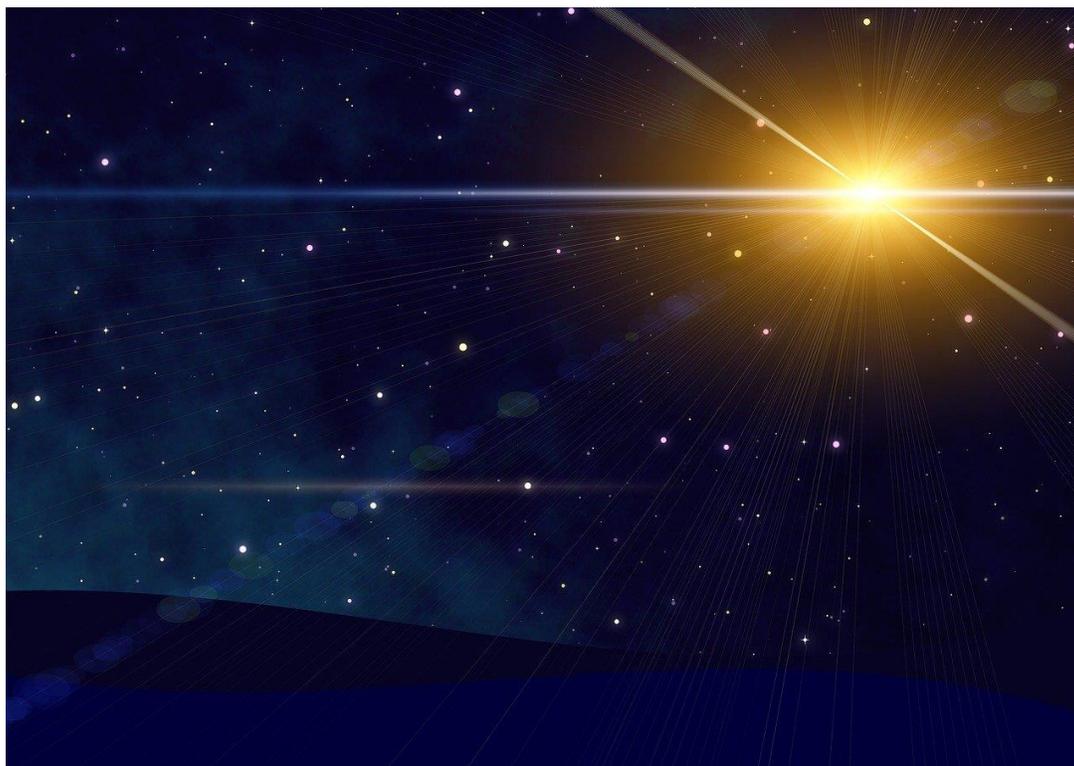


Christmas Eve

10:00 p.m.



December 24, 2021
HOLYNATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Hope, Minnesota

www.holynativity.net

(Cover artwork: Nora Leverson)



**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: “No powerful person dares to approach the manger, and this even includes King Herod.
For this is where thrones shake, the mighty fall, the prominent perish,
because God is with the lowly.” -Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Christmas Eve Worship
10:00 p.m. In-Person

PRELUDE MUSIC “Aria ‘Schlafe, mein Liebster’” J.S. Bach/arr. Harvey Grace

CALL TO WORSHIP “Wexford Carol” Arr. Joseph Martin
Iver Hubert

*Good people all, this Christmas time,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done,
In sending His beloved Son.
With all our hearts and souls and minds
To God we pray this Christmas time;
In Bethlehem upon that morn
There was a blessed Messiah born.
For Christ has come let earth rejoice,
To God with love lift high your voice.
Come join the song and be restored,
Come to the manger behold the Lord
Come and see, come see your Lord, come greet your Lord.
Come to the manger, behold the Lord.*

Responsive Reading: (First candle is lit)

L: The light shines in the darkness

C: And the darkness has not overcome it.

L: The Word became flesh and lived among us.

C: And we have beheld Christ’s glory

L: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithful”
(please stand as you are able)

Hymnal #283

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

4. *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.

(please be seated)

HYMN

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

Hymnal #282

1. *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. *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. *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. 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 (Second Candle is lit)

Luke 2:1-7

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

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words... **Cong.: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

HYMN

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

Hymnal #272

*1) 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) 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 (Third Candle is lit)

Luke 2: 8-14

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.
⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And 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!"

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words... **Cong.: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

HYMN*“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.*

READING (Fourth Candle is lit)

Luke 2: 15-20

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

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words... **Cong.: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

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.*

2. *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.*

3. *No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.*

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*“Surprise!”*

Rev. Jason Wahlstrom

MOMENT TO REFLECT (*We pause in silence*)

ANTHEM

“All Is Well”
Cresta and Iver Hubert

Michael W. Smith

*All is well, all is well. Angels and men rejoice!
For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love’s light. Sing alle, sing alleluia!*

*All is well, all is well. Let there be peace on earth.
Christ is come, go and tell that He is in the manger. Sing alle, sing alleluia!*

*All is well, all is well. Lift up your voice and sing.
Born is now Emmanuel. Born is our Lord and Savior. Sing alleluia! All is well.*

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE (Please stand as you are able.)

OFFERING

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

All are welcome to this Communion table – you may also commune in your pew.

Prefilled communion cups are available as you enter the worship area. Gluten-free are available as well – please take a gluten-free wafer and a regular communion cup for the juice.

Please place your empty glasses in the baskets provided.

You may return to your place of seating via the side aisles.

If you are worshipping at home, 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 HYMNS

“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!*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

L: 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**

SHARING OF THE CHRIST LIGHT (Middle/Fifth candle is lit and starts the sharing)

*~ Please be wise with candles and children
~ Please tilt only unlit candles to receive the light*

HYMN

“Silent Night”

Worship Book #281

Musical intro: Greg Eklund, trumpet

- 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 *"Joy to the World" & "Angels We Have Heard on High"* Peterson/Balcombe

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Pastors: Rev. Jason Wahlstrom
Rev. Ashley Updegraff

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

Council Host:

Acolytes:

Greeters:

Brass: Greg Eklund

Thank you to all of our worship assistants tonight! A special 'thank you' to all of the musicians who have shared their talents, including our brass instrumentalists!

Thank you to our altar guild for decorating the altar!

You are invited to worship at home on Christmas Day with our prerecorded video and guide here! <https://holynativity.net/2021/12/christmas-day-at-home-worship-video-and-bulletin/>



THANK YOU TO ALL FOR GIVING POINSETTIAS

Sharon Brynstad in memory of our dear parents, brothers and daughters

Alice Evans in honor of husband Bob Evans birthday

Jerry and Karen Gaasland in memory of parents Ed and Ida Gaasland and Joe and DeLores Ackert

Bruce Johnson and family in memory of Lois Johnson

Terri Johnson and family in memory of Stephen Homstad

Lynn Kvalness in memory of Gara and Palmer Kvalness

John and Marisa Lerum in honor of our parents and children

Nancy Nagle in honor of grandson Cameron Nagle's 18th birthday on Christmas Eve

Jackie Peterson in loving memory of Gary Peterson

Maxine Peterson and family in loving memory of Roger Peterson

Liz Rokala in memory of friends who have passed away this year: Georgia, Allen, Pat, Sherlyn and others

Sandee Stenzel in honor of my family

Todd and Leah Weisjahn and family in memory of Jerry Weisjahn

Andy and Mary Beth Zabel, Eleanor and Eliza in memory of Arlen Erickson