

**CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
DECEMBER 25, WILL BE AT 10 A.M.**

The "Service Of Nine Lessons And Carols" from King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England, brings Christmas Day to life. We hear the Christmas story in the rich language of King James, sing some of our favorite carols, and share Holy Communion. (There is no sermon.)

Sunday, December 27th and January 3rd there will be **only one service** at 10 a.m. There will be no Education Hour. Sunday School will resume on January 10th.

Large Print Edition of the order of worship, the lessons, and the hymns for today are available. If you would like copies for worship, please ask an usher.

2016 Offering Envelopes are ready to be picked up in the Narthex on tables. They are in alphabetical order. If you don't see your envelopes stop in the church office and see Katrina.

This month, Our Sunday School kids are collecting coats, jackets, mittens, etc. for The United Way Coats for Kids program. If you come across some items that are in good shape, please bring it to church to help someone else keep warm! Please drop them off in Cindy's office next to the Library. Thank you!

The Pastors would like to ask for your help is making sure that everyone who needs a visit from our Visitation Pastor, Stan Satre, is on our visitation list. We do not want anyone to be missed. Please let one of the Pastors know if you, or anyone you know that would like a visit. Thank you for your help.

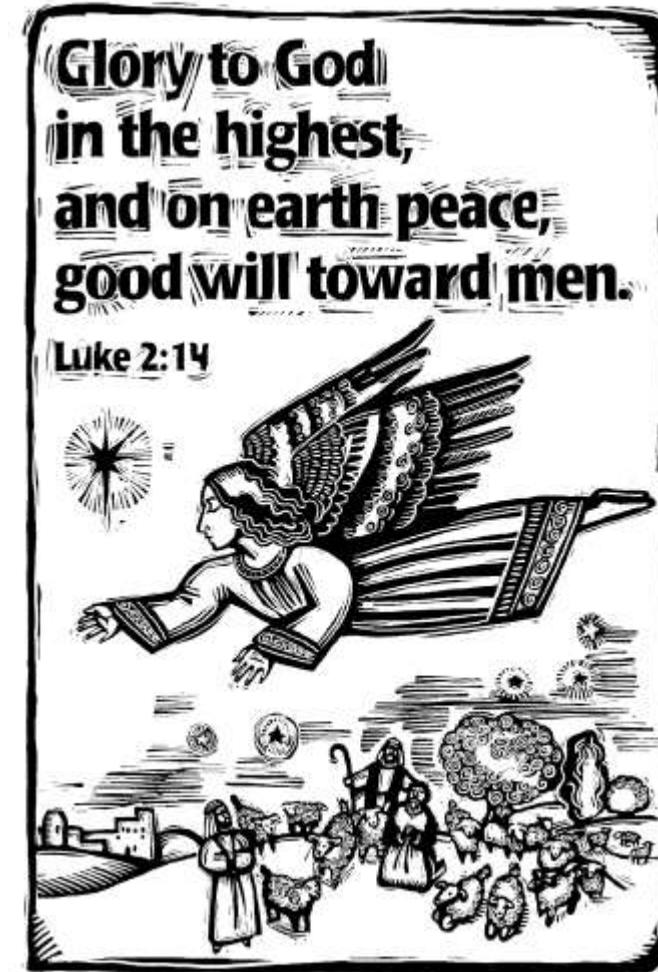
2015 Donations:

In order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2015, **checks must be mailed to the church by no later than December 31.** Checks must be **written, postmarked, and mailed in 2015** to qualify for a 2015 deduction. All other contributions will not qualify for this year, even if the check was actually written in 2015. Please keep this in mind when making your year-end donations.

Senior Pastor:
Associate Pastor:
Visitation Pastor:
Processional Party:
Acolytes:
Communion Assistants:
Organist:
PA:

Saul Stensvaag
Jennifer Rose
Stan Satre
Mark Boen, Brian & Madisen Becker
Brandon Hinsverk, Alison Koch
Mark & Diane Boen
Keith Melberg
Kevyn Heck

***GOOD NEWS FOR ALL PEOPLE -
NO EXCEPTIONS***



***Christmas Eve - 11 p.m.
December 24, 2015***

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
HOLY COMMUNION
11:00 p.m. DECEMBER 24, 2015**

Online
Giving
QR Code



Martin Luther, in his Christmas hymn writes, "Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled, a quiet chamber in my heart, that you and I may never part." The prince of peace comes again at Christmas to make his home in your heart.

THE PRELUDE

THE CHRISTMAS GREETING

THE PROCESSIONAL CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful
(please remain seated until vs. 4)

ELW 283

- 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;

REFRAIN

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

- 2 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing! **REFRAIN**

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest: **REFRAIN**

*** 4 STAND**

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! **REFRAIN**

SILENCE FOR MEDITATION

In the darkness of that Judean night, in the midst of nowhere, to parents who were nobody, the child was born, and whoever it was that delivered him slapped his bare backside to start the breath going, and he cried out, as each one of us cried out, at the shock and strangeness of being born into the darkness of the world. Then, as the Gospels picture it, all heaven broke loose. The darkness was shattered like glass, and the glory flooded through with light of a thousand suns. A new star blazed forth where there has never been a star before, and the air was filled with the bright wings of angels, the night sky came alive with the glittering armies of God, and a great hymn of victory rose up from them - Glory to God in the highest.

-Frederick Buechner, *The Hungering Dark*

SOME IDEAS FOR YOUR FAMILY CHRISTMAS

TABLE PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

*With joy and gladness we feast upon your love, O God.
You have come among us in Jesus, your Son, and your presence now graces this table.
May Christ dwell in us so that we might bear his love to all the world, for he is Lord forever and ever.
Amen.*

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Have one of the children (perhaps the youngest child/grandchild who can read?) read the Christmas Gospel from Luke 2:1-20 before opening presents or before the meal.

BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

(Use this prayer before you open Christmas presents)

*Blessed be your name, O God, you are the source of every blessing. From your hand, we receive the good gifts of life, health, and salvation.
As we give and receive these presents, bless us with hearts thankful for the birth of your Son.
May our opening of these gifts lead us to share our love, faith, and goods with the poor and needy. In Jesus name, Amen.*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

(Use this prayer when your children go to bed on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day night. You can either sing it to the tune of *Away in a Manger*, or say it as a prayer)

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven to live with you there. Amen.*

(excerpts from Come Lord Jesus by Susan Briehl, ©
1996 Augsburg Fortress
Used by permission)

***THE CAROL**

Silent Night, Holy Night!

ELW 281

THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT

The pastors will light their candles; the ushers will light their candles from the pastors' candles. The ushers will then light the candle of the worshiper in each pew nearest to the aisle. **[Tip only the unlit candle when lighting your candle from your neighbor.]**

- 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.
- 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!
- 3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

***THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

(Please extinguish your candles and place them in the baskets in the narthex.)

THE POSTLUDE

*Denotes when to stand

***THE CHRISTMAS VERSICLE**

PASTOR: The Lord is my light and salvation; whom do I fear? The Lord is my life's refuge; of whom am I afraid?
Psalm 27:1

PEOPLE: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world - the light no darkness can overcome.**

Vespers Worship Service

PASTOR: Your light, O God, fills our whole being and is the light unto our path.

Matthew 6:22 – Psalm 119:105

PEOPLE: **You, O God, will be our everlasting light, and you will be our glory.**

Isaiah 60:1-9

A GREAT LIGHT HAS SHINED ON THOSE WAITING IN DARKNESS

Isaiah 9:2-7

CAROL

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

ELW 282

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
- 3 And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!
- 4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION AND PROCESSION**

(Please turn as Bible procession goes by)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

***THE READING OF THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL**

Luke 2:1–20

(Congregation responds after Gospel is announced: **Glory to you, O Lord.**)

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. 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 Saviour, 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 favours!' 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.

(Congregation responds after Gospel is read: **Praise to you, O Christ.**)

THE SERMON **Good News for All People – No Exceptions** Pastor Stensvaag

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Christmas Offering will be divided amongst our benevolences (Children are welcome to come forward for a children's offering, which will be collected in a basket up front. The Children's offering goes to Habitat for Humanity.)

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** 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**

THE DISTRIBUTION

Carols during Distribution

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

ELW 271 (v. 1, 2, 4, 5)

1. I am so glad each Christmas Eve, the night of Jesus' birth
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and angels sang on earth.
2. The little child on Bethlehem, he was a kind indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above to help a world in need.
4. I am so glad each Christmas Eve! His praises then I sing;
He opens now for ev'ry child the palace of the king.
5. And so I love each Christmas Eve, and I love Jesus too;
And that he loves me ev'ry day I know so well is true.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832-1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881-1959
Music: Pøster Knudsen, 1819-1863
Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

- 1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

REFRAIN

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
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***THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER**