

Mary of Magdala, ECC Christmas Mass

Christmas Eve, Dec 24, 2020 - Celebrating the birth of Jesus

Preparations include participants preparing their home altars with a lit candle, and the food and drink to be remotely shared. If you have bells, please bring to ring!

Prelude: From Handels' Messiah/Slide Show

Entrance Opening Song *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy! Let there be joy!
Let there be joy!

Let there be joy to the world!

2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy..

Text: CM with repeats; based on Psalm 98:4-9; Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
Music: T. Hawkes' *Collection of Tunes*, 1833; George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759;
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Greeting – *Pastor Jane*

In the name of Amma/Abba God, of Jesus both Divine and Human, and Sophia Spirit of Wisdom. **ALL: Amen**

May God, the blessed Holy Three, be with you
We lift up our hearts to our Self-Revealing God
Let us give thanks for this wondrous gift of Life

ALL: And also with you.

ALL: We lift up our hearts.

**ALL: With hearts and minds we give thanks and
praise to our God.**

Good afternoon! At this sacred time, we join with all the heavenly bodies, the communion of saints, to dance and sing with a retelling of the story of the union of God and humanity entangled in embrace. Our journey to follow Jesus begins now, with the divine becoming one with humanity, and humanity becoming one with divinity, forever.

Penitential Rite – *Pastor Jane*

At this sacred celebration, may we increase our
faith and hope through Emmanuel:

Wonderful Counselor, born through Mary,
becomes one of us in our joys and sorrows

ALL: Wonderful Counselor, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, Alpha and Omega, you who have
forever gathered us, fill us with Grace and heal
our weaknesses.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Emmanuel, divine and human, gather us together
as one family to praise you

ALL: Jesus, have mercy.

Jesus, human and divine, empty and full, you
revealed yourself as the timeless answer bring us
to wholeness and peace this day.

ALL: Amen



Opening Prayer – *Pastor Jane*

We praise you, gracious God, for the joy of your unfailing embrace through Christ Jesus, your Word become flesh. Let us embrace the life of Christ that enlivens us and lives deep within us.

Help us to open our hearts to feel you, know you, and embrace you without reservation and throughout eternity. In this way, we see the Divine Reality in all creation.

We ask this through Jesus the Christ
ALL: Amen

Pastor Rosean:

Please join in while on mute as Bill Smith leads us in the song of praise. Feel free to ring your bells!

Gloria: Angels We Have Heard On High

1. Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?

Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Refrain
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Text: 77 77 with refrain; trad. French carol, ca. 18th cent.; tr. fr. *Crown of Jesus Music, II*, London, 1862; tr. by James Chadwick, 1813–1882, and others, alt. Music: Trad. French carol; arr. © 2013, Spirit & Song, a division of OCP. All rights reserved.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading is from the Book of Isaiah - *Lector David Cloyd*

Isaiah 9. 2-5

The people who walked without light
have seen a great light'
those who dwelt in a land of deep shadows,
on them a light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy'
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest.

For to us a child is born,
to us an heir is given,
whose name will be called
“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father and Mother, Prince of Peace.”

The Word of the prophet Isaiah
ALL: Thanks be to God

Second Reading – *Lector Cindy Cloyd*

The Night of His Birth, by Katherine Paterson



Gospel Acclamation

Wonderful Counselor *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

1. For unto us a child is born,
A son is given.
Come, Holy Spirit, come
Father this Child.
The Virgin Mary shall be his mother,
And His name shall be called Emmanuel.

Refrain:
Sing Alleluia to the Wonderful Counselor,
Sing Alleluia to the mighty God.
Sing Alleluia to the Father forever and
Sing Alleluia to the true Prince of peace.

2. Understanding he will come,
Come with compassion,
Come to forgive all of the world
Of sin.

And he will save all of the weak
And tender hearted,
And the meek forever shall dwell in their land.
Refrain

3. So let us beat all our
Swords into plowshares,
And let the wolf come be the guest
Of the lamb.
And let the song of all the world's
Nations be peaceful.
Worship the child into the world
In Bethlehem.

Refrain.

Lyrics and music: John Michael Talbot; b. 1954.
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Gospel: Luke 2:1-20- *Pastor Rosean*

God is with you.
A reading from the holy Gospel attributed to Luke

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

And all went to be enrolled, each to their own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David and Bathsheba, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, to whom he was engaged and pledged to be married. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her firstborn son, whom she wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in that region there were shepherds living in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of God appeared to them, and the

ALL: And also with you.
ALL: Glory to you, O God

glory of God shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the peoples, for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Messiah, the Anointed One and the Spirit person. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes 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, and on earth peace among all God's people." When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which God has made known to us."



And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child, and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned to their pastures of sheep, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as they had been told.

The joyful news of Emmanuel, God with us.

ALL: Praise to you, O God

Homily - Pastors Jane and Rosean

Sign of Peace – Pastor Jane

Christ Jesus, you said to your apostles: I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our failings and doubts, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us peace and unity with your kin-dom for ever and ever.

All: Amen

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **All: And also with you.**

Deacon Rosean

Let us all unmute and go to ‘gallery view’ on our screens and share with one another a sign of Christ’s peace.

Preparation of Bread and Wine - Pastor Rosean

Blessed are You, Lover of Humanity. Through your endless goodness we have these gifts of our community of time, talent, and treasure to offer, the work of human hands gratefully given.

May our offerings become instruments of your peace and sustain the mission of God’s people. May we continue to give as we are called and able. **ALL: Amen**

Offertory Song – (please join in with Bill while muted)

We Adore

1. We adore these tiny hands come down to reach us, come to make the lame to walk, the blind to see. We adore these hands for one day they will free us as they hold the sin-forged nails of Calvary.

2. We adore these little feet that have not walked yet, for one day they’ll lead the nations into love. They will break beneath the weight of all our burdens, bleeding on the tear-stained road to Golgotha.
Refrain

We adore him: baby, Savior, King;
heaven’s pure and perfect offering.
Sweet salvation, mercy, Lamb, and Lord;
we adore, we adore.

4. As he chose this world, a mother, and a manger,
to be born amidst our cruelty and strife;
so will he choose peace and mercy over anger;
so will he die to bring us into life. **(to Refrain)**

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Liturgy of the Eucharist - *Pastor Jane*

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life and our spiritual drink.

All: Blessed be God forever

Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble and contrite hearts

Pray, my beloved sisters and brothers, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, our loving Amma/Abba.

All: May the Self-Revealing God accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good and the good of all God's Church.

Emmanuel, you call us to share this table with you as family. The union of divine and human calls us, welcomes, hears, and fills us so that we will join as God's own, and proclaim this new Light.

Fill us with your mysterious fullness that we may give it away. **ALL: Amen**

Emmanuel be with you.
ALL: And also with you.

Eucharistic Prayer - *Pastor Jane*

Merciful God, send now, in kindness your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Christ Jesus.

Among friends, gathered round a table,
He took bread and gave you thanks.
He broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:

All: *(All to Join in on mute)*

Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our God.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to give you thanks and praise for you made us.

All that is spectacular, all that is plain, have their origin in you; all that is lovely and loving look to this great mystery of the birth of Jesus. The God we cannot see has now appeared in human form. God has become one with all humanity, together, and all humanity, together, has become one with God.

With gratitude and praise, we enter into this mystery of God made flesh in space and time. Praising you, we join our voices to the song of the church on earth and in heaven:

Holy Holy Holy *(Please join in with Bill while on mute)*

**Ho -- ly, Ho -- ly, Holy Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

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**Take this all of you, and eat it: this is my Body,
which will be given up for you.**

When supper was ended, he took the cup;
again, he gave you thanks and,
handing the cup to his disciples, said:

ALL: *(All to Join in on mute)*

**Take this, all of you, and drink from it:
This is the cup of my Blood,**



the Blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

All: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

Setting our wisdom, our wills, our words aside, emptying our hearts and bringing nothing in our hands, we yearn for the healing and the compassionate forgiving Christ offers us, and the work Christ asks of us.

May your Holy Spirit rest on us, in communion with Mary, the Mother of God, St. Joseph, the shepherds, and all creation. Convert us, O God, from the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of the Beloved who as food we now share and whose Body and Blood we now become.

Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The Prayer of Jesus— *Pastor Rosean*

Knowing that by this Incarnation we are in Christ and called to be the body of Christ in the world, we pray with the fullest trust the prayer of Jesus:

(All to Join in on mute)

Our Amma/Abba God in heaven, holy be your name, your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
All Amen.**

Edited, modern 'Our Father' provided by
Trinity Lutheran Church

The Shared Table –

Pastor Rosean

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world,

Pastor Jane

May this mingling of the body and blood of Christ
Jesus bring us eternal life

Christ Jesus, with faith in your love and mercy we
eat your body and drink your blood. May it bring
us health in mind and body.

**All: O, Beloved God, you have made me
worthy to receive you, and by your Word
Made Flesh I am healed.**

**ALL: have mercy on us.
ALL: have mercy on us.
ALL: grant us peace.**

The meal of God, the sacrament before you, is
prepared for the people of God. We pray together
in unity with those gathered around this table and
with all the saints and holy ones of all time.

Here is the risen Christ whose Spirit gathers us
together around this table. This is, and we are, the
Body of Christ. In this we are a Eucharistic People.



Communion Song - Bill Smith

Silent Night

1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and child!
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar;

Heav'nly hosts sing "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born."

3. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

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Prayer after Communion

Pastor Rosean
Let us pray.

Pastor Jane
Ever Faithful, Compassionate God, today we
celebrate this sacred feast of the birth of Jesus,
Incarnation of God into space and time, the Word
Made Flesh.

Jesus wants to stay in human form through us, his
disciples. May we offer to those around us that

which Jesus freely gives, divine Love and
complete acceptance of humanity.

We ask this through Jesus the Christ.
ALL: Amen

Blessing

Pastor Jane
God is with you. **ALL: And also with you.**

Pastor Rosean
Bowing our heads at this Christmas celebration, let us ask for God's blessing.

Pastor Jane:
May God fill our hearts with joyful awe as we are
swaddled and embraced by eternal Love:

In the name of Amma/Abba God, the Word Made
Flesh, and Sophia, our wisdom and guide.
All: Amen

Dismissal – Pastor Rosean

Go in joy, spreading the Love of the season.

All: Thanks be to God



Closing Song - (please join in with Bill while muted – Join in with your bells!)

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy! Let there be joy!
Let there be joy!
Let there be joy to the world!

2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;

Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: CM with repeats; based on Psalm 98:4–9; Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
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