



Nativity of our Lord

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Friday, December 24, 2021 4:00 pm

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn

Oh Come, All Ye Faithful (st. 1-2)

#283

Christmas Dialog *(based on Psalm 98)*

Hey! Sing to God something brand new!

(Loudly): For God has done wonderful things! Hey!

God has not forgotten to love us all!

Even the ends of the earth have heard!

Make a joyful noise!

Hey! Hey! HEY!

With symphony and band!

All instruments turned up to 11!

With the roaring sea and everything in it!

With all the land and everything in it!

The floods clap their hands!

The hills sing for joy!

Thank God! God is coming to set everything right:

Justice for everyone, everything fair!

Hey! Sing to God something brand new!

For God has done wonderful things! HEY!

Prayer of the Day

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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

The Ancient Prophecy & Foretelling (Isaiah 9:6)

Gabriel Visits Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

Joseph's Dream (Matthew 1:18-25)

Welcome to worship! Please complete a Connection Card and place the card in the offering plate near the exit. Thank you!

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Mary & Joseph go to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7)

Hymn

Away in the Manger

#277

The Shepherds and the Angels (Luke 2:8-12)

Sunday School Band

Go Tell It on the Mountain

The Shepherds Visit Baby Jesus (Luke 2:13-20)

Hymn

Silent Night

#281

Apostles' Creed

p. 105

Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Sharing of Christ's Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

*We believe
that the true
body and
blood of Je-
sus Christ is
in/with/
under the
bread and
wine.*

*All baptized
Christians
who believe
this true
presence are
welcome and
encouraged
to
receive Holy
Communion
today.
Parents,
please assist
your child
(ren) if you
wish them
communed.*

MEAL

Offering

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, **your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord's Prayer

In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

Communion

Prayer after Communion

We thank you, wondrous God, **for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

Dismissal

Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.
Thanks be to God!

Hymn

Joy to the World

#267

Postlude