

# Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2024  
1:30, 3:00 & 4:30pm



## **Good Shepherd**

LUTHERAN CHURCH

651-451-6225

[www.goodshepherdigh.com](http://www.goodshepherdigh.com)

## Welcome to Worship at Good Shepherd

Whether one's feet are big or small, fresh or worn, running or crawling  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is:  
**Together on the Journey, Sharing God's Love**

### PRELUDE

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

P. Listen to the message that echoes through the world this night:

**C. Christ is born!**

P. Peace on earth!

**C. God comforts God's people!**

P. Let us break forth into singing for God is with us!

**C. We lift our voices and sing, that all might hear the Good News –  
Unto us is born this day, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!**

CAROL *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the king of angels:**

*Refrain:* **O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain***

#### CHRISTMAS PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

P. Let us pray together,

**C. Gracious God, with joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people.**

**In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts  
that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time.**

**Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world.**

**Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts,**

**"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors."**

**This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.**

CAROL *"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"*

*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. *Refrain***

**The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth rang out the angel  
chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain***

## BIBLE READING

Luke 2:1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom. Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Leesa Soderlind

CAROL *"What Child is This"*

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing, haste, haste, to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Pastor Courtney Steitz

CAROL *"Away in a Manger"*

**Away in a manger, no crib for his 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 fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION

- P. We believe in the eternal God of creation,  
**C. who conceived the wonders of the universe,  
and in whose image we are formed.**
- P. We believe in the God who became incarnate,  
**C. born in a humble manger, a light in the darkness,  
the promise of hope for the world.**
- P. We believe in the God whose Holy Spirit,  
**C. brought life to the womb of Mary,  
gave a song to the angel chorus,  
proclaimed the Good News to the shepherds  
keeping watch over their flocks by night.**
- P. We believe in the God who was before Bethlehem,  
at Bethlehem and beyond Bethlehem.  
**C. In whose loving embrace we will live forever. Amen.**

OFFERING RECEIVED          Instrumental Special Music

(All who are able, please stand)

CAROL          *"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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P. The Lord be with you.  
**C. And also with you.**
- P. Lift up your hearts.  
**C. We lift them to the Lord.**
- P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C. It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**
- P. It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join in their unending  
hymn:

CAROL          *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

*Refrain: Glo — ria in excelsis Deo; Glo — ria 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. *Refrain***

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION (Keep candles off until directed)

CAROL *"The First Noel"*

**The first Noel the angel 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.**

*Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.*

**They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain***

**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. *Refrain***

SPECIAL MUSIC *"O Holy Night"*

CAROL *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

**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.**

**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!**

THE CEREMONY OF LIGHTS

P. Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World."

**C. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

P. Jesus said, "I have come as a light into the world, so that the world may not remain in darkness."

**C. In Christ's name, we will light the candles, and the Lord, our God will enlighten our darkness.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Night of Silence"*

CAROL *"Silent 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.**

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

P. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C. Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.**

P. Go out into the world with great joy!

For the grace and love of Bethlehem's Child is with you this holy night and evermore.

**C. Thanks be to God!**

CAROL *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

**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!"**

**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 God-head see! Hail, incarnate deity! Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain***

POSTLUDE