

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope
DECEMBER 24, 2021 **PASTOR ELAINA SALMON**

Prelude *“How Many Kings?”*
“Were You There on That Christmas Night?”

Welcome

Gathering Song *“O Come All Ye Faithful”*

Lighting of Advent Wreath and Christ Candle

P Lord, we have been waiting for your reign of love, for the day when your promise shines.
We have waited with hope.
We have longed for peace.
We have tried to hold joy alongside our sorrow.
We have been desperate for love without condition.
Now, tonight, the promise shines in a star in the sky.
Jesus is born and love has come!

C **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Song *“O Come all Ye Faithful”*

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

P On this holy night, you revealed your presence to all the earth. The dirt and the trees, the sheep and the shepherds, the angels—and even we—sing out with joy at the arrival of your love in our flesh. Open our hearts to receive again this story as Good News, goodwill, and peace—for those of us who are poor, for those of us who are powerful, for the planet, and for those of us who have not yet arrived, but are on our way.

C **Amen.**

Special Music *“Hope of Israel”*

The 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 LORD of hosts will do this.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Song *“Mary’s Boy Child”*

Gospel Acclamation *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

Gospel Luke 2:1-20

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.

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.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel Acclamation *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *“This Holy Night”*

Prayers of the People

A Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

(a moment of silence)

A Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Help us care for the earth and guide us to be wise stewards of its many gifts. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

THE MEAL

Offering

(Our offering is an act of worship and thanksgiving for all God has first given us. Our gifts support the mission of the church to "nurture with love and serve with hope.")

Offering Song "A Star Shone Bright"

Offertory Prayer

A Gracious God,
you came to us as one unknown,
bringing joy and salvation to the earth.
Nourish us at your banquet table,
that with all who welcome your birth
we may proclaim your peace,
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

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 our thanks and praise.**

P Mighty One, you have done great things for us, and holy is your name! From generation to generation, you have shown mercy to those who call on you. The strength of your arm has scattered the proud and cast down kings. The opening of your hand has filled the hungry with bread and with justice. In the fullness of time, you kept the promise you made to our ancestors, giving to us your own Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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 to them to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

United at this table, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, O God, and send her into and through this gathered people, that, fed and strengthened with this holy food, we may magnify your presence in our world, until Christ comes again in glory.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P We await his advent, O God, with all the saints of every time and place. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,
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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P In Christ's manger,
At Christ's table, see and taste the goodness of God.
This is the body of Christ given for you.
This is the blood of Christ shed for you.

At this time, you may eat and drink the bread and grape juice.

Communion Blessing

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his
grace.
C **Amen.**

Prayer After Communion

A We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,
God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.
As we have shared this feast of love,
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.
In Jesus' name we pray.
C **Amen.**

Blessing

P The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
C **Amen.**

Christmas Candle Lighting

P God's reign of love has come in Jesus, Emmanuel.
C **God is with us.**

P Tonight the promise shines in a star in the sky, leading us to the Christ child, God's
greatest gift of love.
C **This is good news of great joy for all people!**

- P Tonight the promise shines in the light of Christ, the light we hold in our hands, and the gift of love that fills our heart. Like the shepherds, may we go, glorifying and praising God for all we have seen and heard, and carry the gift of Christmas with us all year through.
- C **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to God's people!**

At this time, the congregation will move outside to sing these final two songs around the manger.

Song “*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! 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.*

Dismissal

- P Go in peace to nurture with love and serve with hope!
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude **Song for the Village** “*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.*

Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope

When we are at our best you will see us:

- *Building relationships that connect people in meaningful ways*
- *Growing spiritually through the adventure of the Gospel, then and now*
- *Engaging our community with a servant's heart*
- *Welcoming and offering acceptance to all those we meet*
- *Giving generously out of the abundance of God*

Acknowledgements

Advent Prayers by Pastor Elaina Salmon

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My Heart Shall Sing Eucharistic Prayer by Barn Geese Worship and Rev. Victoria Larson is licensed under CC BY-NC 4.0. Prayer was modified for this service.

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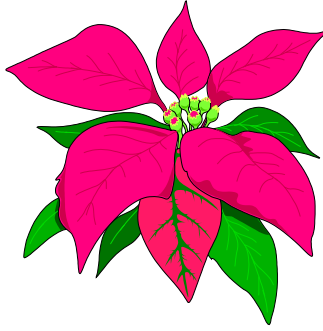
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***CHRISTMAS GARDEN OF POINSETTIAS
2021***

*The plants which beautify the chancel for our Christmas worship are given to the glory of God
and:*

IN MEMORY OF

Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Bill Laasch
Glenn McAdam, Ruth McAdam and LuEmma Kaser
Grandma Chris, Grandpa Phil and Grandpa Glenn

Marvin Ludwig
Marvin Ludwig
Virginia Connelly
Carl Ahlberg
Kerri Schroeder
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Janet Bossert
Patricia Richardson

GIVEN BY

Ed & Nancy Masons and Sons
Bev & Cliff Wilson
Pam Laasch
Pam Laasch
Bill & Lisa McAdam

Brandon & Christopher McAdam
Rita Ludwig
His grandchildren
Jim Connelly
Sharon Ahlberg
Sharon Ahlberg
Sharon Ahlberg
Kelly & John Jaje
David Bergmark
Tom Richardson

IN HONOR

Family and Friends
Grandma Rosemarie
Grandchildren Delaney, Annika and Beau
Our nieces and nephews

Ardy & Ross Wakefield
Christopher & Brandon McAdam
Ann Walker
Pastor Elaina & Shawn Salmon

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

GENERAL FUND GIFTS

in memory of Bill Laasch on the second anniversary of his death on December 10th
by Pam Laasch

in memory of Marvin Ludwig by Rita Ludwig
in memory of Carl & Eleanor Anderson by Linda & Michael Naus
in memory of Kerri Schroeder and Carl Ahlberg by Kelly & John Jaje
in memory of Loved Ones by Dave & Mary Staudt
in memory of Glenn McAdam by Rosemarie McAdam
in memory of Michael & Mary McMahan and Charles Walker by Luke & Jackie Walker

CEMETERY FUND GIFTS

in memory of Loved Ones at Christmas by Sharon Ahlberg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING TODAY — Don Garling

MUSICIANS — Sue Gray, David Bergmark, Doug Freehauf, Ralph Johnson,
Carol Rhoades and Shawn Salmon

TECH CREW — Gary Gray, Sue Gray and Zach Howell

ZOOM ONLY SUNDAY DEC. 26TH

Stay in your jammies, grab your coffee, get cozy and join us for a simple Zoom service on Sunday, Dec. 26th at 10:30AM. There will be **no** in-person worship that day.

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