



December 24, 2020
Christmas Eve Service
Joint Worship to be the church together.
Voices from Augustana & First Lutheran
Worship broadcast via YouTube. YouTube links found on:
www.augustanalutheran.org www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

PRELUDE

MEGHAN STRINGER

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

LITANY

P - We rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

C - To the praise of your glorious grace.

P - We thank you for granting us the patience to await His arrival.

C - To the praise of your glorious grace.

P - May we sing this day with the angels.

C - To the praise of your glorious grace.

P - May we praise you like the shepherds of old.

C - To the praise of your glorious grace.

P - May we leave here this holy night with gratitude and in your strength.

C - To the praise of your glorious grace.

OPENING HYMN

"Good Christian Friends Rejoice"

HYMN #288 v.1-3

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.



Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
Music: German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

IN DULCI JUBILO
66 77 78 55

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open and all desires known and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen!**

Pause. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For they sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, to so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.** Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 9:2-7*

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. 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. 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood, shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. 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 zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Gesu Bambino"

MEGHAN STRINGER

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14

The holy gospel according to St. Luke. **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 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 gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

"Where Does God Fit In?"

PASTOR DAVID STROM

HYMN OF THE DAY

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

HYMN #294, v.1-3

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a-way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

the in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

OFFERING

Breath of Heaven

LINDA MELLON

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. **Amen!**

COMMUNION

This is the Lord's Table, all are welcome here. In your home is an ordinary table now set apart and holy, Christ is present there. All are welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper, wherever you may be.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, throughout the generations you have come to be present with us at our tables, turning ordinary meals into holy moments for us to experience your grace in tangible ways. In an upper room of a guest house in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The body of Christ given for you. (*all share in eating the bread*)

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The blood of Christ shed for you. (*all sharing in drinking of the cup*)

Together as the body of Christ, trusting that the distance that separates us is bridged by the Holy Spirit who makes us one, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Wexford Carol

PASTOR DAVID STROM

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

HYMN

"Silent Night"

HYMN 281 Vv1-3

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,
 peace,
 born!
 birth,

schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

SENDING

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness, the darkness has not overcome it.

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: In him was life, and life was the light of all people.

P: May the light of Christ shine on you with God's grace and mercy. May you be filled with joy and peace!

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Extinguish the candles and return them to the basket.

BLESSING

May the Lord bless and keep you: May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and gracious unto you: May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give His peace. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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MEGHAN STRINGER