

concordia
church



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2024



Love God. Love Your Neighbor.

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

Christmas Eve Prelude



A Ceremony of Carols

by Benjamin Britten

Procession
VI. This little Babe
VII. Interlude

We Three Kings

by John Henry Hopkins
arr. By Steve Hodges

Christmas Cantata

by Daniel Pinkham

Vocalists

Marisa Buchheit, soprano Benjamin Burney, tenor
Jade Dasha, alto Avery Sujkowski, bass

Concordia Church Choir:
Richard Gaul Mary-Ann Lupa Wilma Stevens
Dan Lantvit Betsy Ries Linda Storbeck
Paul Dykstra, director

Instrumentalists

Miles Lujin, trumpet Matt Flanagan, trombone
Fiona Chisholm, horn Keith Polito, tuba
Jennifer Ruggieri, harp

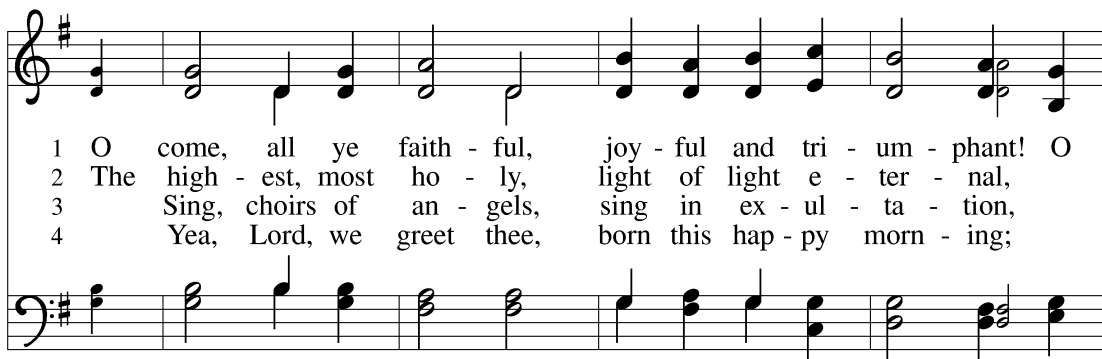
The Greeting

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.

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!

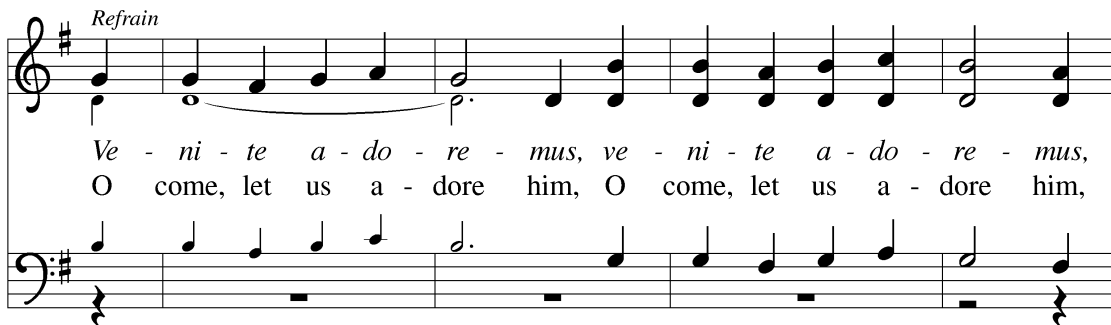


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

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!

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.



First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

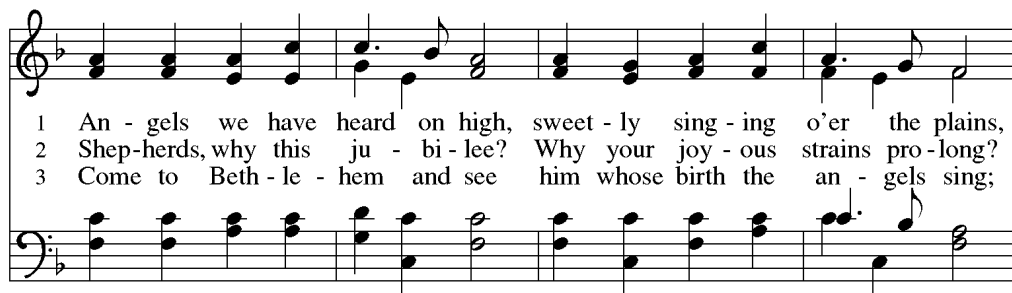
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their 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.

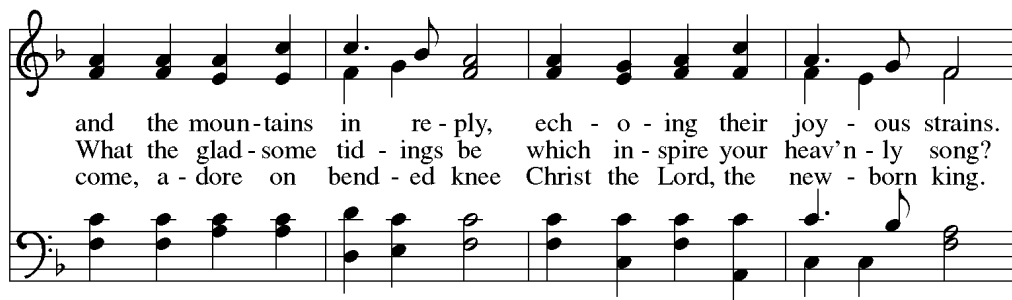
C: Thanks be to God.

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.

..continued on next page

Carol con't

ELW #289 "Angels We Have Heard on High

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

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

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

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.

Gospel Acclamation

“Raise a Song of Gladness”

Two-voice canon

$\text{♩} = 84$

(A) D

G

A

(B)



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

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.**

Gospel Acclamation (repeat acclamation)

Hymn of the Day

ELW #270 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

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Hymn of the Day

ELW #270 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

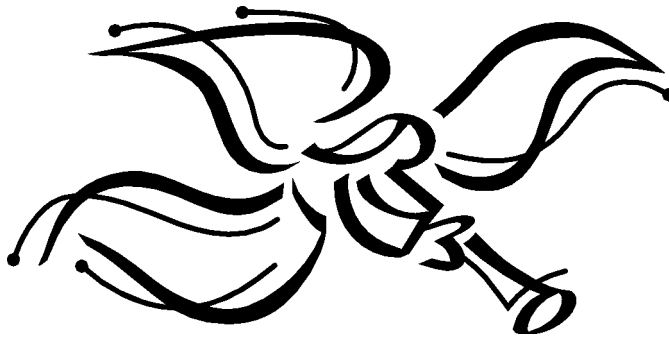


with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"



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

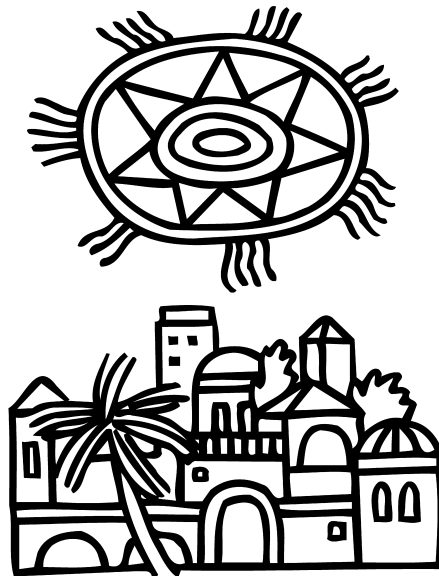


Thank you for supporting our ministries with our financial gifts. Scan the QR code to the left to easily make a one-time gift or establish a recurring gift.

Offertory Anthem

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

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



Offertory Hymn

ELW #290 "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

A: Lord, your word and sacrament give us food and life. May this gift of your Son born to us this day lead us to share in his life forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

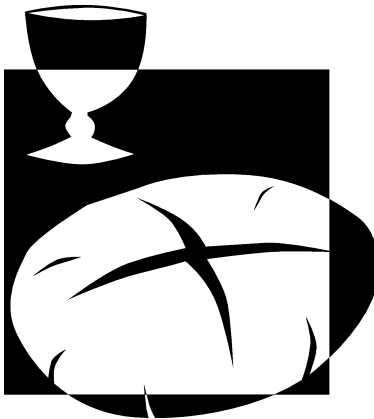
C: And also with you.

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

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!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Worship on Sunday, December 29th will be pre-recorded and available for virtual viewing only. There will be no in-person worship on this Sunday. You can find the December 29th service on our website, www.concordiafaith.org OR on our YouTube channel—Concordia Church Chicago.

The church office will be minimally staffed December 22nd through January 5th.
If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Zook (773) 805-8191.

Important Dates to note:

- January 5th: Sunday School during 10am worship
De-greening after worship
- January 12th: 'Second Sunday' concert at noon
Lake Effect Clarinet Quartet

Visit concordiafaith.org/concerts to learn more!

- January 19th: Sunday School during 10am worship

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
- 3) Via cash or check left in the offering plate or mailed to the church at:

3855 N Seeley Ave
Chicago, IL 60618



3855 N Seeley Ave
Chicago, IL 60618

*"Let the children come unto me,
and forbid them not;
for of such as these is
the Kingdom of God"*



From Pastor Zook - A Christmas Reflection

I think the Christmas story is best told by children. Dressed as shepherds, angels, Magi, they make their way to the manger at the altar, struggling to keep halos in place, avoid tripping on robes too long. Occasionally, one of the younger angels wanders off and an older child herds them back. Through their telling, the birth of the Christ Child takes on the joy of child like wonder. Christ is born.



This year, our Children's Christmas Drama is back after a pandemic related hiatus. We are pleased with the relaunch of Sunday School classes this Fall, and on Sunday, December 22nd, our children will once again enact the Christmas story during the 10 AM worship service. Join Mary & Joseph, a choir of angels, a herd of shepherds and a magisterium of Magi in proclaiming the Good News of Christmas: Christ is Born.

From the Church Council President - Our Christmas Appeal

I have spoken often about the history, the beauty and the images in Concordia's windows. They surround us with unspoken lessons – from the past and for our future. This has been a year of expansion for Concordia's Ministries. Enlargement of the Concordia Concert Series, the re-establishment of Sunday School, and with Concordia Place, service to the newly arrived migrant community.

All of this because you care enough to generously support these efforts. This Christmas, we continue to think of the future. From reimagining our sanctuary and church facilities to reaching ever outward into our communities. And the children remind us of this story's beginning as they tell us again of the star in the east and the birth of Jesus.

Please consider a Christmas gift.
Merry Christmas!
~Dan Formeller



Scan the QR code
to easily make your gift electronically! Choose
'Holidays' from the drop down menu.



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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 #270 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

Closing Hymn

ELW #281 "Silent Night"

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

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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