

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



Bethlehem Lutheran Church – William Penn
December 24, 2021 – 6:30 PM

Children's Christmas Eve Service

PRELUDE

SONG

O Holy Night

Congregation

O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world, in sin and error pining
'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks, a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night divine, O night, O night divine

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us praise His holy name
Christ is the Lord, oh praise His name forever
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim

WELCOME

Pastor: Good Evening. As we explore the Christmas message this evening, I would like to invite you to temporarily place the worries of today aside and focus on tonight's message in a manner which will allow it to speak to your heart.

You will find in the pew book holders a blank note card and pen take a minute and write down any worries, troubles, or burdens you may be carrying around. When you have done that, fold the note card and either put it in your pocket, in the pew, or wherever so you know that those things aren't going anywhere, and you can pick them back up whenever you wish. But for right now, put that card with all those concerns aside and be in the presence of God tonight and hear His message for you.

Although the events we are about to explore happened thousands of years ago, the love of our Father and the promise of Salvation through the birth of Jesus is as present and important today as it was on the night of Jesus's birth in a straw-filled manger in the Little Town of Bethlehem.

Oftentimes, we may dismiss or forget the message, the lessons, and examples set within the Bible, rationalizing that because the events happened so long ago, there is little to be gained. Tonight, I encourage you to use all of your senses to experience God's work within the individuals presented before you tonight. You will see how that applies to your life, serves as an example, and allow you to see your own life, thoughts, and perspective differently, and allow the message to reveal just how much you are loved by God, our Father and also through his son, Jesus. It is the hope of our Sunday School children that God works through them tonight to reveal to you, God's son or daughter, the depths of His Love for You.

Jesus Foretold

SONG

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357, v1-5, congregation

(Luke 1: 26-27) In the little town of Nazareth, there was a virgin by the name of Mary. She was pledged to be married to Joseph, a descendent of David (Luke 1: 26-27). God sent His angel, Gabriel, to Mary. And he came to her and said,

Gabriel: (Luke 1: 28) “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”

Gabriel: (Luke 1: 30-33) 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Mary: (Lukel: 34) And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

Gabriel: (Luke 1: 35-37) And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.”

Indeed, **nothing is impossible with God.** Have Faith. Life will throw many unexpected twists and turns. Here we see that nothing is impossible with God and are encouraged to follow the example of Mary when she humbles herself and allows God to work through her and according to His Will.

Mary: (Luke 1: 38) And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

(Matthew 1: 19) And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

(Matthew 1: 20) 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying,

Angel: (Matthew 1: 20-21) “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

(Matthew 1: 22) 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(Matthew 1: 24) When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,

Joseph shows us how to be obedient to God’s will. Although he had considered quietly divorcing Mary, after his dream, he allowed himself to be obedient to God and changed his decision based on what the Angel of the Lord revealed to him in his dream.

SONG

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357, vs 6-7, congregation

Birth of Jesus

(Luke 2: 1-3) In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

(Luke 2: 4) 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,

(Luke 2: 6-7) And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 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.

SONG

Away in a Manger

LSB 365 , verse 1- children, verse 2-3 all

We learn from the Birth of Jesus that God is faithful and fulfills His promises.

(Isaiah 7:14) Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

(Isaiah 9:6) 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.

(2 Samuel 7: 11-16) from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

I will be his father and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. But my love will never be taken away from him as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.

SONG

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*LSB 379
Verse 1-children, ref and verse 2-4 all*

Shepherds and the Angels

(Luke 2: 8) And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

(Luke 2: 9) 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.

Angel: (Luke 2: 10-12) 10 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

(Luke 2: 13-14) 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

Angels: (Luke 2: 14) “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

SONG

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*LSB 380,
verse 1- children, Ref and Verse 2-3 all*

(Luke 2: 15) When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

Shepherd 1: (Luke 2: 15) “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

Shepherd 2: I agree. Let’s go and see what the Lord has told us about.

Shepherd 3: Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this.

SONG

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*LSB 361
Congregation*

Shepherd 1: We have seen the Lord!

Shepherd 2: We have seen the Son of God!

Shepherd 3: We have seen Jesus!

The Shepherds show us that God’s Love and salvation is for all of us. Romans 10: 12-13 says, “For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for everyone who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.” We are encouraged to be Bold in our Faith. Let us join the shepherds in singing and proclaiming praise for a promise fulfilled.

SONG

Angels We Have Heard on High

*LSB 368
verse 1 children, Ref and Verse 2-3 all*

The Visit of the Magi

(Matthew 2: 1-2) Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying,

Wise Man 1: (Matthew 2: 1-2) “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?”

Wise Man 2: (Matthew 2: 1-2) For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

(Matthew 2: 3) When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

(Matthew 2: 4) and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

Chief Priests: (Matthew 2: 5-6) They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.””

(Matthew 2: 7) Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.

Herod: (Matthew 2: 8) And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”

(Matthew 2: 9) After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.

(Matthew 2: 11) And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Tonight, you might have received a sample of Frankincense and myrrh. You can smell it or place it on your skin as we want to provide an opportunity for you to place yourself with the Wise Men and sing our praise for the Birth of Jesus.

SONG

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Verse 1, children, other verses - all

(Matthew 2: 12) And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Magi teach us about seeking God. In Matthew 7:7, it is said, “Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you, and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”

The Magi show us that if we continue to seek God and his promises, we will find them just as the wise men found Jesus, a promise fulfilled in the little town of Bethlehem, to a virgin who believed in spite of her hesitations, with Joseph, a man who was obedient to God’s Will. May we live our lives in such a way that our walk becomes like the wise men’s finest gifts of incense, myrrh, and gold presented before Jesus at his birth. And may we be bold like the shepherds and proclaim the good news to others.

SONG

Joy to the World

LSB 387

verse 1- children, verse 2-4- all

It is written in 2 Samuel: 17-20, yet another promise. He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters. He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the Lord was my support. He brought me out into a special place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.

God delights in You. His Love endures forever. “For God so Loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

(John 3:17) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

God did not send his Son, Jesus, to condemn you but to save you through him. God didn't allow His Son to be born and later to die so that he could have a distant relationship with you. Hebrews 13:5, God says, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” He sent his Son Jesus so that we may know His love on a very personal level through His Son. In John 14:6, Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

What does Jesus want? In John 17: 24, He says, “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”

Pastor: We know that as you leave church tonight, the burdens you were asked to place aside, some of you may decide to pick these worries back up. Before you do, please consider one last promise offered to Jesus's disciples and to you. John 14: 1-4, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.

Pastor: Hold fast to this promise from Jesus. Now, take those note cards you all wrote down earlier this evening. Instead of picking your burdens back up, as we bring forward the offering, I would like to invite you to place those burdens in a basket that will be coming around. We are going to bring those burdens and worries before God tonight. If you are worried about leaving empty-handed, don't because the Sunday School Children have thought about you all and wanted to make sure you all are presented with a Christmas gift bag, they put together for each of you, no matter your age. Inside you will find more treats linked with Bible verses of God's promises waiting for you to open.

OFFERING AND PRAYERS

Pastor: May the Holy Spirit fill your heart as we close with Silent Night. Our Sunday School Children would like to say one more thing.

Sunday School Children: Merry Christmas!

SONG

Silent Night, Holy Night

*LSB 363
Congregation*

**Verse 1 is sung in German
then verses 1-3 are sung in English**

*1 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

Christmas Gift Bags

*Lifesavers/Gushers Romans 10:9 and Romans 10:13
Snickers/Milky Way Bar Psalm 107:9-10
Apple/Orange Galatians 5:22-23
Peppermint Stick*



Candy Cane Poem

Jesus, Gentle Shepherd,
this cane of red and white
proclaims the sweet love story
born on Christmas night



This cane, you see, when turned around
begins your name of love
and now becomes a symbol
of peace proclaimed above
The lively peppermint flavor
is the regal gift of spice
The white is your purity
and the red your sacrifice



And so this cane reminds us
of just how much you care
and like your Christmas gift to us
it's meant for all to share



Doublemint Gum Let your life be a testaMINT of God's Love.

M&Ms Romans 10:8 The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart.

Cookie John 6:35 I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

About the Christmas Service

Merry Christmas on behalf of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Sunday School Children. We want to thank you for coming tonight and hope the service will touch your heart, allow you to come to know God's Love for you, and bring you closer to Him. There are a few things we want to share with you regarding the service as we know tonight's message will bring a few blessed surprises for you.

THE OILS

Many individuals have never had the privilege to experience the sacred incenses of frankincense and myrrh. We wanted to share this gift with you in both oil and incense form. The oils have been mixed with Almond oil (carrier oil) so to allow the skin to absorb the benefits of the frankincense and myrrh. If you choose to forego rubbing into your skin, you can also just smell the scent. Both incenses are said to have calming properties.

THE CANVAS PAINTING

The canvas painting being presented tonight has been donated to the Sunday School and will be hung in the Parish Hall. If you want to get a closer look, that is where you will find it. We invite you to Sunday School and Adult Bible Class, which are both on Sundays at 9:00am.

THE CHRISTMAS BAGS

WE are ALL Children of God, no matter how young or old you are. With this biblical message in mind, the Sunday School Children will be handing out a Christmas bag to EVERYONE as a reminder to you that God sees us and claims us as His Own. We are His Children. The Christmas bags have been blessed by the Sunday School Children and it is our hope that God uses these gifts to touch the lives of those who accept them. This is part of the Sunday School Children's ministry to the Church. The candy and cookies are all linked to Bible verses, and you are encouraged to find and read these messages of Hope and Love. Any excess bags will be donated to either a local charity or to Child Protective Services as part of the Sunday School's Outreach Ministry.

Lastly, I personally want to show thanks and appreciation to the following individuals, who stepped up, showed support, and offered their talents, skills, and mentorship to make this Christmas Service as special as the individuals (That's YOU) for whom we were putting the Service together. They are a Blessing.

Valgene and Diana Kohring

Shirley Klussmann

Rebecca and Ray Wellmann

Theresa Kettler

Cheryl Schroeder

Marilyn Klussmann

Paul Richter

The Sunday School Teachers

Laura Fisher

~Sherry Watson, Sunday School Superintendent