

The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve
December 24, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Worship for Children & Families



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Welcome! This Christmas Eve worship service is designed especially for families with young children. As we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we invite you to hear the familiar story of that first Christmas in Bethlehem so long ago. Please join your heart and voice in the beloved carols, prayers, and responses in this service. May Christ, our new-born King, give to each one of us a very happy and holy Christmas celebration!

If you would like to know more about our life together in Christ here at St. John's Lutheran Church, we invite you to speak with an usher, welcome center contact, or the pastor.



Prayer Before Worship

God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to be born a little child like me. Let your Holy Spirit work in me to hear the Christmas news tonight with eager ears and a joyful heart. Amen.

Pre-Service Music

"A Christmas Prelude" (Charles Callahan)

Welcome

Invocation

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Lighting the Advent Wreath & Christ Candle

Advent helps us get ready for celebrating Jesus' birth at Christmas. The four candles of the Advent wreath stand for the four weeks of Advent. The light grows as we get closer to the celebration of Jesus' birth! Now it's time to light the center candle, the Christ candle. Christmas is here! The pastor prays this prayer:

Pastor: We praise you, O God, for this Advent wreath. It has helped us to get ready for Jesus' coming. As we light the Christ candle on this wreath, we give you thanks for sending Jesus into the world to be our Savior. Bless us as we celebrate his birth.

All: Amen.

(we sing) 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;
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Christmas Sentences

Jennifer will teach the response to the children so that everyone can join in saying it together.

Jennifer: Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.

Children: Oh, come, let us adore him!

Jennifer: For unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given.

Children: Oh, come, let us adore him!

Jennifer: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Children: Oh, come, let us adore him!

Jennifer: Jesus our Savior is born. Alleluia!

Children: Oh, come, let us adore him!

Christmas Gathering Song

"Away in a Manger"

Please stand

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head:
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

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.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay,
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with you there.

Please be seated

Psalmody

Psalm 100 (*from the New International Reader's Version*)

Sing a new song to the Lord.

Shout for joy to the Lord, everyone on earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness.

Come to him with songs of joy.

Know that the Lord is God.

He made us, and we belong to him.

We are his people.

We are the sheep belonging to his flock.

Give thanks as you enter the gates of his temple.

Give praise as you enter its courtyards.

Give thanks to him and praise his name.

The Lord is good. His faithful love continues forever.

It will last for all time to come.

Welcoming the Christmas Message

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Children are invited to ring bells each time "Gloria in excelsis Deo" is sung.

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!

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!

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!

Christmas Message

"The Christmas Gift"

You are invited to join in singing the stanzas of this carol after each part is performed.

Introduction

Jesus our brother, strong and good
Was humbly born in a stable rude
And the friendly beasts around him stood
Jesus our brother, strong and good

The Donkey's Gift

"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown
"I carried his mother up hill and down
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town"
"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown

The Cow's Gift

"I," said the cow, all white and red
"I gave him my manger for his bed
I gave him my hay to pillow his head"
"I," said the cow, all white and red

The Sheep's Gift

"I," said the sheep with curly horn
"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm
He wore my coat on Christmas morn"
"I," said the sheep with curly horn

The Dove's Gift

"I, " said the dove from the rafters high
"I cooed him to sleep so he would not cry
We cooed him to sleep, my mate and I"
"I, " said the dove from rafters high

The Gift of Emmanuel

Thus every beast by some good spell
In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gifts they gave Emmanuel
Of the gifts they gave Emmanuel

"The Friendly Beasts" (an old English Christmas carol)

Offering

Shepherds came to worship Jesus, and the wise men brought their gifts to honor him. We, too, bring our offerings to Jesus as an act of worship. Children are invited to bring their family's offering and Connection Card forward, placing this into the wooden manger at the chancel steps.

Music at the Offering

Prayers of the People

Please stand

Pastor: Filled with wonder and joy that God's Son is born for us, we pray. Each of our prayers ends with the words, "Lord in your mercy..." Please respond each time by saying, "Hear our prayer." We pray:

Pastor: Dear Father in heaven, thank you for sending us your Son to be our Savior, born as a little baby like us. Thank you for Mary and Joseph, who welcomed him at his birth and took care of him. Bless all parents as they care for the children you have given them. Lord, in your mercy...

All: Hear our prayer.

Jennifer: Thank you for all the blessings that you have given us, like food, families, and homes. Let us remember to take care of these gifts and share them to help the people around us. Lord, in your mercy...

All: Hear our prayer.

Jennifer: Please give safe travels to all the people who are visiting friends and families this Christmas. Bless our world with joy as we celebrate the love you show us in your Son, Jesus. Lord, in your mercy...

All: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God, trusting in your mercy and grace, we ask all these things in the name of Jesus, our Savior.

All: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

Please be seated

Christmas Carol Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner 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!"

The first Noel, the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

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.

*Prior to the singing of "Silent Night," the lights in the sanctuary will be dimmed.
Participants are invited to crack their glow sticks.*

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.

Please stand

Christmas Blessing

Pastor: Jesus Christ, whose birth we remember and celebrate with joy, guide your days and years as you live in God's grace.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

All: Amen.

Sending

Pastor: Go in peace. Jesus is born for you!

All: Thanks be to God.

Sending Christmas 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!

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!

Postlude

"A Christmas Postlude" (Charles Callahan)

**We're glad you chose to worship with us at this special service.
Please join us as we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus:**

Friday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)
Candlelight Communion Service at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day)
Worship with Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)
Worship with Holy Communion at 5:00 p.m.

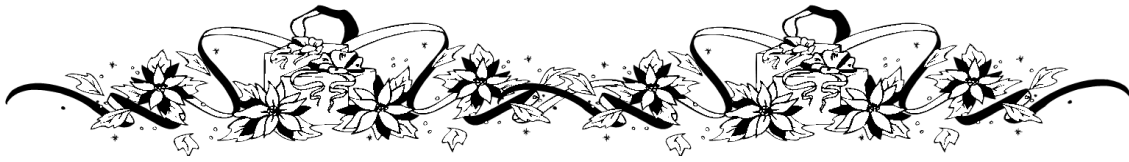
Sunday, January 1 (Circumcision and Name of Jesus)
Worship with Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m.



Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Worship Assistant	Jennifer Hills, Director of Youth and Christian Education
Director of Music	David Leahey
Acolyte	Sofi Hills
Usher	Angela del Pielago Arnaldo del Pielago





Altar Flowers

Donations to the Flower Fund

To the Glory to God

Poinsettias

Jeannette Bottomley

In memory of my husband, Roy

Mark & Jean Gilbertson

In memory of Jean's father, Fred Ebner

Brian & Christy Hoins

In memory of loved ones

Jake & Connie Jacobs

Merry Christmas

Eric & Andrea Klanderman

Jim & Mary Lofgren

Long Family

In memory of John Long

Pastor and June Meehan

In honor of the Christ Child

John & Ethel Sullivan

In honor of all of our loved ones

Steve & Linda Tracy



Please visit our website at www.sjlc.com for devotional readings for use in the week ahead or to learn more about our life together as a congregation.

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Acknowledgments

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