

CHRISTMAS EVE



**DECEMBER 24, 2021
5 P.M.**

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENT *Rev. Jason Christ, Associate Pastor*

WELCOME *Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited, Jr., Lead Pastor*

(Stand)

Invocation comes from the Latin, "to call upon." Used at the beginning of the service, it serves as a reminder of Baptism as we begin in the name of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Trinity is often represented with interlocking circles.

INVOCATION

Leader We gather with expectant hope, confident faith, abundant joy, and heavenly peace to worship in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People Amen.

OPENING SONGS

O Come All Ye Faithful

Verse 1

O come all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels

Chorus

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adorthethe Him
Christ the Lord

Verse 2

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
O sing all ye bright
Hosts of heav'n above
Glory to God all
Glory in the highest

Verse 3

Yea Lord we greet Thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing

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The First Noel

Verse 1

The First Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Chorus

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

Verse 2

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Verse 3

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Verse 4

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

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INTROIT

Leader "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord,

People "When I shall raise up for David a righteous Branch:

Leader And He will reign as king and act wisely

People And do justice and righteousness in the land.

Leader In His days Judah will be saved,

People And Israel will dwell securely;

Leader And this is His name by which He will be called,

People "The Lord our righteousness." Jeremiah 23:5-6

CONFESSION

Leader Within the darkness of this sinful world, the Light comes in the form of Jesus of Nazareth. Today we celebrate that gift. Let us join in a time of silence to consider our sinfulness, that we might confess it and receive the warmth of His forgiveness.
(silence for personal confession)

Leader Lord of Light,

People We confess that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words and actions, and by what we have left undone. We often have chosen to walk in the darkness. On this holy day, Lord, shine on us and forgive our sins. Grant us Your peace. Amen.

*Introit (inn-TRO-it).
From the Latin for
"enter". Verses from
Scripture sung or
spoken at the
beginning of the
Divine Service.*

*A common theme
for Christmas Eve is
light coming into the
darkness. Notice it
here in the
confession and
absolution. Watch
for it later in the
candlelight singing
and Christmas
prayer.*

ABSOLUTION

Leader Arise, shine, for your Light has come. Sent by the Father, Jesus came to forgive our sins and bring us out of darkness into the Light. Because of Him our sins are forgiven. Let us celebrate the infinite God in infant flesh!

People **Amen. Praise to You O Christ, Child born to save us!**

(Sit)

The Christ Candle is lit after the proclamation of the Gospel, symbolic of Jesus' birth.

GOSPEL PROCLAMATION *Luke 2:1-20* *Proclaimer: Brayden Florio*

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to You, O Christ, Child born to save us!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Sue Steege, Director of Transformation Ministries*

MESSAGE *The Message of the Angel* *Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited, Jr.*

(Stand)

We use this creed on Christmas Eve and the 12 days of Christmas. I retains the same structure as the Apostles' Creed, confessing Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--but does so with an emphasis on Christ's sending (Father), birth, death, and resurrection (Son), and Kingship (Holy Spirit).

CHRISTMAS CREED

People **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, who sent His Son as my Savior on Christmas.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshiped by the shepherds, and adored by the wise men; who lived to suffer, die, and rise again to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas and by whose work in my heart I am led to lay before the feet of Christ the treasures of my love and live under Him as my King both now and forevermore. Amen.

(Sit)

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING *Noel*

Verse 1

Love incarnate love divine
Star and angels gave the sign
Bow to babe on bended knee
The Savior of humanity
Unto us a Child is born
He shall reign forevermore

Chorus

Noel Noel
Come and see what God has done
Noel Noel
The story of amazing love
The light of the world given for us
Noel

Verse 2

Son of God and Son of man
There before the world began
Born to suffer born to save
Born to raise us from the grave
Christ the everlasting Lord
He shall reign forevermore

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(Stand)

CANDLELIGHT SINGING

Leader¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
Isaiah 60:1

Leader² When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." *John 8:12*

Leader¹ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth.
Ephesians 5:8-9

Leader² In the same way, let your light shine before people, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." *Matthew 5:16*

Silent Night

Verse 1

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

Verse 2

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

Oh What a Glorious Night

Verse 1

The shepherds came to see the baby
Stood by His mother's side
Here lay the Savior
Inside a manger
Oh what a glorious night,
Oh what a glorious night!

Chorus

I hear the angels singing,
"Hallelujah!"
"Let the earth receive her King!"
I know that love has come.
Sing it out!
Jesus Christ is born,
Jesus Christ is born!

Verse 2

The shepherds wondered,
They couldn't hide it.
Told everyone in sight
All were amazed when
They heard how God came
Down on a glorious night.
God came down on this glorious night!

Verse 3

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

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Bridge

Glorious! Glorious!
What a glorious night!

Verse 3

All is calm now
All is quiet
A star shining in the sky
Below in Bethlehem
The King is sleeping
Oh what a glorious night
Oh what a glorious night

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THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Leader O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on Earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Leader May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. And may the Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forevermore!

People Let us worship the newborn King!

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

*Unless noted
otherwise, scripture
passage came from
the English Standard
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*Special thanks to our
worship band.*

POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

GIVEN BY

Joel Rockensuess
Marsha Peth
Anne Miller
Beth Schmidt
Mary Ann and David Young
Randy& Karen Wert
Tim Hartnett
Maryann Bryant

GIVEN BY

Pam Trevino

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Marion & Arthur Rockensuess, Felimina Rotundo
Mark Peth and Julie Jean Reid
Beloved family and friends
My parents, Benjamin and Barbara Todtenhagen
Benjamin, Christopher and our loved ones in heaven
Kaden Wert
Christopher
Carrie Lynn Bryant

IN THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR

Our children, Jesse and Emma