



Good News of Great Joy



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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Today's Focus: Ponder with amazement this great mystery. Christ the Lord comes to earth and makes his dwelling among us.

Welcome!

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

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The 10:30 service is livestreamed for our members at home.



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362 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

CW 362



1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the
2 Christ, from heav'n to us descending and in
3 Ja - cob's Star in all its splendor beams with
4 From the bondage that oppressed us, from sin's



Lord with gladness praising; loudly sing his
love our race befriending, in our need his
comfort sweet and tender, forcing Satan
fretters that possessed us, from the grief that



love amazing, worthy folk of Christendom.
help extending, saved us from the wily foe.
to surrender, breaking all the powers of hell.
sore distressed us, we, the captives, now are free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing
when by faith we grasp this blessing,
when, O Christ, we come addressing
thanks to you and highest praise!

6 Gracious Child, in mercy hear us,
from your lowly manger cheer us,
gently lead us and be near us
till we join th' angelic choir.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.

Tune: German, 14th cent.

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Tune: Public domain

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.
Amen.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High,

to herald your love in the morning,
your truth at the close of day.

Bidding Prayer

Dear people of God, in this Christmas season, it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us—the Christ Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of Grafton and for all those in our own congregation.

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, and the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, those who do not love him, and those who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

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.

Be seated

333 O Little Town of Bethlehem

CW 333



- 1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
- 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
- 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
- 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893, abr., alt. Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908 Text and tune: Public domain

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8–15

The Seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head.

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹²The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

330 Peace Came to Earth

CW 330



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night when an - gels
2 And who could be the same for hav-ing held the in - fant
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen, in flesh and
4 How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could



clove the sky with song and light and God em - bod - ied
in their arms and lat - er felt the wound - ed hands and
blood you bore our griefs and pain, in bread and wine you
I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em -



love and sheathed his might— Who could but gasp: Im-man-u - el!
side, all doubts dis-pelled— Who could but sigh: Im-man-u - el!
vis - it us a - gain— Who could but see: Im-man-u - el!
brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im-man-u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: arr. Mark Kellner, 1959–2015, alt.; Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952

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Second Lesson

Isaiah 7:10–14

The prophet foretells who our Savior will be.

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

¹³Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.



344 What Child Is This

CW 344



1 What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox - en now are
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing, whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the
 own him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne him. Raise, raise the



Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

Tune: English, 16th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

The prophet foretells the character of the Savior.

²The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

361 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

CW 361



Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills, and ev - 'ry - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born,



be-hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: John W. Work II, 1873–1925, verses, alt.; African American spiritual, refrainTune: African American spiritualText and tune: Public domain

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1–9

The prophet foretells the result of our Savior's coming.

¹A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—

³and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.

⁷The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

⁹They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

360 Behold, a Branch Is Growing

CW 360



1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and
 2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



grace! As proph - ets sang, fore - know - ing, it springs from Jes - se's
 sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - 'ry -
 woes, O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who con - quered all our



race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of
 pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to
 where. True man, and yet true God, from sin and
 foes, bring us at last, we pray, to the bright



cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.
 her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.
 death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

Text: German, 16th cent.; (sts. 1-3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845-1925; (st. 4): John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, alt. Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, Köln, 1599 Text and tune: Public domain

Fifth Lesson

Matthew 1:18–25

The angel reveals the wonder of Jesus birth.

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

341 Away in a Manger

CW 341



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and take us to heav - en to live with you there.

Text (sts. 1–2): The Myrtle, Boston, 1884; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, Louisville, 1892, alt.
Tune: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921
Text and tune: Public domain

Offering

Our Savior's ministries are supported by the joyful gifts of her members. If you are not a member of Our Savior, please do not feel obligated to give an offering. It is our privilege and pleasure to serve you with God's Word today.

Please sign the friendship register and pass it down the pew.

Sixth Lesson

Titus 3:4-7

The result of Jesus birth is announced for our life.

⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

345 Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

CW 345



1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,
2 In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:
3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,
4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred;
sweet new - born babe, how frail! And in a man - ger bed:
his proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:
its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



but there is room and wel - come there for me,
a still, small voice to cry one day for me,
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
to die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



but there is room and wel - come there for me.
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
to die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929–2021

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Stand

Lighting of the Candles

Ushers will come to your pew and light the candle nearest the aisle. Please then light the candle next to you until all the candles are lit in the pew. When all the candles are lit, the lights will be dimmed. Remember to tip the unlit candle and leave the lit candle vertical as you light the candles.

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:1–20

Hear the good news of great joy.

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

337 Silent Night, Holy Night

CW 337 sts. 1-3



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts__ sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885; Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848

Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787-1863

Text and tune: Public domain

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

The candles may be extinguished after the music concludes.

Be seated

Acknowledgments

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from Christian Worship

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