

## Christmas Eve – 9 pm

### WELCOME

#### **HYMN: O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL #283 VS 1-2**

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!

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

#### **POEM “AGAINST OUR BETTER JUDGEMENT” by Ann Weems (p. 35)**

### **GREETING & PRAYER**

L) May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

C) And also with you.

L) Lord God, **One this holy night, we remember the great story of your love come to us. The angels proclaimed the good news! The shepherds were so afraid, and sometimes we are, too. Meet us in this time. Make our curiosity greater than our fear, and our faith greater than our doubts, Amen.**

#### **HYMN: AWAY IN A MANGER #277**

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.  
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.

#### **ISAIAH 9:2-7**

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 Counselor, 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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

## **PSALM 96**

<sup>1</sup> Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**<sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup> Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

**<sup>4</sup> For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

<sup>5</sup> As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

**<sup>6</sup> Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**<sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

<sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

**<sup>10</sup> Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

<sup>12</sup> Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming,  
O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.

<sup>13</sup> You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

## **TITUS 2:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> He 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: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH #289 VS 1**

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

## **LUKE 1:1-20**

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> 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 in the guest room.

<sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this

day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

### **HYMN: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH #289 VS 2**

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

<sup>15</sup> When 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." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, <sup>19</sup> and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

### **HYMN: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH #289 VS 3**

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

### **REFLECTION: PEOPLE OF THE NATIVITY – THE SHEPHERDS** by Walt Wangerin Jr.

### **HYMN: IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR #282 VS 1-2**

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heav'n's all-gracious king."

The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heav'nly music floats  
o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hov'ring wing,  
and ever o'er its babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

### **APOSTLES CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

### **PRAYERS**

L) On this night of nights, we place before you our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*Silence for reflection.*

L) Yahoo! Christ is born. The angels rejoice. Your church rejoices. Grace upon grace is in our midst! God of promise; **receive our prayer.**

L) Yahoo! Heaven and nature sing. Your love is for all of creation. Guide us to be attentive to all that you have made. God of promise; **receive our prayer.**

L) Yahoo!. Jesus was born in a lowly place. He came for the whole world. He is King of King and Lord of Lords. God of promise; **receive our prayer.**

L) Yahoo! Where we experience brokenness in mind, body, and spirit, you bring healing. Comfort, encourage, and sustain us we pray. God of promise; **receive our prayer.**

L) Yahoo! There is something special about this night. We are gathered with family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Savior. All over the world, churches celebrate this good news. Be born again in us. God of promise; **receive our prayer.**

L) Yahoo! Your love never ends. Even in death, we belong to you. God of promise; **receive our prayer.**

L) As we celebrate the birth of Immanuel, we trust you to hear and answer the prayers of our hearts. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

L) The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C) And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

**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.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

L) The Lord be with you.

**C) And also with you.**

L) Lift up your hearts.

**C) We lift them to the Lord.**

L) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C) It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L) It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Spoken

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are fully of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

L) 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 in remembrance of me.

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.

### **LORD'S PRAYER (All Join)**

L) Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus Taught:

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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

L) In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

**C) Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

L) The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C) Amen**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray...Incarnate God, **you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.**

## **THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION**

### **John 1:1-14 (WORDS NOT ON SCREEN)**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And 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!**

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, 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.

### **PRAYER (WORDS NOT ON SCREEN)**

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

### **BLESSING (WORDS NOT ON SCREEN)**

L) May the Lord God, who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. In the name of Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. C) Amen.

### **HYMN: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN ELW 290**

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
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 ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!