

# Christmas Eve



December 24, 2020

3:30 p.m. Prelude Music

4:00 p.m. Worship

HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Hope, Minnesota

[www.holynativity.net](http://www.holynativity.net)



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

**HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**3900 Winnetka Avenue North ~ New Hope, MN 55427 ~ 763-545-1647**  
**Rev. Jason Wahlstrom    Rev. Ashley Updegraff**

*Quote: "In the incarnation, God took matter to Himself  
so that matter would forever be at home with God." --Julie Canlis*

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**Christmas Eve Worship (online)**

**3:30pm Preludes**

**4:00pm Worship**

**PRELUDE MUSIC (VIDEOS)**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*"Carol of the Birds"*  
Nativity Ensemble

Arr. Craig Courtney

*Whence comes this rush of wings afar, following straight the Noel star?  
Birds from the woods in wondrous flight, Bethlehem seek this holy night.*

*"Tell us, ye birds, why come ye here, into this stable, poor and drear?"  
"Hast'ning we seek the newborn King, and all our sweetest music bring."*

*Hark! How the greenfinch bears his part, Nightingale, too, with tender heart,  
Chants from her leafy dark retreat, "Re, mi, fa, sol," in accents sweet.*

*Angels and shepherds, birds of the sky, come where the Son of God doth lie;  
Christ on earth with man doth dwell, Join in the song, "Noel, Noel"*

**READING**

Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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.

**OPENING HYMN**

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

Hymnal #283

1. (ALL) *O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! Oh 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!*

2. (ALL) *The highest, most holy, light of light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)*

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

4. (ALL) *Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: (Refrain)*

**GREETING**

Pastor: May the grace of our God, the presence of God’s Spirit and the hope of the Christ Child, be with you all. **Cong.: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray together,

**Congregation: 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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**HYMN**

*“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”*

Hymnal #282

1. (All) *It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king." The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*

2. (Women) *Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world. Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing, And ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.*

3. (Men) *And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow: Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing; Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!*

4. (All) *For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

**READING**

Luke 2:1-7

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

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.  
<sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> 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**

*“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”  
(verses 1 & 4)*

Hymnal #272

*1. (Ensemble) Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright,  
Amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.*

*4. (A Cappella) O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe; O Savior, king of glory,  
Who dost our weakness know: bring us at length, we pray,  
To the bright courts of heaven and into endless day.*

**READING**

Luke 2: 8-14

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.  
<sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

**HYMN**

*“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

Hymnal #289

1. (ALL) *Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.*

*(Refrain) Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.*

2. (Ensemble) *Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav’nly song? (Refrain)*

3. (ALL) *Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. (Refrain)*

**READING**

Luke 2: 15-20

<sup>15</sup> 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." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

**HYMN**

*“Joy to the World”*

Hymnal #267

1. *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.*

4. *He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.*

**SERMON**

*“Rethinking Everything”*

Rev. Ashley Updegraff

**MOMENT TO REFLECT** (*We pause in silence*)

**ANTHEM**

*“All Praise to Thee”  
Nativity Ensemble*

Elaine Hagenberg

*All praise to Thee, eternal God, who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,  
Dost take a manger for Thy throne, while worlds on worlds are Thine alone.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Thou comest in the darksome night to make us children of the light,  
To make us in the realms divine, like Thine own angels, round Thee shine.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*A little Child, Thou art our Guest that weary ones may rest,  
Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth that we may rise to heav'n from earth.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Amen.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** (Pastor: Lord, in your mercy. **Cong: Hear our prayer.**)

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**OFFERING**

*(You are invited to mail or drop off your offering, or donate online – go to our website at [holynativity.net](http://holynativity.net) and click on “Make Donation.” Thank you!)*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P:** Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

**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

**DISTRIBUTION**

You are invited to share Holy Communion in your homes, saying, “The body of Christ, given for you,” and “The blood of Christ, shed for you,” as you distribute the bread and wine. *(You may use any bread or crackers, and wine or juice you have at home!)*

**DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**

*1) 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.*

*3) And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. (Refrain)*

*5) Then entered in those wise men three, full rev’rently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. (Refrain)*

*“What Child Is This”*

Hymnal #296

*1) 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!*

*2) Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*3) 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!*

*“Away in a Manger”*

Hymnal #277

*1) 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.*

*2) 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.*

*3) 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.*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

## SHARING OF THE CHRIST LIGHT

*You are invited to light a candle (or candles) in your home.*

## HYMN

*"Silent Night"*

Hymnal #281

1) (ALL) *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.*

2) (ALL IN PARTS) *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!*

3) (ALL A CAPPELLA IN PARTS) *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.*

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## BENEDICTION

P: May we glory in the birth of the Son of God, and may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among us this night and always. **C: Amen**

**DISMISSAL** Pastor: Glory to God in the highest!

**Congregation: Peace to God's people on earth!**

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**C: THANKS BE TO GOD!**

## POSTLUDE (VIDEO)

*"A Joyous Christmas Medley"*  
Denise Prosek, piano & Lisa Baker, organ

Lani Smith

*Flowers by the altar are given by Mary Warner  
in memory of her sister Rachel and brother Francis who both passed this year.*

## **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

Pastors: Rev. Jason Wahlstrom  
Rev. Ashley Updegraff

Director of Music: Iver Hubert  
Organist/Accompanist: Lisa Baker

Reader: Lori Cowman

Thank you to the Nativity Ensemble for singing: Cresta Hubert, Iver Hubert, Kari Johnson, Kim Boursier, Brian Johnson & Greg Eklund!

Thank you to Greg Eklund for playing trumpet!

### **Christmas Day At-Home Worship Guide**

Please consider using this resource on Christmas Day to join in worship with your family (or alone). Pray these prayers, read scripture together, read the devotion, and sing some Christmas hymns as part of your Christmas Day celebration!

<https://holynativity.net/2020/12/christmas-day-at-home-worship/>



## **THANK YOU TO ALL FOR GIVING POINSETTIAS**

Verne and Dorothy Erickson in memory of Elva Erickson.

Sue Irwin in memory of our mother Liz Randall.

Lynn Kvalness in memory of my parents Palmer and Gara Kvalness.