



ARBORVITAE

GATHERING

Hymn

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her 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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

Christmas Day
December 25, 2020
9:00 am

Christmas Dialogue

In the beginning was the Word,
And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
All things came into being through him,
And without him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in him was life,
And the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
And the darkness did not overcome it.
And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
And we have seen his glory, the glory of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Hymn

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

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.

And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,

when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Let us pray.
Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

WORD

Readings

A reading from Isaiah.

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins 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.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from Hebrews.

Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made 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.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Gospel

The gospel according to John.

John 1:1-14

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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn

Let our Gladness Have No End

Let our gladness have no end, Hallelujah!
for to earth did Christ descend. Hallelujah!

Refrain

On this day God gave us
Christ, the Son, to save us;
Christ, the Son, to save us.

Sermon

Hymn

Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church,
the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of glory, you bring your word to birth among us. As you spoke
through prophets and ancestors, empower your church to proclaim
your name with boldness and tenderness, that your salvation is
revealed to all the ends of the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Love Has Come

You founded the earth and the heavens are the work of your hands.
Protect the beauty of mountains and valleys. Save glaciers, tundra, and
arctic lands from the threat of changing climates. Sustain all things by
your powerful word. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You send messengers to announce peace. Build trust among nations.
Strengthen relationships that reach beyond borders. Grant safety to
ambassadors, relief workers, military personnel, and health care
providers who travel across the world. Reveal your redemption through
their work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You bring hope to all people. Bring wholeness to all who long for your
comfort and companionship. Revive aching spirits and restore tired
bodies. Bring healing and wholeness to all who long for mercy
(especially). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You are the fullness of grace and truth. Bless ministries of generosity in
this congregation and community. Open our doors in welcome, extend
our tables to guests, and send us out with provisions for those who lack
food, water, shelter, clothing, or companionship. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. Claim us as your children in this
life and in the next. Encourage us by the witness of the saints across the
ages who have testified to your light and life (especially). Hear us, O
God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these
and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Peace

Offering

Offering Prayer

Gracious God,
you came to us as one unknown,
bringing joy and salvation to the earth.
Nourish us at your banquet table,
that with all who welcome your birth
we may proclaim your peace,
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

MEAL

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

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 for the 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

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.**

Invitation to Communion

The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.
Come meet Christ in this meal.

We invite you to open the top, clear, monogrammed seal of the
Celebration cup and receive the host with the invitation, "This is the
body of Christ, given for you."

We invite you to open the second, foil seal of the Celebration cup and
receive the cup with the invitation, "This is the blood of Christ shed for
you."

Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

May the body and blood of our lord and savior Jesus Christ strengthen
you and keep you in God's grace, now and forever.
Amen.

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from
your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery,
send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the
same Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Prayer For Those Not Receiving Communion

Immanuel, God with us – You meet us where we are with your very self. You are light. You are word. You are love embodied. Be with those who do not share in communion this day. Remind them they are not alone. Grant them life, now and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,
The Lord look upon you with favor, + and give you peace.
Amen.

Hymn

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!

 Calls you one and calls you all
 to gain the everlasting hall.
 Christ was born to save!
 Christ was born to save!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Assisting with Worship
Rev. Jenn Collins, *Pastor*
Rev. Justin Smoot, *Pastor*
Joanne Howard, *Pianist*
Saint Andrew Staff

Stream Team
Bob Wiederhoeft
Joel Freiberg



***The Poinsettias are
given to the glory of
God...***

In loving memory of...

Yo's dad, Antoni Soroko, on his Christmas Eve birthday and Yo's mom
for her dedicated and loving acts to her kids by Yo Baumann;
Olivia Ann Rose by Rick and Melissa Beese;
Mark's parents, Tony and Eldine Czerwinski, by Mark and Pam
Czerwinski;
Ezra and Caleb Hartinger, and Gaylen and Dorothy Lind by Bren and
Beth Hartinger;
Jean Isberner by Gene and Marcia Jacobson;
John and Meredith Lawson, and Ken Westerlund by Dick and Lynn
Lawson;
Clyde Bickley and Ina Lewis, Ewald and Leona Lehrmann, Ed Wodalski
and James Conant by Karen Lehrman;
Clayton and Mary Bailey by Pat and Sue McFaul;
Barb Kinney by Joy Mitchell;
Bill Radloff and Arlon Tesch by the Radloff Family;
Elizabeth and John Gehler by Amy Larson Roloff;
Denise's mother, Marianne Bell; Don's mother, Betty Skare; Don's
father, Norman Skare and Denise's friend, Sherry Gayken;
Grace Hietala, Estelle Wolff, George Wolff and Leslie Hietala by
Gale Wolff.

And in honor of...

Pam's parents, Joe and Dorothy Kahle by Mark and Pam Czerwinski;
Their 50th wedding anniversary by Gene and Marcia Jacobson;
Reverend Jerry and Helene Schrankler by Amy Larson Roloff.

And in recognition of...

Saint Andrew's 40th anniversary by Karen Lehrmann;
Families affected by COVID 19 by Tyler and Stephanie Robinson;
Their grandchildren, Hannah, Elle, Cameron, Jon, Ryan, Katie and Emily
by Jim and Pixie Tipple.

And by...

Sandra Fischer; Charlie and Holly Herwig; Dan and Jonnie Malm;
Sean and Sheila McCarthy; and Greg and Jeanne Willems.

A special thank you to the *Koenig family* for donating the Christmas
tree in the Sanctuary in memory of parents, Ervin & Arvella.

DECEMBER 24-25, 2020
CHRISTMAS EVE,
CHRISTMAS DAY



Jesus is born for those in need.

CHRISTMAS BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Christmas celebration.

Thursday	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
	Isaiah 9:2-7	The reign of the coming king
Friday	Psalm 96	Sing a new song
	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS

But the angel said to [the shepherds], “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Luke 2:10-11 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Christmas:

Amazing God, for good news given to peasants, to shepherds, and to us, we give you thanks and praise through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

With this gift of food we remember you are to be praised for all you do for us through Jesus Christ, born in a manger in Bethlehem. Amen. (Psalm 96:4)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who comes to save you, bless you with joy. (Titus 2:11)



DECEMBER 24-25, 2020

HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS 

Silent Night



CHRISTMAS MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about a time when you surprised someone.
- Tell or think about a time when someone surprised you.
- How does Jesus' birth in Bethlehem amaze you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 2:1-20.

The shepherds in the fields have a startling encounter with God, bringing them good news of Jesus' birth. In that time and place, shepherds were described as “sinners.” Their work in the fields kept them from observing the Sabbath. They were unclean and seen as liars, thieves, and generally unsavory. With this social stigma, they are likely people who had themselves given up on God. More than outcasts, they had simply walked away from hope in the mercy of God. In Luke 2, God does not give up on the shepherds—or us—as God reaches out to them in the fields. God didn't wait for them to show up at the temple or the synagogue. God doesn't have to wait for us to show up at “church,” either. The startling news of Jesus' birth is that it is for those who need God most. When have you felt like giving up on God? How does this birth story help you hear good news?

Pray: **Loving God, help us to hear the good news of Jesus' birth for all the world, especially when we feel far from you; in the name of Jesus, the Savior, Messiah, and Lord, amen.**

SERVICE

There are those around us in need of seeing God's love in action. Is there a local soup kitchen or shelter where you can volunteer time or donate items this week for those in need of seeing the good news of Jesus birth in action?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Make your Christmas Day into a celebration of Jesus' birthday. Use some Christmas pastries or a cake to help celebrate. Place a white candle in its center and on Christmas Day, light the candle, sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus, and then take time to complete this sentence:

Say: **The birth of Jesus is special to me because _____.**

Then sing some Christmas carols.

