

concordia  
church



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**December 24, 2025**

Our 2025 Christmas Eve Liturgy is augmented with the ethereal music and provocative Middle English poetry of “A Ceremony of Carols” by Benjamin Britten inspired by The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems compiled by Gerald Bullett.

## Prelude

“*Andante Cantabile*” from *Violin Sonata No. 2, BWV 1003*  
by Johann Sebastian Bach  
arranged for harp and organ by Rhett Barnwell

1. *Processional*—*Hodie Christus natus est*:

*We begin in proper, “High Church” style with a medieval plainchant carol.*

## 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:

*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.

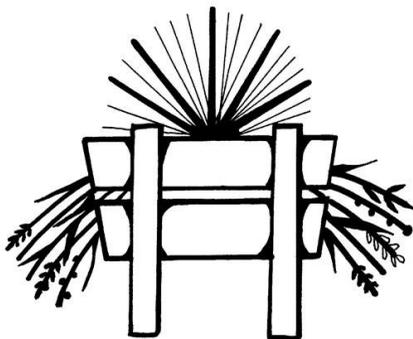
L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Musical Reflection

### 2. *Wolcum Yole!* (Anon. 14th century)

*We welcome Yule, the midwinter festival, welcoming the early Christian martyrs Steven, Jon, Thomas and the Bethlehem Innocents, Twelfth Night, Candlemass and The Queen of Bliss.*



## 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)

Ju - bi - la - te De - o om - nis ter - ra.  
Raise a song of glad - ness, peo - ples of the earth.

Ser - vi - te Do - mi - no in lae - ti - ti - a.  
Christ has come, bring - ing peace, joy to ev - 'ry heart.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, in lae - ti - ti - a.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - 'ry heart!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, in lae - ti - ti - a!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - 'ry heart!

*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)**

## **Sermon and Musical Reflections**

*We reflect on key aspects of the Christmas Narrative including the virtue of Mary, her sweet lullabies to the weeping child, the choice of her son – the King of all Kings – quietly coming to her arms as April’s dew on the grass and finally foreshadowing that Son’s coming battle to stir all in Satan’s fold.*

### **3. *There is No Rose***

### **4. *That Yongë Child***

Soprano Solo: Marisa Mladenovic

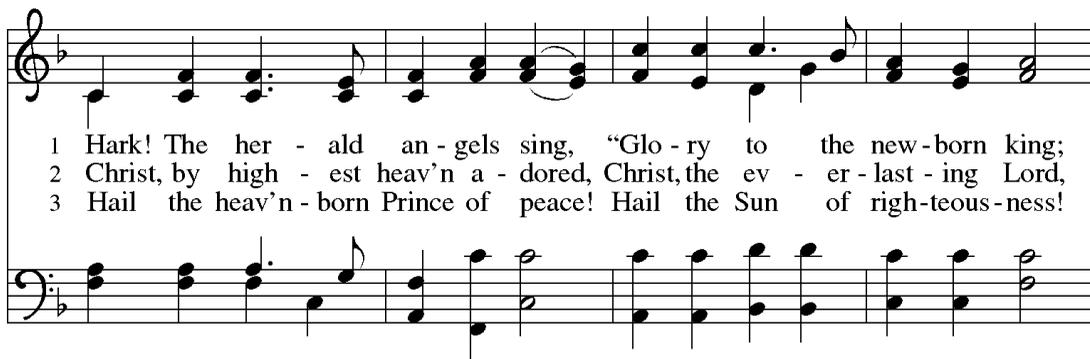
### **5. *Balulalow***

Soprano Solo: Kunying Li

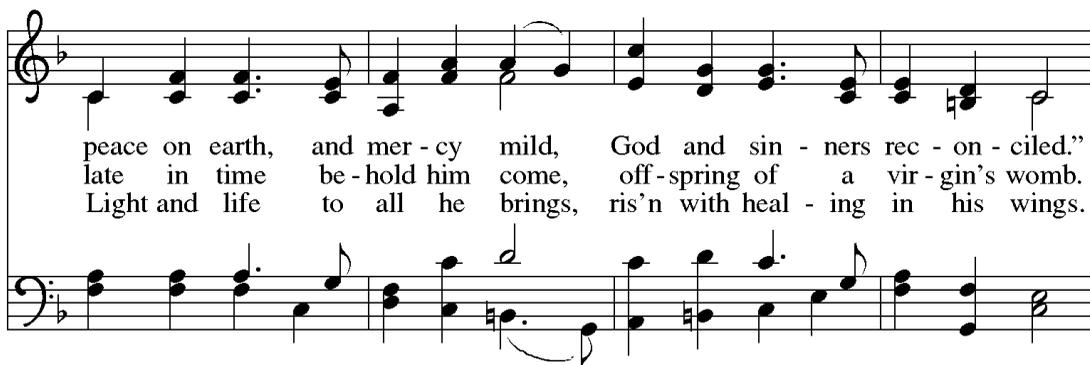
### **6. *As Dew in Aprille (April)***

### **7. *This Little Babe***





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.

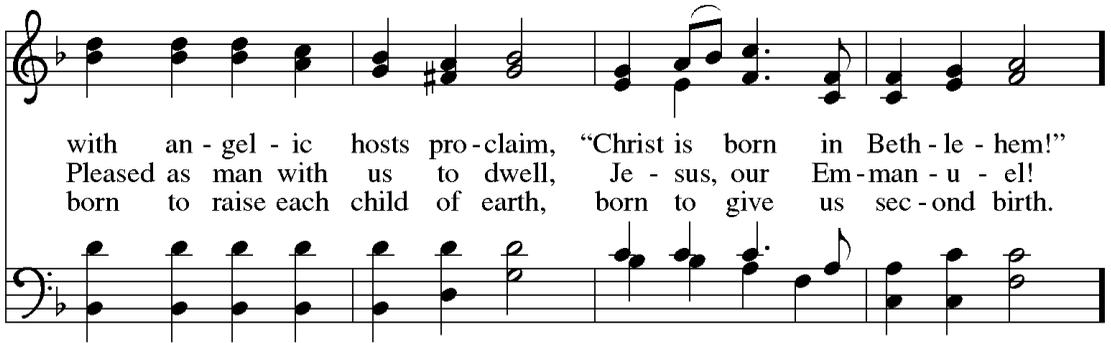


Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

*...continued on next page*

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

### **8. Interlude**, harp solo, Jennifer Ruggieri

*We reflect quietly on the harp's distinct, albeit distant sound as Benjamin Britten takes themes from the Carols thus far, developing them into virtuosic brilliance for our Christmas Celebration*

*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;

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.

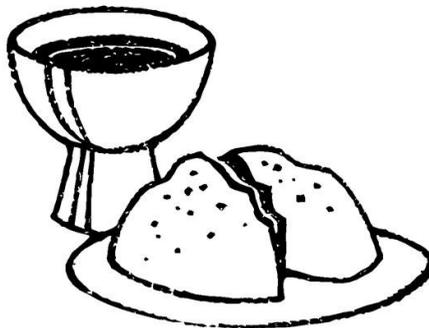
**C: And also with you.**

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.*

### **9. In Freezing Winter Night**

Tenor Solo: John Concepcion

### **10. Spring Carol**

Soprano Solo: Kimberly E Jones; Mezzo Soprano Solo: Jade Dashà

*We meditate on the stable, ironic as it is – He is the King of all Kings, yet there is no room for him and his family; it is freezing and dark with only a manger for his cradle. And yet, Spring will come . . . and with it an unimaginable role for that babe from that distant night*

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

**C: Amen.**

## **Post Communion Prayer**

### **11. Deo Gracias**

*We reflect and give thanks due to the Heavenly Father for his great gift – while focusing on that “apple” ...ah, that “apple” and a spring to come ...*

## **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.**



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.

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Recessional

### 12. *Recession*

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#### **Today's celebrants:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Nicholas Zook

**Deacon:** Christina Mitchell

**Lector:** Mark Croll

**Greeter:** Bob Beach

#### **Musicians:**

**Conductor:** Paul Dykstra

**Soprano:** Sarah Collins, Christine Cummins, Kimberly Jones, Kunying Li, Marisa Mladenovic, Wilma Stevens, Linda Storbeck

**Mezzo:** Kat Dalin, Jade Dashá, Rose Guccione, Maggie Larson, Betsy Ries

**Tenor:** Benjamin Burney, Wesly Clergè, John Concepcion, Cornelius Johnson, Jordan Loyd, Mary Ann Lupa, Armani Smith

**Baritone:** Dan Lantvit, Stephen Miller, Carl Ratner, Wilbur Roberts

**Harp:** Jennifer Ruggieri

The church office will be closed December 24th through January 4th. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Zook (773) 805-8191.

**Important Dates to note:**

- January 4th: De-greening after worship
- January 18th: Sunday School during 10am worship
- January 25th: Council meeting following 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](http://www.onrealm.org/concordiafaith/give)
- 3) Via cash or check left in the offering plate or mailed to the church at:

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Chicago, IL 60618





3855 N Seeley Ave  
Chicago, IL 60618

*"For behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11*

Some stories never grow old, and this story of the birth of Jesus is one of the very oldest stories known to us. What makes this story of Christ's birth so new to me each year is the fresh telling by our children acting out the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, the arrival of the angels, their halos and wings askew, the procession of Shepherds followed by Magi, gifts in hand: all taking their part in sharing God's story. This year, we'll even have a lamb joining in. All together, they act out the mystery, wonder and delight of God's living gift of love and grace born to us in Jesus Christ.



This year's Children's Christmas Story will be shared with us during the 10 AM worship service on Sunday, December 21st. And there are more ways we are celebrating this year. Join us for a brass concert celebration by our resident musicians, Lakeshore Brass, on December 12th at 7 PM. Tickets for this concert posted on our website. Our Christmas Eve service will be celebrated on December 24th at 5 PM with harp and choir voices. The Christmas Day service of Lessons and Carols is at 10 AM.

Such good news deserves our celebration with great joy.

Christ's Blessings,  
Pastor Nicholas Zook

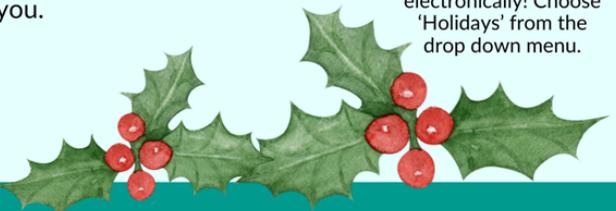
And the good news does not all occur within the four walls of our beautiful sanctuary (although if you have not seen our church in all its Christmas glory, you are missing our own work of art). Concordia's Ministries are having an impact in our communities every day – providing the joy of a Christmas gift to a child, lending needed support to a new mother and helping our new neighbors share in the joy of the good news. This happens because of you.

Please consider a Christmas gift.

Merry Christmas!  
Dan Formeller, Council President



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



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



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)

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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

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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.
3. The offertory prayer, introduction to the prayers and conclusion are taken from [Sundays and Seasons](#), Augsburg Fortress, 2019, and used with permission: license number 23952.
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