

**Oak Valley Lutheran Church
December 14**

WELCOME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

L) Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C) Amen.

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

L) Long-expected God,

C) we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake for your kingdom to come. Free us from reluctance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

L) God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. In Jesus Christ, God has said "Yes" to us. In Jesus Christ ☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C) Amen.

HYMN: O COME, O COME EMMANUEL (1-2 VERSES)

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

We light three candles for the mystery of the Trinity:

Creator, Christ, and Spirit.

We light three candles as we worship that which we cannot ever fully name.

**We light three candles to say YES to the invitation
to look for the holy in the most surprising of places.**

CANDLELIGHTING SONG (TUNE OF JESUS LOVES ME #595)

Jesus loves me! This I now, for the Bible tells me so;

We light candles on this day. God be with us, "yes" we pray.

Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.

Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

PRAYER

L) The Lord be with you **C) And also with you.**

L) Let us pray.... Lord God, **Give us courage like Mary, that we too might say yes to you in the most unlikely circumstances, and bear witness to your justice for all, Amen.**

Mary said YES!

Opening Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem #279 ELW vs. 1 & 2

Vs. 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 the dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Vs. 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!

Prologue: Elizabeth, Zechariah, John the Baptist

Congregation Hymn: Joy to the World #267 ELW vs 1 & 4

Vs 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king: let every 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.

Vs. 4 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.

ACT 1: Mary

Silent Night, Holy Night! #281 ELW vs 1 & 2

Vs. 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.

Vs. 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!

ACT 2: Joseph

Away in the Manger #277 ELW vs. 1 & 2

Vs. 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 look down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Vs. 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, 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.

ACT 3: The Shepherds

Go Tell it on the Mountain #290 ELW Vs. 1

Vs 1 Go tell it on the Mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

ACT 4: The Wise Ones

The First Noel #300 ELW vs 3-5

Vs. 3 And by the light of that same star three wisemen cam from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Vs. 4 This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Vs. 5 Then entered in those wisemen three, full reverently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold and myrh, and frankincense. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

PRAYER

L) In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

L) God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

L) When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace, **C) hear our prayer.**

L) When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,
C) hear our prayer.

L) When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. (*We pray especially for . . .*) In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace, **C) hear our prayer.**

L) When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant (*especially we pray for Global Refuge and Lutheran Social Services*). God of grace,
C) hear our prayer.

L) As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith (*especially Mary, mother of Jesus, John of the Cross and . . .*). May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace, **C) hear our prayer.**

L) Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **C) Amen.**

PEACE

L) The peace of Christ be with you always. **C) And also with you**

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN **"In the Bleak Midwinter" #294 verse 3**

OFFERING PRAYER

L) Let us pray.... God of every good gift, **We offer what we have back to you, knowing that your son is the greatest gift we will ever receive. Grant us glad and generous hearts, ever and always, Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Epilogue: All The Rest of Us

This Little Light of Mine #677 ELW Vs. 1,2 and 3

Vs. 1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine; this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine; this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine, let shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Vs. 2 Ev'ry where I go, I'm goin'a let it shine; ev'ry where I go, I'm goin'a let it shine; ev'ry where I go, I'm goin'a let it shine, let shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Vs. 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine; Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine; Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine, let it shine, let shine, let it shine.

This little light of mine....

BLESSING

L) May God bless you with courage, as you seek the YES within you; May Christ be born again in every risk you take for the sake of the world; And may the Holy Spirit remind you, again and again, that you are never alone, and that you are loved beyond measure.

C) Amen.

SENDING

L) Go in peace. Keep awake.

C) Thanks be to God.