



SOTC Worship  
December 24, 2022  
Christmas Eve

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**GATHERING**

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PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, the maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord the giver of life.

**Amen.**

This, tonight, is the meeting place of heaven and earth.

**For this, tonight, is the stable in which God keeps his appointment to meet his people.**

Not many high are here, not many holy; not many innocent, not many worldly wise; not all familiar faces, not all frequent visitors.

**But, if tonight only strangers met, that would be enough. For Bethlehem was not the hub of the universe, nor was the stable a platform for famous folk.**

In an out-of-the-way place, in the little town of Bethlehem, there God kept and keeps his promise.

**There a child has been born to us this night. There God sent his Son.**

GATHERING SONG

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

ELW 279

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

OPENING PRAYER

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**WORD**

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CHILDREN'S SERMON AND ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*In preparation to receive God's Word, we light the Christ candle and pray for God's Word to be illuminated in our midst. Take a moment for silent reflection.*

### 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.

### PSALM: PSALM 96

<sup>1</sup>O sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless his name;**

**tell of his salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.

<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>**Honor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in holy splendor;  
tremble before him, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**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."**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

<sup>12</sup>let the field exult, and everything in it.

**Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

<sup>13</sup>**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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL: LUKE 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

**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.

<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!”

<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.

The Gospel of our Lord.  
**Praise to you O Christ**

SERMON

HYMN

AWAY IN A MANGER

ELW 277

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always!

**And also with you!**

*Congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with others. Pull out your cell phones and send a text and/or a picture to someone, sharing the peace of Christ with them as well!*

————— **MEAL** —————

OFFERING

GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN, O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

Special Music

Brynn and Elyse Eichelberger

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the lyrics: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and". The second staff continues: "might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.". The third staff continues: "Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who". The fourth staff continues: "comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the". The fifth and final staff concludes with: "high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes beamed together and others held as half notes. There are also some rests and phrasing slurs.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit... To you, almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Together we receive God's gift of love given to us in the sacrament of communion. All are welcome at the table, where Christ is our host. Receive the bread with open hands, and then receive either the wine (red liquid) or juice (clear liquid). Place empty cups in the baskets held by assistants. Those not desiring to receive communion may come forward for a blessing.*

## LAMB OF GOD



**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on**



**us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have**

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY  
 WHAT CHILD IS THIS

ELW 276  
 ELW 296

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

————— SENDING —————

SENDING SONG

SILENT NIGHT

ELW 281

*As the lights dim, the first verse of "Silent Night" is played by musicians while the congregation lights their candles. When all candles are lit, the congregation joins in singing "Silent Night."*

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

## POINSETTIAS

Thank you to those who donated poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary.

Kim and Judy Bartling	In honor of our parents
Kim and Judy Bartling	In honor of our grandchildren
Booth family	In memory of Melissa's grandparents
Mike and Cathy Bermel	In memory of Bob & Sharon Pugh (Cathy's parents)
Parke and Delene McConnaha	In memory of Buck and Norma McConnaha
Parke and Delene McConnaha	In memory of Tom and Delores Hays
Allen family	In memory of Josh Allen
Dunham family	In memory of John Dunham and Kenneth Barman
Gary and Marlys Grete	In memory of our parents
Drake family	In memory of Melanie's Dad
Wachtel family	In honor of family
Joseph Reddy	In memory of Floyd Reddy
Terry and Joanne Drinkall	In memory of Josh and our parents

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