

HAINESVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH — ELCA



Wednesday, December 24th, 2025

4:00 PM

"The Little Church with a Big Heart"

Presiding Minister: Pastor Mary Lou Plummer

Keyboard: Heidi Hintz

Family Choir: Jim Hanstad

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CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

ENTRANCE HYMN *“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”*

ELW 283 v 1-3

(Please stand as you are able)

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:

Chorus

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! Chorus

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest: Chorus

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

C **He is the Light no darkness can overcome.**

P At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

C **With the heavenly host we sing, “Glory to God in the highest heaven.”**

P In Christ, God’s Word is made flesh and lives among us.

C **With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.**

HYMN

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

ELW 290 v 1&3

Chorus

**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. Chorus**

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

CHRISTMAS GREETING AND PRAYER

P May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

C 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. Amen.

(You may be seated)

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. 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. 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. 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 hosts will do this.

HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

ELW 257 v 1&2

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear**

Chorus

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
In strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide
our way; Chorus**

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

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

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

ELW 270 v 1&3

**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!”**

Chorus

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

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.

Chorus

THIRD READING

Luke 2:1-7

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

HYMN

“Away in a Manger”

ELW 277 v 1&2

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.

GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION

Luke 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

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

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

HYMN

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

ELW 275 v 1&2

**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.**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.**

**Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Pastor Mary Lou Plummer

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Mary’s Little Boy Child”

Family Choir

NICENE CREED *(Please stand as you are able)*

P Let us confess our faith together in the words of the Nicene Creed
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

P Wonderful Counselor, increase our joy as the church gathers on this holy night to sing of our dear Savior’s birth. May the story of

salvation live in the hearts of all who sing of its wonders. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

P Mighty God, you have broken the yoke of sin's burden through the birth of your Son. Comfort those whose burdens distract them from the deeper peace of this holy night and grant them a restful mind. God of peace,

P Hear our prayer.

P Healer of our every ill, provide compassionate care for all who are living in sickness or in sorrow. Hear us as we pray for those whom we name in our hearts and those we now name aloud:

Sharon (Albert), **Linda** (Anderson), **Tom & Alice** (Angermeier), **Bill & Sue** (Aune), **Cindy** (B), **John** (B), **Elaine** (Caelwaerts), **Mike & Rina** (Clumpner), **Erin** (Culbertson), **Dianne** (D), **Tom** (D), **Dan** (Fenrich), **Pat** (Fenrich), **Alan** (G), **Barbara** (Hughes/Dean), **Dawn** (Jeanquart), **Charlotte** (K), **Patricia** (Kehl), **Cindy** (Knapp), **Keith** (Knapp), **Myriah** (Krueger), **Kenny** (Meyer), **Beth** (Pachniak), **Monika** (Perry), **Matthew** (Rocque), **Kathy** (S), **Todd** (S), **Delores** (Schuyler), **Deb** (Ulrich), **Irene** (Thorson), **Mary** (Zirbel), **Betty, Brixanna & Marley, Carole & Russ, Jay, Laurie, and the family of Evelyn Breider.**

P Enfold them in your divine goodness and mercy. God of hope,

C Hear our prayer.

P Everlasting Father, we remember with thanksgiving all who have died and who now rest in your peaceful light. God of love,

C Hear our prayer.

P Gracious God, bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P I invite you to share Christ's peace with one another.

(please be seated once you have passed the peace with your neighbors))

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

“What Child Is This”

ELW 296 v 1&3

**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!

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.**

**The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.**

Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;

Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

OFFERING PRAYER

P Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The minister lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.

HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW 279 v 3&4

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessing 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.**

**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!**

- P** O Christ, light of the world, come to our lives and reveal meaning and truth.
- C** O Christ, hope of the despairing, come to our lives and teach us simple joy.
- P** Jesus Christ, bread of the soul, come to us and nourish us to true and eternal life.
- C** Jesus Christ, shepherd of the flock, come and lead us to the springs of living water.
- P** Living Christ, just and gentle judge, come and reveal us to ourselves.
- C** Living Christ, healer of the wounded, come make us whole. Show

us the way to new life. Jesus Christ our life, we celebrate your birth. May our celebration be more than mere remembrance; may our worship be an opening of ourselves to you, in Spirit and in truth. Be born in us today, renew our spirits, and strengthen us to be your people in the world, through the indwelling power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN OF LIGHT *“Silent Night, Holy 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.**

The candles are extinguished at this time.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING AND SENDING

P God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the life-giving Spirit who shines on you, ✚ bless you and keep you in hope and peace.

C **Amen.**

P Glory to God in the highest!

C **Peace to God’s people on earth!**

P Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ!

C THANKS BE TO GOD!

Please place the candles in the baskets at either the front or rear of the church.

May your Christmas and New Year be blessed by the peace
of the newborn Christ. Merry Christmas!!

*In the event of weather-related closings at church—
please listen to WDOR or Channel 2 for cancellation notices and check our
Facebook page*