

P: An ordinary carpenter was invited—
C: to be a father to a child unlike any other.
P: The shepherds were invited—
C: outcast and isolated, included at the manger.
P: The Magi were invited—
C: foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.
P: And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—
C: then we can trust that we too are invited.
P: This story is for us.
C: This love is for us.
P: Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home.
C: Amen.

***SONG** *Oh Come, All Ye Faithful* (ELW 283)

1. 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!
2. The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!



"Ordinary Glory" by Laren Wright Pittman
A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org

CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2024
5:00 PM

----- GATHERING -----

We hope that your Christmas season is filled with joy and celebration as we enter into the mystery of the incarnation. It is a pleasure to have you worship with us tonight. We invite you to worship with us again soon.

Please make your presence known by signing your name and address in the red books in the pews.

We of Peace Lutheran Church welcome all people to full participation in the life of the church regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or physical or mental disability.

If you are in need of assistance of any kind, please speak with an usher.

Children are always welcome in worship at Peace.

The () is the mark that indicates when all who are able should stand.*

PRE-SERVICE CAROLING

ELW 272 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
ELW 274 On Christmas Night
Choral - Ding Dong Merrily on High
ELW 277 Away in a Manger
Bell Choir - We Wish You a Merry Christmas
ELW 296 What Child Is This
ELW 300 The First Noel

WELCOME

The Rev. Hannah DiPasquale

CANDLE LIGHTING

A: In God's house, there is hope—

For God loves us too much to leave us just as we are.

Light the candle of hope.

B: In God's house, there is peace—

For all that separates us from God falls away.

Light the candle of peace.

A: In God's house, there is joy—

Because God created music, and coffee, and dance floors, and laughter that is contagious, and endless rounds of peek-a-boos with babies; and if those things have God's fingerprints, then God's house surely exudes joy.

Light the candle of joy.

B: In God's house, there is love—

Because God is love, from start to finish, and that love exists for us all.

Light the candle of love.

A: And in the center of our hope,

B: In the center of our peace,

A: In the center of our joy,

B: In the center of our love, is God—who came to this earth to dwell among us.

A: So tonight we light the Christ candle, for God's love just could not stay away.

B: Welcome home. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: An unmarried teenage girl was invited—

C: to carry Christ into this world.

SONG *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (ELW 279)

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 thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
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 of God the king, and peace to all the earth!
3. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

***GOSPEL READING:** **Luke 2:1-20**

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

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they

***GREETING**

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

C: And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A: 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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***SONG** *Angels We Have Heard on High* (ELW 289)

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.
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.
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.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

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. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

SONG: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (ELW 282)

- 1 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.
- 2 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.

- 3 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!
- 4 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.

SECOND READING: Titus 2: 11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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....

...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:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

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

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

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Rev. Hannah DiPasquale

*SONG *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (ELW 270)

- 1 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!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2 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! *Refrain*

3 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. *Refrain*

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

A: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

A: God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.

P: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

----- MEAL -----

***THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

*In-Building: Please share signs of peace in whatever way you are comfortable and is respectful of your neighbor's comfort level.
 Online: You may share signs of peace in the chat.*

OFFERING

Gifts for the work and ministry of Peace Lutheran Church can be placed in the offering plates or mailed to the Church Office or sent through on-line giving on our website.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Campanas de Paz arr. by Barbara B. Kinyon

***OFFERTORY**

Doxology

Thomas Tallis, c. 1567

Praise God from whom all |
 bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;
 praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; |
 :praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A: Gracious God,
**C: Your story is one that forever invites us
 to be our full selves,
 to take up space,
 to go where we feel called,
 and to allow this community to feel like home.
 So use these gifts to keep building your home here.
 With gratitude we pray. Amen.**

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Mission Statement

*We are called to be an inclusive community,
sharing God's grace
through worship, service, and hospitality.*

Ministers and Staff

The Congregation of Peace Lutheran Church
The Rev. Hannah DiPasquale, Pastor
Sandy Johnson, Office Administrator (office@peacelutheranlc.com)
Jieun Newland, Music Minister
Tommy Grimes, Custodian
Lisa Bates, Council President

**ALL ARE INVITED IN THE MORNING TO
CHRISTMAS PRAYERS & PANCAKES
AT 10:00 a.m. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.**

**WE WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY AT 9 a.m.
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

P: 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.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Together we pray:

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your
kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*All are invited to the Lord's table for communion, regardless of
age or church membership.*

*Come forward up the center aisle, taking an empty cup from
the tray at the front. Follow the direction of the ushers and kneel or
stand at the rail. The Bread Minister will hand you a piece of bread
(gluten-free wafers are available, just ask the bread minister). There
are two Wine Ministers. The first pouring chalice offers wine and the
second chalice is grape juice.*

*If you choose not to receive communion, you may come
forward for a blessing from the Bread Minister. Crossing your arms
over your chest will indicate that you would prefer a blessing.*

*If you have difficulty coming to the front, please notify an
usher and communion will gladly be brought to you.*

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Good Christians All, Rejoice --arr. Robert Benson

*BLESSING FROM THE TABLE

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace. Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Merciful God,

**C: we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy.**

----- SENDING -----

*BENEDICTION

P: The God of love,
Father † Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

C: Amen.

*PASSING THE LIGHT

—*Please light your battery-operated candle
by twisting the bulb to the right*
—*When lighting one another's wax candles,
please tip unlighted candles,
keeping lit candles straight up*

*SONG

Silent Night

(ELW 281)

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.

REPEAT VERSE 1

*DISMISSAL

A: Christ the Savior is born. Go in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Noël Suisse* --Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

*During the postlude, please extinguish your candle
and depart in prayerful silence.
(Please return your candles to the worship assistants)*

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