

Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2022
7:30 PM



MARTIN LUTHER CHAPEL

444 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
Phone: (517) 332-0778
www.martinlutherchapel.org

"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"

PRE-SERVICE CONGREGATIONAL CAROLS

PRELUDE "The Snow Lay on the Ground"

Edgar Queralles, Violinist

B.C. Docket

Traditional

HYMN "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" *Choir sings v.1 & 3*

1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un - furled,
3 All you, be-neath your heav - y load, By care and guilt bent low,
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,

From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world.
Who toil a - long a drea - ry way With pain - ful steps and slow:
When down in - to the cir - cling years Came Christ as was fore - told.

"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov - 'ring wing,
Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing,
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an - cient prom - ise bring,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
And ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing.
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *John 1:1, 4–5, 9; Isaiah 9:6; 52:10*

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word,

People: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Pastor: In Him was life,

People: and the life was the light of all people.

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

People: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Pastor: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

People: and the government shall be upon His shoulder,

Pastor: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

People: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

As you greet others, please be mindful of those who do not wish to shake hands.

Other options while saying "Peace be with you. / And also with you" is to place your hand on your heart, a head nod or to bow.

HYMN "Joy to the World"

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray:

C O God, You made 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. Amen.

THE LESSONS

FIRST LESSON 2 Samuel 7:1-17

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'

Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel;

and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies.

Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings.

But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for

ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever. In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC “*Quelle est cette odeur agreeable*” *Arr. Samuel Liddell*
Edgar Querales, violinist

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:1–20* (The birth of Jesus Christ)

P The Holy Gospel, from St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

P In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

C **And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.**

HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93
Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908
Text and tune: Public domain

[P] And while they were there,
Women: *the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

HYMN “Away in a Manger”



Text: Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.
 Tune: James R. Murray, 1841–1905
 Text and tune: Public domain

[P] And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them,

C “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

[P] And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

C “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

[P] When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

Men: *“Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”*

HYMN “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your

all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,

Refrain
 Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light. Come and wor - ship,

come and wor - ship; Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

P And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

C And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry-where;

Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain

Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an-gel cho-rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Father, with joy and wonder we gather around the manger on this night as we recall how great is Your love for us, sending Your Son into our world wrapped in our flesh as a tiny child..

People: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

Pastor: Jesus, on this night we recall how great is Your love for us. You gave up heaven to live on earth as one of us, and one with us, to forgive our sin.

People: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

Pastor: Holy Spirit, on this night we recall how great is Your love for us, gathering us together through the waters of Baptism and nourishing our faith through the Word and by the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.

People: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift given, received in faith, and kept unto life eternal.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, we pray that we not shut the Lord Jesus out of our hearts, but be ever ready to welcome Him as He comes to us still today, while awaiting the Last Day when He comes as a thief in the night, not born in our flesh but to resurrect all flesh and to make all things new. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Everlasting Lord, we pray that we see Jesus not only as the baby of Bethlehem, but also honor Him as the Christ of the cross and recognize the majesty of the King of kings and Lord of lords, both humbly adoring and proudly proclaiming Him as our King and Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Renewing Lord, let the Good News of Christmas inspire a renewing of hope, faith, joy, wonder, and witness in our hearts, our homes, in this congregation, and in the Church throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Comforting Lord, we lift up all those who lack joy this Christmastime due to afflictions spiritually, mentally, and physically. We lift up those who request our prayers, [*especially . . .*], and those we name in our hearts [*time for silent prayer*]. Grant that the hope and promise found in a Savior born for them will give peace in times of trial. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through the Savior born for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift. Amen.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

“Pat-a-pan, Noel”

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

Choir with Ashley Nettleman, percussionist

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.

C 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P On 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.

P 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.

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. **C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

THE DISTRIBUTION *Please approach the altar as space is available. You may receive communion from pre-packaged elements or the common loaf, along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free options are available.*

SPECIAL MUSIC Christmas Carol Loren Todd, Baritone

HYMN “Now Sing We Now Rejoice”

1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?

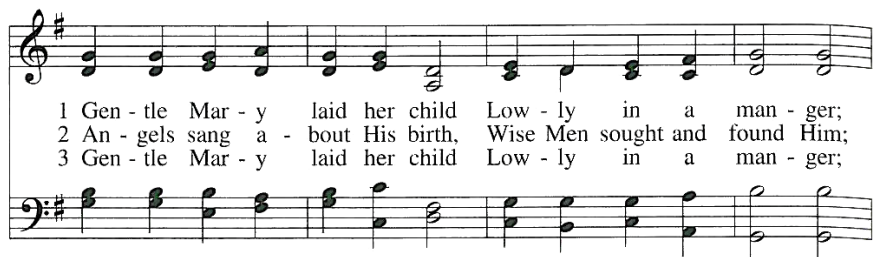
He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,

Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
 Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!
 May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
 Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

HYMN "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"



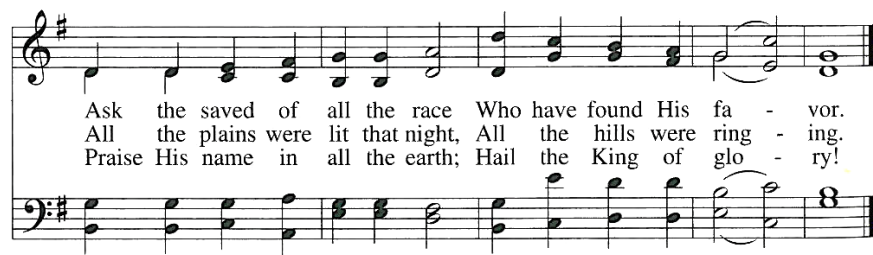
1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

[P] The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace. **[C] Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

[P] Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

[C] His love endures forever.

[P] We give thanks to You, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, for in Him You kept all Your promises through all the ages. Send us now, we pray, to tell all the news of glory in the highest and peace on earth that we have seen and heard.

[C] Amen.

BENEDICTION

[P] May Christmas peace be yours; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be and abide with you forever.

[C] Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The candles are distributed and lit. Please follow the Pastor in raising and lowering the candles during the singing of Silent Night. Tip only the unlighted candle.

CLOSING HYMN**"Silent Night"**

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant

vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
beams from Thy ho-ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Please place your extinguished candle in the basket following the service.

POSTLUDE**"Ding Dong Merrily on High"**

Edgar Querales, violinist

B.C. Dockery

Traditional