



Worship Outline
Sunday, December 27th, 2020, 9:00 am
Service of Lessons and Carols

PRELUDE & WELCOME

CAROL: "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.

2. 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.

DIALOGUE

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness - a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: GENESIS 1: 1-5, 14-18 (SCOTT COOZENNOY)

In the beginning, when God created the universe, ²the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God was moving over the water. ³Then God commanded, "Let there be light"—and light appeared. ⁴God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness, ⁵and he named the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." Evening passed and morning came—that was the first day. ¹⁴Then God commanded, "Let lights appear in the sky to separate day from night and to show the time when days, years, and religious festivals begin; ¹⁵they will shine in the sky to give light to the earth"—and it was done. ¹⁶So God made the two larger lights, the sun to rule over the day and the moon to rule over the night; he also made the stars. ¹⁷He placed the lights in the sky to shine on the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God was pleased with what he saw. The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: "THE FIRST NOEL"

1. The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

2. Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

SECOND READING: MICAH 5:2-5A (SAVANNA OLSON)

²The LORD says, "Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel, whose family line goes back to ancient times." ³So

the LORD will abandon his people to their enemies until the woman who is to give birth has her son. Then those Israelites who are in exile will be reunited with their own people. ⁴When he comes, he will rule his people with the strength that comes from the LORD and with the majesty of the LORD God himself. His people will live in safety because people all over the earth will acknowledge his greatness, ⁵and he will bring peace. When the Assyrians invade our country and break through our defenses, we will send our strongest leaders to fight them. The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: "I AM SO GLAD EACH CHRISTMAS EVE"

1. I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
and angels sang on earth.
2. And so I love each Christmas Eve,
and I love Jesus too;
and that he loves me ev'ry day
I know so well is true.

THIRD READING: LUKE 1: 26-35, 38 (ANGIE OLSON)

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. ²⁷He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. ²⁸The angel came to her and said, "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!"

²⁹Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. ³¹You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, ³³and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!" ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?" ³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. ³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: "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;
join 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!"

2. 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*

FOURTH READING: MATTHEW 1: 18-25 (SAVANNA OLSON)

¹⁸ This was how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married, she found out that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph was a man who always did what was right, but he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly; so he made plans to break the engagement privately. ²⁰ While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. ²¹ She will have a son, and you will name him Jesus—because he will save his people from their sins." ²² Now all this happened in order to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, ²³ "A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and he will be called Immanuel" (which means, "God is with us"). ²⁴ So when Joseph woke up, he married Mary, as the angel of the Lord had told him to. ²⁵ But he had no sexual relations with her before she gave birth to her son. And Joseph named him Jesus.

The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

CAROL: "AWAY IN A MANGER"

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,

the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

FIFTH READING: LUKE 2: 8-20 (ANGIE OLSON)

⁸There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, ¹⁰but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. ¹¹This very day in David's town your Savior was born - Christ the Lord! ¹²And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!" ¹⁵When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us." ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. ¹⁸All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. ¹⁹Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. ²⁰The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"

1. Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

SIXTH READING: MATTHEW 2: 1-11 (SCOTT COOZENNOY)

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterward, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him." ³ When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. ⁴ He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?" ⁵ "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea," they answered. "For this is what the prophet wrote: ⁶ 'Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah; for from you will come a leader who will guide my people Israel.'" ⁷ So Herod called the visitors from the East to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: "Go and make a careful search for the child; and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him." ⁹⁻¹⁰ And so they left, and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the East. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹¹ They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: "WHAT CHILD IS THIS?"

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

2. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

SEVENTH READING: JOHN 1: 1-14 (PASTOR CHRISTOPH)

In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² From the very beginning the Word was with God. ³ Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. ⁴ The Word was the source of life,^[a] and this life brought light to people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out. ⁶ God sent his messenger, a man named John, ⁷ who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light. ⁹ This was the real light—the light that comes into the world and shines on all people. ¹⁰ The Word was in the world, and though God made the world through him, yet the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to his own country, but his own people did not receive him. ¹² Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children. ¹³ They did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of a human father; God himself was their Father. ¹⁴ The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son.

The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

GENEROSITY & MEDITATION

You are invited to give online:

https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=MG4RKUJT9HM6E&source=url

You can also send your offering to the church:

5879 Wyoming Trail, PO Box 583, Wyoming, MN 55092

SPECIAL MUSIC: “WHAT A GLORIOUS NIGHT”
ST. PAUL CONTEMPORARY BAND

RESPONSIVE PRAYER:

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, drawl all to the manger

to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life

cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us from your very self
with the body and blood of Christ.

Through this mystery, send us forth
to proclaim your promise to a world in need,
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Almighty God,
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day ✝ through the Word made flesh.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: "GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN"

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
2. The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Thank you for joining us for worship at St. Paul today! May God's guidance, grace, and comfort be your strength in these days of uncertainty. May we continue to love one another, reach out in the ways that we can, and be the body of Christ for a hurting and anxious world.

*Join us for worship every Sunday morning at 9:00am on Facebook and at www.sharingchristslve.org
Permission to print & stream service music obtained from CCLI; License #855924; Streaming #20800937.*

This week we are praying for:

Arnie	Jim G.	Bob	Kent & Brenda W.
Vicki & family	Fran D.	Wendy & her mom	Amanda
Pat	First Responders	Chad O.	Michelle I. & Family
Andre	Janet N.	Military members	COVID medical/frontline staff



December 27th, 2020 – News & Updates

Holiday Worship Schedule

The office will be CLOSED on Friday, January 1st.

January 3rd - ONLINE Worship with Holy Communion, 9am.

ST. Paul Lutheran GIVING TREE

During this time of COVID there are many families, children, and seniors with unmet needs. Can you help? If you are able to make a special Christmas donation, follow the link to make an online payment, or you may mail a check to the church, marking where you would like your gift to go to.

Church Council

You are invited to **SERVE on CHURCH COUNCIL!** If you are interested, please contact any current member of the council. congregation would love to have YOU!

Service Opportunities

Building Cleaning: Please help us keep our building clean! Here is the online schedule. If you have any questions contact the SPLC Covid team: safety@sharingchristslve.org.

- Sign up for bathroom cleaning [here](#)
- Sign up for vacuuming [here](#)
- Sign up for sweeping and mopping [here](#)
- Sign up for emptying garbage and cleaning high touch surfaces [here](#)

Office Hours

Pastor Christoph and Melissa work remotely most days. You can reach Pastor Christoph and Melissa at 651-462-5212, or through E-mail: pastor@sharingchristslve.org and admin@sharingchristslve.org.