

**Candlelight Service  
December 24, 2022  
Christmas Eve**



**THE CANDLES OF CHRISTMAS  
CHRISTMAS EVE**

Song Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

VOICE As we light these candles today, we thank God for hope he gives us, for the peace he bestows, for the joy he pours into our hearts, and for the love that redeems us and shows us the way.

VOICE We thank God for his gift of Jesus. We thank him that thru Christ his light has come into the world and made it possible for us to see, and in seeing, to rejoice. His truth, his love, his very self, transforms all who receive him.

*Light the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Christ Candle*

VOICE Loving God, Emmanuel, we thank you for being with us - for sending your Son to walk with us and to lead us. Grant that the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love of which we have heard and spoken of throughout Advent may be fully realized in us as we worship and serve you through Christ Jesus our Lord, this both now, and in the new year, and forevermore. Amen.

I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people;  
for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord. *Luke 2.10–11*

### CP 138 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

***Refrain:***  
***Hark! the herald angels sing,***  
***"Glory to the newborn King."***

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail, the incarnate Deity,  
pleased as one of us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! [Refrain]

3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings,  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
And the love of God,  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
Be with you all.

**And also with you.**

May his grace and peace be with you.

**May he fill our hearts with joy.**

Almighty God,

**To you all hearts are open,  
All desires known,  
And from you no secrets are hidden.  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
That we may perfectly love you,  
And worthily magnify your holy name;  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Psalm**    *Refrain:* All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

96:1 O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

96:2 Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

96:3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

96:4 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

96:5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

96:6 Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

96:7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

96:8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

96:9 Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

96:10 Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."

96:11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

96:12 let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

96:13 before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

### A Reading from Isaiah 9:2-7

9:2 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.

9:3 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.

9:4 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.

9:5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

9:6 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.

9:7 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CP 136 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (vss 1-3)

1 While shepherds watched their flocks  
by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down  
and glory shone around.

3 "To you, in David's town, this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

2 "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind;  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and humankind.

A Reading from Titus 2:11-14

2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,

2:12 training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives  
that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,

2:13 while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God  
and Savior, Jesus Christ.

2:14 He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for  
himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CP 136 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (vss 4-6)

4 "the heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
and in a manger laid."

6 "All glory be to God on high  
and on earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to me  
begin and never cease."

5 Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Luke 2:1-14

2:1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

2:2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

2:3 All went to their own towns to be registered.

2:4 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.

2:5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

2:6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

2:7 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.

2:8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

2:9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

2:10 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:

2:11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

2:12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

2:14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

The Gospel of Christ

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 7095645 Prince Of Heaven

1 Earth in shadow restlessly hold  
 Labours waiting in silent hope  
 For the promise it longs to know  
 What heaven holds

2 Then the angels in holy haste  
 Lift their anthem Your Saviour lays  
 In a manger in humble form  
 Your King is born

**Chorus**

***Hail the Prince of Heaven comes  
 Angel choirs sound the call  
 For this babe wrapped in a cloth  
 Is the incarnate Word of God  
 All the kingdom and its power  
 Resting now in this child  
 Prince of Heaven  
 Jesus hope of the world***

3 This means mercy in fullest form  
 Loving kindness forever more  
 Son of David and Son of God  
 He is Christ the Lord

**Bridge**

King of glory we gladly greet  
 Born in wonder and majesty  
 Forever worthy the earth will sing  
 Oh Prince of Heaven we worship Thee

4 We can know Him this Prince of Peace  
 In light of mercy confess our sin  
 Lay our burdens at Jesus' feet  
 And with gladness sing.

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 and born of the Virgin Mary.  
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried.  
 He descended to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again.  
 He ascended into heaven.  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again  
 to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic Church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People compiled and led by The Rev. Alison Westervelt

Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Saviour of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds, that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. On this holy night in which God joins heaven and earth, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need saying, God of Love, hear our prayer.

**Hear our prayer**

Let us pray for the Church around the world as it celebrates the birth of Christ. Bless all those who are entrusted with Christian ministry that your Word might be proclaimed with truth and courage across our world. God of Love,

**Hear our prayer**

Let us pray for all leaders of the world. Bestow your wisdom on all who govern, that in honouring the earth and its diverse races, cultures, and religions, we may celebrate the light of this holy night. God of Love,

**Hear our prayer**

Let us pray for all those areas of the world that are overwhelmed with conflict and violence. Grant reconciliation to them that they may live in the peace of this holy night. God of Love,

**Hear our prayer**

Let us pray for all who are cold, hungry, or alone this night. Embrace with your tender care all who wander alone or have no place to lay their head, that they may experience the hope of this holy night. God of Love,

**Hear our prayer**

Let us pray for all who are anxious, depressed, or ill. Draw near to those who find this season a source of pain or grief, and to all who are suffering or sick, especially those we remember in our own hearts (silence) that they may feel the comfort of this holy night. God of Love,

**Hear our prayer**

Let us pray for parents, families, and children. Strengthen families in the bonds of love and commitment, that they may delight in the joy of this holy night. God of Love,

**Hear our prayer**

Let us pray for ourselves and for the blessings of Christmas. Open our hearts to your presence, that we may be transformed by the new birth of this holy night. God of Love,

**Hear our prayer**

Let us give thanks for all the faithful departed who have been bearers of the Word made flesh. Give us grace to follow your holy ones in lives of faith and commitment, that we may we join with the hosts of heaven in singing the praises of this holy night. God of Love,

**Hear our prayer**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of him who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Collect

**Eternal God,  
this holy night is radiant  
with the brilliance of your one true light.  
As we have known  
the revelation of that light on earth,  
bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

CP 119 Silent Night

1 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 Silent night! Holy night!  
 Shepherds quake at the sight:  
 glories stream from heaven afar,  
 heavenly hosts sing alleluia,  
 Christ the Saviour is born!  
 Christ the Saviour is born!

3 Silent night! Holy night!  
 Son of God, love's pure light  
 radiant beams from thy holy face,  
 with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
 Jesus, Lord at thy birth.  
 Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

The Dismissal

I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people;  
 for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord. *Luke 2.10-11*

Let us bless the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us depart in peace and take with us the certain knowledge that God is  
 always coming into the world.

May the blessing of Christmas make us a blessing to others.

May the peace of the season pervade all that we do.

Let us go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love.

**Thanks be to God.**