fills up the sky  
It's the same that appeared and the wise men revered  
When hope was born this night

Out upon the snowy fields  
There's a silent peace that heals  
And it echoes the grace of our Savior's embrace  
Because hope was born this night

Glory to God in the highest  
Peace on Earth, good will to all men  
Let all of the world sing the chorus of joy  
Because hope was born this night

I can hear the Christmas bells ring  
As softly as a church choir sings  
It's the song used to praise the ancient of days  
When hope was born this night

There are angels in this place  
And my heart resounds with the praise  
Like a shepherd so scared, I'll rejoice and declare  
That hope was born this night

Glory to God in the highest  
Peace on Earth, good will to all men  
Let all of the world sing the chorus of joy  
Because hope was born this night

Gloria, Gloria  
Gloria, Gloria  
Oh Gloria

Gloria, Gloria  
Oh Gloria  
Gloria, Gloria

Glory to God in the highest  
Peace on Earth, good will to all men  
Let all the world sing the chorus of joy  
Because hope was born this night

Glory to God in the highest  
Peace on Earth, good will to all men  
Let all the world sing the chorus of joy

Because hope was born this night  
I know hope was born this night  
Because Christ was born this night



## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray together:

**Almighty and All-tender 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, until the day when we wake to the fullness of Christ's glory; through Jesus Christ the Light of the World, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God now and forever. Amen.**

## First Reading

**Matthew 1:18-25**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

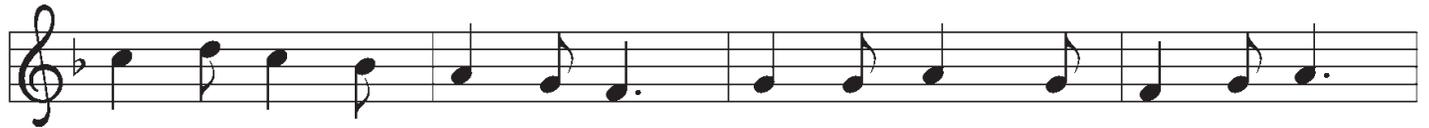


## Hymn

## Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## Second Reading

## Luke 2:1-7

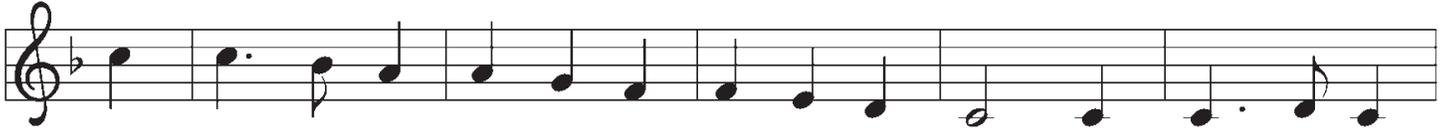
In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Hymn

# Away In a Manger



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.



## Third Reading

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!"

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

*Angels From the Realms of Glory*, verses 1 & 2

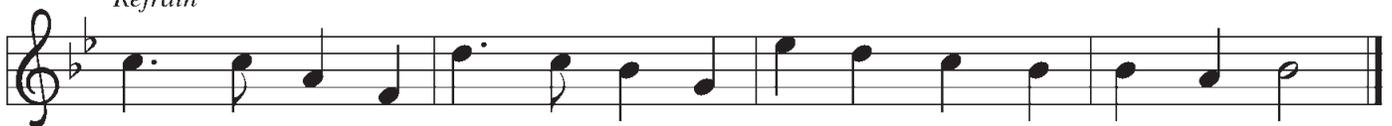


- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon-der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

## Fourth Reading

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.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# Hymn

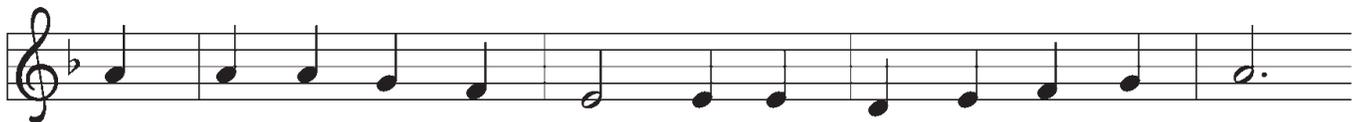
## O Little Town of Bethlehem, verses 1, 3 & 4



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
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!



## Children's Time and Song

## Come One, Ring Those Bells

by Andrew Culverwell

Everybody likes to take a holiday,  
Everybody likes to take a rest.  
Spending time together with the family  
Sharing lots of love and happiness.

### Chorus:

Come on, ring those bells, light the Christmas tree,  
Jesus is the King, born for you and me.  
Come on, ring those bells, Everybody say,  
Jesus, we remember this your birthday!



Celebrations come because of something good.  
Celebrations we love to recall.  
Mary had a baby boy in Bethlehem  
The greatest celebration of them all!

### Chorus

## Sermon

## Hymn

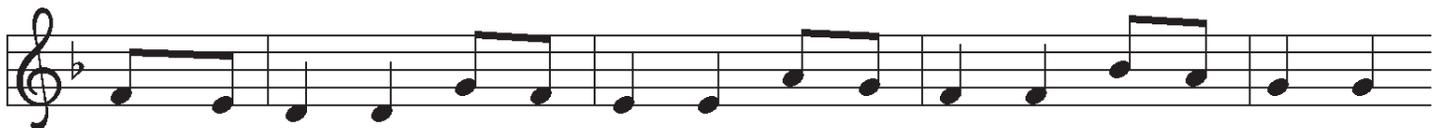
## Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

## Prayers of Intercession

The response to each prayer will be: Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer**

## Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ and Christmas be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## Offering

Please donate to Bethel using Give Plus to donate by text: (855) 944-1171. You may use one of our other options online <http://bethelpdx.org/donate/>

## Eucharistic Prayer for Christmas

*The Pastor will guide you when to take the bread & cup and eat & drink*

The name of the town where Jesus was born, Bethlehem, means "House of Bread".

**Jesus said, "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."**

On this night, we get to go to Bethlehem, when we take the bread and the cup!

**Jesus said, "I am the bread come down from heaven, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away."**

In another dark night, the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to disciples, saying, Take and eat; this is my body broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, and gave thanks: and gave it for all to drink, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for all people, that sins may be forgiven. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## The 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.**

## Sharing the Bread and Cup

## Communion Music

**O Magnum Mysterium**, Evan Ramos,  
performed by the Bethel Singers

## Announcements

### Candle-lighting

You and the people in your space who are able may each light a candle—taking the light from the Christ Candle in the center of your Advent Wreath or the single candle you lit earlier.

Once all the candles are lit, the Pastor will say the following prayer—then we sing!

All-powerful and All-merciful God, the coming of your Light into the world has warmed and brightened weary hearts with peace and joy. Call us out of darkness and empower us to proclaim the birth of Jesus, our Savior and Lover of our Souls, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Hymn

### *Silent Night*, Kathleen Hollingsworth & Jared Burdick



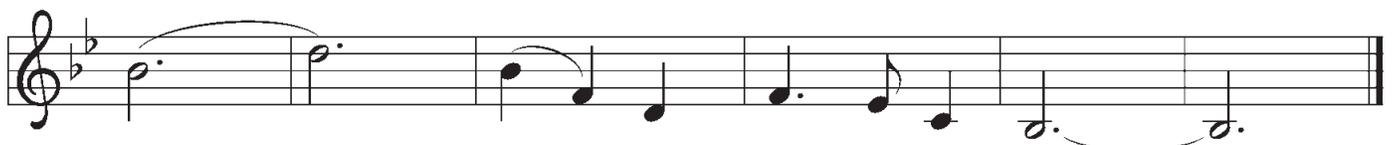
*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



*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,



*Hold - er 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.

## Blessing

God grant you the joy of the Christmas Angels,  
the audacity of the Shepherds,  
the faith of Mary,  
the courage of Joseph,  
and the peace (+) of the Christ Child, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Go in peace. Let your light shine!

**Thanks be to God!**

*You may extinguish your candles*

## Postlude

**O Christmas Tree,** Ernst Anschutz

*Decorate Your Christmas Tree*

