

Christmas Candlelight Service

Prelude – Advent Choir - “Christmas Grace” -Schram

ENTRANCE HYMN: ELW #283 “OH, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL” VERSES 1-3

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the king of angels:
Refrain
**Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, 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*

CHRISTMAS DIALOG AND GREETING

- P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
C: We have beheld Christ’s glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.
P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
C: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
P: May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.
C: And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER

- P: Let us pray together,
C: 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 only 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

A reading from Isaiah.

- ² 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.
³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

HYMN: ELW #279 “O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
3. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

SECOND READING: TITUS 2:11-14

A reading from Titus.

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

HYMN: ELW #270 “HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING” VERSES 1 AND 3

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”
3. Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. **Refrain**

THIRD READING: LUKE 2:1-7

A reading from Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

HYMN: ELW #277 “AWAY IN A MANGER” VERSES 1 AND 2

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

FOURTH READING: LUKE 2:8-20

A reading from Luke.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’ ¹⁵When 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.’ ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SERMON

HYMN: ELW #290 “GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN”

**Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev’rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

1. While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,

- Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
2. Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

THE PRAYERS

AM: Wonderful Counselor, increase our joy as the church gathers on this holy night to sing of our dear Savior's birth. May the story of salvation live in the hearts of all who sing of its wonders. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

AM: Mighty God, you have broken the yoke of sin's burden through the birth of your Son. Comfort those whose burdens distract them from the deeper peace of this holy night and grant them a restful mind. God of peace,

C: Hear our prayer.

AM: (*especially*). We remember with thanksgiving all who have died and who now rest in your peaceful light. God of love,

C: Hear our prayer.

AM: Gracious God, bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

OFFERING – ADVENT CHOIR – “CHRISTMAS COMMUNION SONG” -CALLAWAY

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

The gifts of God are always FREE! All are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward to the altar rail as directed by the ushers. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Wine is on the outer tray rings, juice in the center. Please refer to the red hymnal in the pew to sing the hymns.

COMMUNION HYMNS: ELW #289, #288, #294, #276

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

AM: Let us pray together. C: **We thank you, wonderful 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. Amen.**

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION

The minister lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

HYMN OF LIGHT: SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT!

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.

BLESSING

P: 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.

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DEPARTURE HYMN: ELW "267 JOY TO THE WORLD"

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.

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Pastor Sara Wirth Office Manager: Cindy Lindholm
Deacon Linda Bobbitt Minister of Music: Greg Komma
Minister of Handbells: Lisa Cook

St Andrew Lutheran Church will have a Christmas Day service at 10:30 am.
The address is: 6774 W. 66th Ave, Arvada 80003

Please join us for worship in person Sunday mornings at 8:30 am. Followed
by coffee hour at 9:45 am.

Sunday School resumes on January 15, 2023

On Thursday January 12, 2023, we will begin a small group "The Land Between". There will be a morning group, an afternoon group, and an evening group. The evening group will meet via Zoom. Please watch your email for further information or contact Cindy in the office.

The Traditional "Cap 'n Mitten Tree" has been sponsored by The Women of Advent for over 50 years. The caps and mittens will be donated to area schools. Thank you so much for your donations. The tree will be up for another week.

The office will be closed on Monday December 26, 2022.

Advent Lutheran Church has many opportunities for all age groups to come and connect with their community. Groups like the XYZ'S, ADVENTurers, Quilt Patch, and Women's Bible Study meet throughout the month to pray, learn, socialize, and have fun. For more information, make sure to check our website at www.adventwestminster.org.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

<p>Michael Adams (<i>Lexi Larson's father</i>) Steve Albert (<i>friend of Virginia Feighner</i>) Kath Andrews (<i>MaryAnn Bradley's sister</i>) Nina Behrendt (<i>neighbor and friend of Elizabeth Meier</i>) Chris Blair (<i>Warren's brother</i>) Donald Brzowsky (<i>Hal Schweitzer's nephew</i>) **Kathy, Bridget, and Malia Calip (<i>Friends of Chris Borquez</i>) Wally Campbell (<i>friend of Sandra Sphan</i>) Shawn Cantwell (<i>nephew of Michelle Lamirato</i>) Shelley Carey, Kim Schreiner & Sandra Schreiner (<i>Cheryl Swinhart's cousins</i>) Amber Carolus & family (<i>friend of Chris Borquez</i>) Joann Conrad (<i>Debbie Ezo's mother</i>) Nick Del Hierro (<i>friend of Jan and Sandi Bordner</i>) Jo Dreher Marge Dorsey Martie Essebagers Baby Everlee (<i>Friend of Trevor Gallegos & Theresa Hornbuckle</i>) Esther Faires ** Shirley Frey (<i>Vonda's cousin</i>)</p>	<p>Scott Gerhardt (<i>friend of Chris Borquez</i>) Julie Goerend (<i>Pastor Barb's friend</i>) Russ and Bob Goerend (<i>Pastor Barb's friends</i>) Joe Green (<i>friend of Donna Harris</i>) Geneva Giuffre (<i>Family friend of Tom and Joan LaRose</i>) **Lennie Gradert (<i>Vonda's cousin</i>) Elizabeth Gryder (<i>Family friend of Elizabeth Meier</i>) Abbey Hammer (<i>Pam and Jesse Hammer's niece</i>) Andrea Hanson (<i>Chris's sister-in-law</i>) Geraldine Harmon (<i>Ernst Blyt's sister-in-law</i>) Candace Homestead Dale Hundley (<i>Lois Wyble's son in law</i>) Karen Hutchinson (<i>Friend of Pastor Barb</i>) Lynn Irwin (<i>Neighbor of Jan and Sandi</i>) Jess Kary (<i>Jill Hartmann's father</i>) **Jessica Kurschner (<i>Pam & Jesse Hammer's daughter</i>) Leah and Melissa (<i>Pastor Bonita's daughter and wife</i>)</p>	<p>Jay Mendoza (<i>friend and neighbor of Hal and Lynne Schweitzer</i>) James McAllister Samantha McCulla (<i>Friend of Tom and Joan LaRose</i>) Shirley Nelson **Barbara Obert (<i>friend of Vonda</i>) Gail Pankow (<i>Shirley Keith's sister</i>) Merideth Parker (<i>Ann Hibb's Mother</i>) Harlan Redcay (<i>Jesse Hammer's brother in law</i>) Reyna Sanchez Hal Schweitzer Charlie Shaw (<i>friend of Lisa Cook</i>) Mary Stein (<i>Pastor Barb's sister</i>) Stacy Struessel * Doris Thomas (<i>Vickie Voth's Mother</i>) Fred Vargas & Family (<i>Diane Fuhrman's brother</i>) Tony Zangari Sr., Tony Jr., Roxanne Zangari (<i>family of Kathy Zangari</i>)</p>
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Special prayers for the citizens and victims and families who lost loved ones to gun violence.

Special prayers for the citizens of Ukraine.

Special Prayers for the marginalized, people of color, and essential workers.

Special Prayers for all of our military.

Special Prayers for all those out of work, homeless and hungry across the globe.