



concordia  
church



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**December 24, 2023**



Love God. Love Your Neighbor.

[www.concordiafaith.org](http://www.concordiafaith.org)

773-281-1225

Concordia on Seeley

3855 N. Seeley

Sunday mornings:

10:00am Worship (In-person & virtual options)

Join the 10:00am livestream on Sunday mornings or view recordings of our past services on our YouTube channel.

 **YouTube** Concordia Church Chicago

Welcome, and thank you for joining us for our Christmas Eve candlelight service..

Holy Communion happens at every service and is open to all baptized.

The restroom is located downstairs in the fellowship hall.

Questions? Contact Desirae, Parish Admin, at [dcontreras@concordiafaith.org](mailto:dcontreras@concordiafaith.org)

**Christmas Eve Concert**  
4:30pm



*Ding Dong Merrily on High*

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*The First Nowell*

*Comfort Ye, My People*

from Handel's "The Messiah" feat. Benjamin Burney, Tenor

*Joyous Christmas Song*

arr. by Paul J. Christiansen

*Christmas Glee* by Evelyn Larter

*God Rest You, Merry Gentleman*

*Unto Us is Born a Son*

*Away In A Manger*

Opening Hymn

ELW #283 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

...continued on next page

## Opening Hymn continued

## ELW #283 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*Refrain*

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

## The Greeting

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

**C:** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

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.

**C:** Amen.

ELW #270 *"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 you nations, rise;  
in the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

**First Reading**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

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

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**ELW #270 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"**

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, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

*Refrain*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

**Second Reading**

**Titus 2:11-14**

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 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.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**ELW #270 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"**

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 we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth.

*Refrain*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

*You are invited to light your candle for the reading of the Gospel.*

## **Gospel Reading**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **Gospel**

**Luke 2:1-20**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Carol

ELW #289 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav' - n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through Him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
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,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.,  
we acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **Prayers of the People**

A: Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son wrapped in swaddling clothes to be our Savior. Draw us into the mystery of your love and join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: We 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. Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A; We 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. Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: We 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, that they may feel your comfort this holy night. Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: We pray for the blessings of Christmas. Open our hearts to your presence, that we may be transformed by your gift this holy night. Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## Offering



*Thank you for supporting our ministries with our financial gifts. Scan the QR code to the left to easily make a one-time gift or establish a recurring gift.*

## Offertory Anthem

*“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”*

*We encourage you to use this time for reflection & gratitude  
as we prepare for communion.*

## Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** We lift them to the Lord.

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: We give you thanks, Father,  
through Jesus Christ,  
your beloved Son,  
whom you sent  
in this end of the ages  
to save and redeem us  
and to proclaim to us your will.  
He is your Word,  
inseparable from you.  
Through him  
you created all things,  
and in him you take delight.  
He is your Word,  
sent from heaven  
to a virgin's womb.  
He there took on our nature  
and our lot and  
was shown forth as your Son,  
born of the Holy Spirit  
and of the virgin Mary.  
It is he, our Lord Jesus,  
who fulfilled all your will  
and won for you a holy people;  
he stretched out his hands  
in suffering  
in order to free from suffering  
those who trust you.  
It is he who,  
handed over to a death  
he freely accepted,  
in order to destroy death,  
to break the bonds  
of the evil one,  
to crush hell underfoot,  
to give light to the righteous,  
to establish his covenant  
and to show forth  
the resurrection,

taking bread and  
giving thanks to you, said:  
Take and eat;  
this is my body, broken for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
In the same way he took the cup,  
gave thanks, and  
gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This is my blood  
poured out for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Remembering, then,  
his death and resurrection,  
we lift this bread and cup  
before you,  
giving you thanks that  
you have made us worthy  
to stand before you  
and to serve you  
as your priestly people.  
And we ask you:  
Send your spirit  
upon these gifts of your church;  
gather into one  
all who share  
this bread and wine;  
fill us with your holy spirit  
to establish our faith in truth,  
that we may praise  
and glorify you  
through your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Through him  
all glory and honor are yours,  
Almighty Father,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church  
both now and forever.  
**C: Amen**

## The Lord's Prayer

**C:** Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial**  
and deliver us from evil,

**For the kingdom, the power,**  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

## Communion

*We invite all who are baptized in Christ to come forward for communion. All are welcome at the Lord's table. Parents of young children are asked to let the pastor know if they want their child to receive communion or a blessing.*

*Communion is served by continuous table around the altar, and you are asked to take a place as openings appear.*

## Communion Anthem

*"O Holy Night"*

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

## Post Communion Prayer

**P:** Let us pray.

Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all.

**C: Amen.**

*You are invited to light your candle for the closing hymn.*

## Closing Hymn

## ELW #281 "Silent Night"

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,  
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.  
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher  
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.  
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

## **Blessing and Dismissal**

P: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and the Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

### **Musicians**

Valentina Guillen Menesello, violin

Hsuan Chen , violin

Dana DeBofsky, viola

Adrienne Banks cello

Marisa Buchheit, soprano

Leah Dexter, alto

Benjamin Burney, tenor

Brandan Sanchez, bass

### **Concordia Church Choir**

Marisa Buchheit

Mary-Ann Lupa

Benjamin Burney

Betsy Ries

Richard Gaul

Wilma Stevens

Dan Lantvit

Linda Storbeck

Paul Dykstra, director

# A Christmas Prayer

Let us pray that strength and courage abundant be given to all who work for a world of reason and understanding & that the good that lies in every man's heart may day by day be magnified & that men will come to see more clearly not that which divides them, but that which unites them & that each hour may bring us closer to a final victory, not of nation over nation, but of man over his own evils and weaknesses & that the true spirit of this Christmas Season—its joy, its beauty, its hope, and above all its abiding faith—may live among us & that the blessings of peace be ours—the peace to build and grow, to live in harmony and sympathy with others, and to plan for the future with confidence.

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## Christmas Day Service

You are welcome again tomorrow morning for a Christmas Day worship service at **10:00 a.m.!** Join us in a joyful Christmas celebration!

Worship on Sunday, December 31st will be pre-recorded and available for virtual viewing only. There will be no in-person worship on this Sunday. You can find the service December 31st on our website, [www.concordiafaith.org](http://www.concordiafaith.org) OR on our YouTube channel—Concordia Church Chicago.

Check your inboxes for a special Christmas greeting from Concordia Church! This greeting includes a link to the recording of our Christmas Spectacular from this year—watch and be delighted by Lakeshore Brass & guests vocalists for this merriest of concerts!

The church office will be minimally staffed December 26th-January 2nd. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Zook (773) 805-8191.

Support Concordia Church's partnership with the Common Pantry through your donations of food or toiletry items or a monetary gift to this worthy cause. All donations will help sustain a "Take What you Need" food pantry in the lobby of Swedish Covenant Hospital for patients upon their discharge. Bring item donations to the church at any time. Text 'Concordia' to 73256 and choose the 'Social Impact' fund to give electronically.

Support the **ministries of Concordia Church** through your offerings. There are multiple ways for you to give:

- 1) Mobile: Text 'Concordia' to 73256 and follow the link or scan the QR code here
- 2) Online: Visit [www.onrealm.org/concordiafaith/give](http://www.onrealm.org/concordiafaith/give)
- 3) Via cash or check left in the offering plate or mailed to the church at:

3855 N Seeley Ave  
Chicago, IL 60618





concordia church  
December 2023



### From Pastor Zook—A Christmas Reflection

*"You are the light of the world....Let your light so shine upon others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" Matthew 5:14a, 16*



"Let your light so shine..." These words spoken over the newly baptized member of the church are accompanied by a candle held by their sponsor and serve as a lifelong reminder of their special calling to be God's lights in a dark world.

The midnight blue of Advent reflects the darkening reality of shorter days, and longer, colder nights as we approach the end of the year. The twinkling lights of Christmas act as a bright reminder of the promised joy and peace Christ's advent brings to the whole world. In a similar way, the strains of church music, carols, anthems and songs of praise lift darkened spirits into the light of God's presence. This Advent and Christmas, we are blessed to bring our gifts of light and love and fellowship and worship to our church and to our neighbors and friends in even more ways than we have before with an on-line release of Advent Vespers of music and scripture every Wednesday, a Christmas Brass concert, Christmas Eve concert and candlelight service.

And...reaching into the coming year and reaching out to new neighbors, a special concert on January 14<sup>th</sup> at our Avondale site on Whipple inviting the asylum seeker refugees at Brands Park to join us for a luncheon, concert and gift of winter clothing and supplies.

Last year, we looked forward to celebrating 125 years of Concordia's ministries. Here, at the end of 2023, we again find ourselves looking forward, not backward, to what we are yet called to in ministry. You and I, we are called be lights for those who walk in darkness. The smallest candle light overcomes the greatest darkness. Shine, Jesus, Shine on me.

### From the Church Council President—Our Christmas Appeal

This year, 2023, was a year of celebration and gratitude. We celebrated the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Concordia Lutheran Church, our church. We initiated Second Sunday Concerts and greeted our neighbors, members and friends with the gift of music. We supported our partners in their efforts to feed the hungry and at Concordia Place, we, with gratitude, said farewell to Brenda and hello to Grace.

As we begin the next chapter in the book of Concordia Ministries, your support is ever more important. As you make up your gift list for this Christmas, please add Concordia. Your gift, large or small, means more music, more community service and more vitality for your congregation.

Let's keep the light shining brightly. A light that brightens the pathway of hope, love and peace.

Merry Christmas!

Daniel Formeller



Scan this QR code to easily make your gift electronically! Be sure to choose 'Holidays' from the dropdown menu.



A Concordia family of ministries serving people and communities  
[concordiaministries.org](http://concordiaministries.org) | [concordiafaith.org](http://concordiafaith.org)

# Concert & Luncheon

Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 12pm  
**in the Swartz Pavilion at Concordia on Whipple**  
3300 N Whipple St.

We need your support!

also including:

**Winter  
clothing  
drive**

**Children's  
book  
drive**  
(English &  
Spanish books)

## Volunteers needed to:

- organize clothing for giveaway
- organize books for giveaway
- set up tables & chairs for event
- greet and host at event
- lead children's activities
- clean up following event

To sign up to volunteer,  
scan the QR code!

To donate to this event, visit  
<https://concordiafaith.org/give>

For more information or to get involved,  
connect with Desirae Contreras at  
[dcontreras@concordiafaith.org](mailto:dcontreras@concordiafaith.org).



**Partnering  
Together:**

Advocate Aurora Faith & Health Collaborative  
Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern University  
Concordia Place  
Concordia Church

**SCAN ME**

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## Copyright Information:

Below is a list of all the songs that we are using in today's liturgy with their copy right information located with them.

### Opening Hymn

### ELW #283 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

### Carol

### ELW #289 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887–1958

### Closing Hymn

### ELW #281 "Silent Night"

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

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### Notes on the Liturgy:

1. All liturgical music is from ELW, Setting 4
2. The Liturgy is printed from **The Evangelical Lutheran Worship** and is used with permission.
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