



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020

Gathering

PRELUDE

Angels from the Realms of Glory – Edwin C. Johnson

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

The Proclamation is sung.

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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

And also with you.

SOLO

In a Far-Off Place, Jesus Comes – Sally Ann Morris

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Glorious God,
on this Christmas Eve,
we sing beloved carols of Bethlehem,
of shepherds and angels,
of Mary and Joseph,
and the infant Jesus, our Savior.
Is there yet a new song we can sing to you?
A song to be learned from the heavens and the earth:
where the roar of the sea,
the exultation of the fields,
and the joy of the trees
are already raised in a chorus of glad rejoicing,

ready to welcome you.
Even if no ear may hear your coming,
help us hear the music of creation.
Then, with the whole cosmos,
we will sing of your salvation,
declare your glory,
and in a crescendo of praise, bless your name:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace! **Amen.**

Word

READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The assisting minister reads the lesson.

A reading from Isaiah.

²The 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (ELW 276)*

At-home worshippers are invited to sing stanza 1 before the gospel, and stanza 2 after the gospel.



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

The presiding minister reads the gospel.

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 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!”

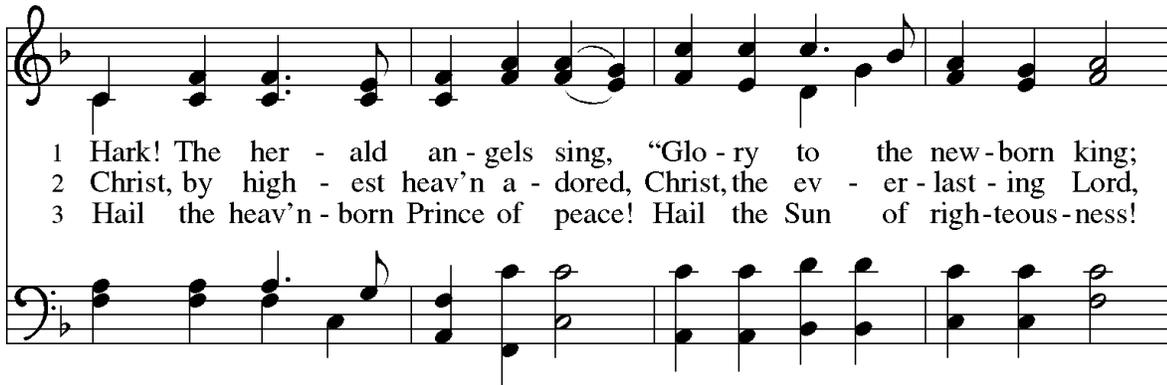
¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, 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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

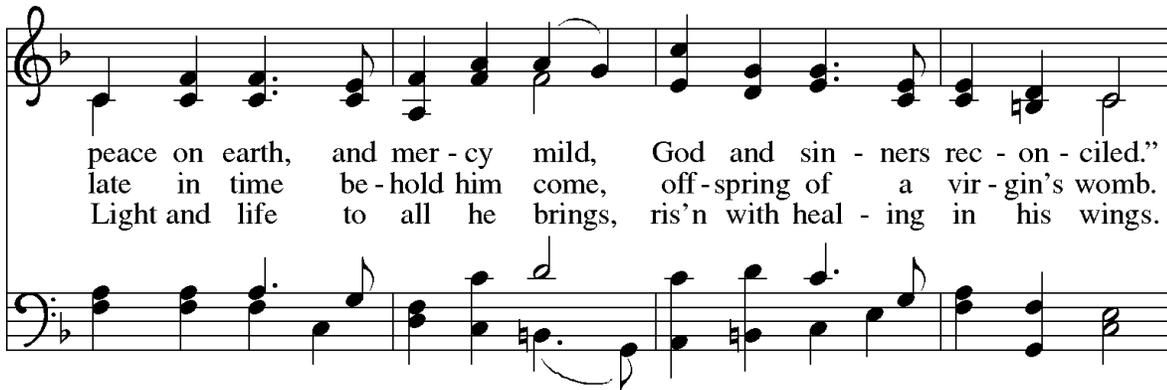
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (ELW 276)*
At-home worshippers are invited to sing stanza 2 after the gospel.

SERMON
The presiding minister delivers the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (ELW 270)*
At-home worshippers are invited to sing.



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

NICENE CREED

The Nicene Creed is spoken.

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assisting minister leads the prayers.

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

The shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is born!" Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing.

God of love, **draw us together in peace.**

Heaven and nature sing, "Joy to the world!" Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth.

God of love, **draw us together in peace.**

The angels sing, "Peace on earth!" Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care.

God of love, **draw us together in peace.**

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting. We pray especially for Bruce, Marie, Linda, Paul, Del, Kim, Paul, Todd, Bruce, Rita, Gerry, Art, Arlene, Ron, Janice, Pat, Josiah, Marina and her family, and those we name in the silence of our hearts. [a pause]

God of love, **draw us together in peace.**

Love sings through the sound of a new baby's cry. Bless new parents and expectant parents. Comfort those who long for children, especially those running out of hope or options. Surround families of every shape and size with your love and care.

God of love, **draw us together in peace.**

The heavenly chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed. Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne.

God of love, **draw us together in peace.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

TRIO

God Rest You Merry – Ralph Vaughan Williams

Meal

DIALOGUE

The presiding minister greets the assembly.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues.

Creator God, we give you thanks and praise
for the beauty of the earth in every season.

Especially we thank you for the beauty
in this season of Christmas.

The stars of night light our way,
just as Jesus the true light
reveals to us the way of life.

As you spoke long ago to our ancestors
in many and various ways,
you have spoken to us by a Son, Jesus Christ.
He is the reflection of your glory;

the exact imprint of your very being;
and all things are sustained by his powerful word.
He lived among us, died as one of us,
and now sits at the right hand of Majesty on high.

We thank you that on the night before he died,
Jesus took bread and, giving thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Then he also took the cup, saying:
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my love,
poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this in remembrance of me.

Celebrating these gifts from our Savior,
we speak the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and wine,
joining us in true communion with Christ
and with all who share this feast,
in heaven and on earth.
May we truly receive him,
and so believe in his name,
that we have power to become children of God,
united in ministry in every place.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory belongs to you, O God,
full of grace and truth. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

The presiding minister introduces the Lord's Prayer.

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

**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.
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 COMMUNION

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

At-home worshippers are invited to consume their bread and wine.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads the prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

Radiant God,
with our eyes we have seen your salvation,
and in this meal we have feasted on your grace.
May your Word take flesh in us,
that we may be your holy people,
revealing your glory
made known to us in Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Silent Night, Holy Night! (ELW 281)

At-home worshippers are invited to sing.

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 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,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 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 your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 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 your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Sending

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

May the love of God,
the light of Christ,
and the joy of the Holy Spirit
abide with you this holy night
and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

From Heaven Above – Anton Wilhelm Leupold

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