



*Welcome*  
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE

## Order of Worship

*Christmas Eve Service 6:30pm*

### Welcome

*(Please stand, as you are able)*

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

**1. Light one candle for hope,  
one bright candle for hope,  
He brings hope to every heart,  
He comes! He comes!**

**2. Light one candle for peace,  
one bright candle for peace,  
He brings peace to every heart,  
He comes! He comes!  
Light one candle for joy,  
one bright candle for joy Every nation  
will find salvation in Bethlehem's baby  
boy.**

**3. Light one candle for Love!  
One bright candle for Love!  
He brings Love to every heart,  
He comes, He comes!**

### Call to Worship

**P:** For to us a child is born,  
To us a son is given;  
And the government shall be upon His shoulder,  
And His name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)

**C:** **Come, Let us worship Him.**

**Opening Hymn: LSB 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** Text: Public domain

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain

Ref **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord'rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny That trust  
Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come, And  
open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, And  
close the path to misery. Refrain

## Invocation

### Confession and Absolution

**P:** Lord Jesus, we praise You for this opportunity to celebrate Your birth among us. Yet we must confess to You that much of the newness has worn off. The angel's message has grown cold in our darkened hearts, and Your birth has become more of a sentimental tradition for us to observe rather than the life-changing reality into which You invite us to participate by faith.

**C:** **And Lord, we are hurting because of this. Our hearts feel empty and alone. Our spirits remain restless and unsatisfied despite our abundance of possessions. Our souls are weighed down by nagging guilt, feelings of inadequacy, and haunting fears. Lord, we need to be assured of Your love. We need to know Your forgiveness. We need to experience the peace, the power, and the joy of Your presence, the Light that shines in the darkness of our lives.**

*(Silence for personal reflection)*

**P:** God has heard our prayer and He has answered it with the same great message He's been giving for over 2000 years: "Unto you has been born a Savior; He is Christ the Lord." Dear friends, this was not just His message to the shepherds then; it is God's message to us here, now, tonight. Come let us celebrate His joy and forgiveness anew, in Jesus' powerful Name.

**C:** **Amen!**

**P:** Beloved in Christ, let us rejoice again this year to hear the message of the Son of God and by the Holy Spirit come to the manger to behold the Light of the World.

**C:** **The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**P:** To us a Child is born, to us a Savior is given. He is Christ the Lord and He has forgiven all our sins. I announce His forgiveness to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen**

## LSB 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him  
Born the king of angels: **Refrain**

ref **O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!**

2 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**

Text: Public domain

### Prayer

**P**: O God, because you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C**: **Amen**

### First Reading, Psalm 85

Lord, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup> You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you covered all their sin. *Selah*

<sup>3</sup> You withdrew all your wrath;  
you turned from your hot anger.

<sup>4</sup> Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation toward us!

<sup>5</sup> Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

<sup>6</sup> Will you not revive us again,  
that your people may rejoice in you?

<sup>7</sup> Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation.

- <sup>8</sup> Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.
- <sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that glory may dwell in our land.
- <sup>10</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- <sup>11</sup> Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- <sup>12</sup> Yes, the Lord will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.
- <sup>13</sup> Righteousness will go before him  
and make his footsteps a way.

## Second Reading, Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when <sup>[a]</sup> Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, <sup>[b]</sup> who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" <sup>[d]</sup>

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## Gospel Reading, John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life,<sup>[a]</sup> and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own,<sup>[b]</sup> and his own people<sup>[c]</sup> did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son<sup>[d]</sup> from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## Sermon

### Sermon Song, O Come, Be Born Again

Verse 1

Baby born in Bethlehem  
Come be born in me again  
Since You don't mind dirty stables  
Here's my heart not fit or able  
To receive such majesty  
Still You humbly come to me

**Chorus**  
**O come**  
**O come**  
**O come**  
**O come be born again**

Verse 2

Chosen One who chose to be  
Suff'ring Savior servant King  
Since You don't despise the broken  
Here's my heart laid bare and open  
To receive Your mercy  
As Your Spirit calls to me (Chorus)

Verse 3

All who struggle all who sin  
Come and become born again  
Come and lay your heavy burdens  
At the cross where all's forgiven  
At His feet new life begins  
Come O sinner enter in (Chorus)

Jennifer Martin CCLI Song #3007662 © 2003 The Bridge Worx; worshiptogether.com songs CCLI License #2235066

## Apostles' Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**

maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## **Offering**

### **Christmas Collect**

**P** O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen

## **Prayers of the Church**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**A:** 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. 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.

## 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn 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 host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Refrain

ref **Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

2 Christ, by highest heav'n 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 Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain

Text: Public domain

3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth. Refrain

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P:** We praise you O God, because you sent Jesus Christ, your only begotten Son, to be born for us of the Virgin Mary, that we might be delivered from sin, and receive power to become your children. Amen.

**P:** May the Light of Christ illuminate your hearts. May He bring His Light into the darkness of the world through your words and your deeds.

## Blessing 2 Cor 13:14

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

**G: Amen, Amen, Amen.**

## Lighting of the Candles

Meditation on the Birth of Christ.

*(We remain in silence until the candles are lit. The Light starts from the Christ candle and spreads out into the world.)*

# Closing Hymn 363 Silent Night, Holy Night Text: Public domain

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,  
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, 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.

## Silent Prayer Recessional

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to everyone!



© WETZSTEIN 11.12.21

Used by permission from [agnusday.org](http://agnusday.org)