

Christmas Eve Family

December 24, 2022
7:00 p.m.

PRE-SERVICE (6:30 PM) Selected Christmas Songs and Video Presentations

SOLO **“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”** **Grayson Gorney**

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

P: Let us pray:

As we gather for worship this evening, Father, there is excitement in the air, a song on our lips and joy in our hearts. Help us to remember why we celebrate Christmas. May the Word which was made flesh be heard in our worship and in our lives. May Christ be born again in our congregation and in the life of each person here. May the love of Christmas fill our church and the peace of Christmas fill our hearts so that we know the difference Jesus makes in us; through the same, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OPENING HYMN No. 379 **“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”**

The OLD TESTAMENT READING (Isaiah 52:7-10)

L: Isaiah Welcomes the birth of Jesus 750 years before His arrival in the humble animal stall located somewhere in the town of Bethlehem. Jesus would come bearing Good News, for He Himself is the Good News. Listen to Isaiah as He joyfully announces the coming of Jesus as the Lord’s bared arm and in whom the earth shall see the salvation of our God. Isaiah 52, verses 7-10.

**How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”**

**The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.**

**Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.**

**The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

INTRODUCTION TO THE EPISTLE

L: The writer to the Hebrews welcomes Jesus from the perspective of one who has witnessed the Lord's life and work. He paints an extraordinary picture of Jesus, whose image looked very much like any ordinary man of his time and place. But to those who saw Him with the eyes of faith, they saw the radiance of the glory of God.

The EPISTLE to the Hebrews, chapter 1.

Hebrews 1:1-6.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

**“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”?**

Or again,

**“I will be to him a father,
and he shall be to me a son”?**

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

**ANTHEM “The Angel Gabriel” 19th C. Basque Carol, Arranged by John Leavitt
Adult Choir (Choir stays up front during the Intro to Hymn)**

INTRO TO HYMN

L: We welcome Jesus who is God come to earth! This is the reason for the angelic celebration and for our worship today. For while the earth lay in deep darkness and seeing the Christ Child, the angels of heaven irrupted in glorious praise singing:

“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.” Let us join the celebration of Jesus’ birth as we sing, “Hark the Herald Angels Sing.”

HYMN No. 380 “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

**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!”
Hark! The Herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The Herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**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.
Hark! The Herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

INTRO To the GOSPEL:

P: Those who welcomed Jesus wanted nothing more than for Him to stay; especially when they came to realize just who He was and is. John knew Jesus to be his Creator, his Life and his Light. He welcomed the only One who could dispel the darkness of evil that had enveloped the world.

But even better, John knew that all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. Let us enter the mystery of John’s Gospel and see “his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

GOSPEL John 1:1-14 (The Word Became Flesh)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St John, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN No. 370 “What Child is This”

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthem sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!**

Why lies he in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, The cross be borne for me, for you'
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; Come, peasant, king to own him.
The king of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

CHRISTMAS DRAMA "What Difference Does Jesus Make?"
Actors: Terry and Diane Colvin

SERMON "Jesus Makes All the Difference in the World" Pastor Vern

OFFERING "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring" J.S. Bach – Marcie Monaco, Flute

ANTHEM "Pavane for a Silent Night" Adult Choir
Based upon "Pavane pour une Infante defunte" by Maurice Ravel

CHRISTMAS PRAYER by Robert Louis Stevenson

P: Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,

C: the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

P: Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.

C: Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.

P: Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,

C: and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

P: May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,

C: and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

(Please share the light with the next person in your pew by allowing them to dip their candle into your light. Care must be taken not to tip a lit candle as it might drip wax on clothing or skin.)

CAROL No. 363

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

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.

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!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, loves pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

BLESSING OF THE LORD

P: Hear our prayer, O Lord:

Bless, protect and sanctify All those who bow their heads before You.
Through the grace, mercy, and love, Of your only-begotten Son,
To whom with You and Your most Holy, Gracious,
And Life-giving Spirit Be blessing now and forever.

C: Amen! Glory to God in the Highest!

And peace to His people on earth! *Luke 2: 14, adapted*

HYMN No. 387 JOY TO THE WORLD (Lights Up – Extinguish the Candles!"

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,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

SENDING

P: God comes to us now; comes to embrace us.

C: Emmanuel, God who is with us.

A: For this Child is Peace beyond all peace,

C: Love beyond all loves, Light of light, Song of songs, God almighty!

P: Follow this Child who is Grace beyond all grace,

C: A Gift beyond all gifts, Joy of joys, God made flesh, almighty!

A: Go in joy and love to serve your newborn King!

C: Thanks be to God! Amen!

THANK YOU!!

While this special night brings glory to God and to Him alone, we want to thank and give our appreciation to those who gave of their talents to honor the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus:

Marcie Monaco – “Song”, Flute solo

Grayson Gorney – “O Come All Ye Faithful”

Terry and Diane Colvin – Drama performers

Kristen Lintvedt – Sanctuary and narthex decorations

Eric Stake, Dale Schutte, Media

Cheryl Vohlken, Organist

Marty Lintvedt, Choir Director

Nancy Schmidt, Office Manager