



Lessons & Carols with Communion

Christmas Eve

VIDEO: Participate on any device at 4PM on December 24
go.mysjec.com/facebook or go.mysjec.com/youtube

You can watch the videos at any time after their premier.

Call to Worship

from the Iona Community's "Cloth for the Cradle"

One Voice When the world was dark

One Voice and the city was quiet,

One Voice you came.

All You crept in beside us, and no one knew.

One Voice Only the few who dared to believe

One Voice that God might do something different.

All Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?

One Voice Will you come into the darkness of tonight's world;

One Voice not the friendly darkness

One Voice as when sleep rescues us from tiredness,

One Voice but the fearful darkness,

All in which people have stopped believing

One Voice that war will end

One Voice or that food will come

One Voice or that a government will change

One Voice or that the Church cares?

All Will you come into that darkness and do something different

One Voice to save your people from death and despair?

All Will you come into the quietness of this town,

One Voice not the friendly quietness as when partners hold hands,

One Voice but the fearful silence when the phone has not rung

One Voice the letter has not come,

One Voice the friendly voice no longer speaks,

One Voice the doctor's face says it all?

All Will you come into that darkness,

One Voice and do something different,

One Voice not to distract, but to embrace your people?

One Voice And will you come into the dark corners

One Voice and the quiet places of our lives?

All **We ask this not because we are guilt-ridden or want to be,**

One Voice but because the fullness our lives long for

One Voice depends upon us being as open and vulnerable to you

One Voice as you were to us,

One Voice when you came, wearing no more than diapers,

One Voice and trusting human hands

One Voice to hold their maker.

All **Will you come into our lives,**

One Voice if we open them to you

One Voice and do something different?

One Voice When the world was dark

One Voice and the city was quiet,

One Voice you came.

One Voice You crept in beside us.

One Voice Do the same this Christmas, Lord.

All **Do the same this Christmas. AMEN!**

♪ **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O Dayspring, from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Celebrant Light looked down and saw darkness:

People "I will go there," said Light.

Celebrant Peace looked down and saw war:

People "I will go there," said Peace.

Celebrant Love looked down and saw hatred:

People "I will go there," said Love.

Celebrant So the Lord of Light... the Prince of Peace... the King of Love...
came down, and crept in beside us.

All The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. And we beheld his
glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full
of grace and truth. AMEN!

♪ **Joy to the World! The Lord is Come**

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

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.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

Celebrant We delight again to hear the story of the journey to Bethlehem, the song of the angels, the surprise of the shepherds, and their joy as they found Jesus in the manger. But lest we forget he was born to poverty, we remember at this season all who are hungry or cold. And lest we forget he became a refugee, we remember now the stranger and the lonely among us. And lest we forget he felt the pain of life and death, we remember now those who are ill, or anxious, or bereaved. And because we know he came for our salvation, let us in heart and mind go once again to Bethlehem, to hear the message of the angels and worship afresh the Son of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Celebrant Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness to stand in your presence as your children.

People **Forgive and heal us, Incarnate Word.**

Celebrant The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive us our disobedience to your will.

People **Forgive and heal us, Incarnate Word.**

Celebrant Your Son our Savior was born in poverty in a manger. Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

People **Forgive and heal us, Incarnate Word.**

Celebrant The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

People **Forgive and heal us, Incarnate Word.**

Celebrant The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King. Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

People **Forgive and heal us, Incarnate Word.**

Celebrant May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself, and cleanse us from all our sins, that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh:

People **We are forgiven and healed by Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN!**

Bidding prayer and confession adapted from the Church of England's "New Patterns for Worship"

♪ **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
 from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
 Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
 dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
 Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
 born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
 By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
 by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charley Wesley, 1744. Music: *HYFRYDOL*, RH Prichard, 1830; harm. R Vaughan Williams, 1906.

First Lesson

Reader The first lesson: the Prophecy, from Isaiah chapter 9, verses 6 and 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. 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.

♪ **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
 of Jesse's lineage coming, as seers of old have sung.
 It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter,
 when half spent was the night.
 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
 with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
 To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
 when half spent was the night.

Words: German carol, tr Theodore Baker, 1894, alt. Music: *ES IST EIN' ROS'*, 1599.

Second Lesson

Reader The second lesson: Mary and Gabriel, from Luke chapter 1, verses 26 through 28 -- In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

♪ **My Soul Gives Glory to My God**

My soul gives glory to my God; my heart pours out its praise.

God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is God's name.

All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.

From age to age to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.

Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied; the rich seem suddenly poor.

Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

Third Lesson

Reader The third lesson: the Holy Family, from Luke chapter 2, verses 1 and 4 through 7 -- In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should 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.

♪ **Once in Royal David's City**

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
 where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
 Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.
 He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
 and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:
 with the poor, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848, alt. Tune: *IRBY*, Henry John Gauntlett, 1849.

Fourth Lesson

Reader The fourth lesson: the Angels, from Luke chapter 2, verses 8 through 14 -- 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!"

♪ **Angels We Have Heard On High**

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Text: French carol, tr James Chadwick, 1860, alt. Tune: *GLORIA*, French carol.

Fifth Lesson

Reader The fifth lesson: the Shepherd, from Luke chapter 2, verses 15 through 20 -- 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.

♪ **Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;

oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Swiftly winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:

Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:

Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

Text: Polish carol, tr Edith M G Reed, 1920, alt. Tune: *W ZLOBIE LEZY*, Polish folk melody.

Sixth Lesson

Reader The sixth lesson: the Magi, from Matthew chapter 2, verses 1 through 11 -- In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

♪ **When Mary Hugged Her Newborn Son**

When Mary hugged her newborn son, she pondered all that God had done.

Could she know all her child would be-- the life he'd bring humanity?

When shepherds heard the angel's joy, they went to find that baby boy.

Could they see there in Bethlehem a friend to outcasts just like them?

When wise men came with gifts to share, they saw young Jesus playing there.

Could they behold in one so small God's gift most precious of them all?

God, make us faithful, humble, wise to know that Jesus changes lives.

May we be open to the way that he would change our lives today.

Seventh Lesson

Reader The seventh lesson: the Word, from John chapter 1, verses 1 through 5 and 10 through 14 -- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

♪ **Of the Father's Love Begotten**

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
 He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
 Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years may see,
 Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav'n adore him, angel hosts, his praises sing;
 Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King;
 Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring,
 Evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee with God the Father, and O Holy Ghost, to thee,
 Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be;
 Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
 Evermore and evermore!

Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th century; trnsl J M Neale, 1854, & H W Baker, 1859; alt. Music: *DMNUM MYSTERIUM*, 11th century.

Sermon

Prayers of the People *adapted from The Rev Bosco Peters (Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, & Polynesia)*

Reader God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word in our flesh.

People **May your word of compassion and reconciliation resound in us and through us.**

Reader In this holy night angels proclaimed the peace of your unconquered Sun of Righteousness.

People **Strengthen all who work for peace and justice.**

Reader In this holy night you came to us in a child cradled in a borrowed bed of straw as there was no room in the inn.

People **Open our hearts to the needs of the homeless and the hungry.**

Reader In this holy night shepherds and outcasts heard your good news.

People **Give us grace to spread your gospel of joy and liberation.**

Reader In this holy night we rejoice at the coming of this time of re-creation.

People **Be with those who travel, enrich our rejoicing, and strengthen the bonds between us.**

Reader On this holy night Christians the world over are celebrating Christ's birth.

People **Unite us in one family that we may shine with the one light that scatters all our darkness.**

Reader In this holy night your living Word leaped down, shedding light on all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

People **Give strength and peace to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.**

Reader In this holy night heaven and earth embrace and in your true child you give us power to be your children. Fulfill in your love all who have gone before us in the faith.

People **May we, like them, remain faithful to the mystery of the Word made flesh and live in your eternal light.**

Reader Hear these prayers we bring to you and fulfill your purposes in us, in the name of Jesus, your incarnate Word.

People **God of love, grant our prayer. AMEN!**

Passing the Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Invitation to Communion

from the Iona Community, Scotland

Celebrant The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; come.

♪ Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!

Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;

with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;

late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity.

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

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.. Music: *MENDELSSOHN*, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840.

Offering Our Gifts

Celebrant Gifts and offerings may be mailed to the church, dropped off in the church mail slot, or sent through your bank. There are also online giving options on our web site at mySJEC.com/donate. We are grateful for your continued financial support of our ministry and mission.

Celebrant Inspire us to always share your love through action, O God:

People **Strengthen us to always be an inviting safe community for all.**

Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

♪ **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord** Setting: from *Deutsche Mass*, Franz Schubert (1797-1828); arr Richard Proulx (b 1937).

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take... eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray to you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All **AMEN!**

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All **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, for ever and ever. AMEN!**

Breaking Bread

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

♪ Lamb of God

Setting: from Deutsche Mass, Franz Schubert (1797-1828); arr Richard Proulx (b 1937).

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Celebrant gives the invitation to spiritual communion to all participating near and far.

People **In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. AMEN!**

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Mysterious God, we thank you for feeding us with yourself, and for making yourself known to us in the holy child, Jesus the Christ. Let us carry within our hearts your Holy Spirit—that same Spirit which was in Jesus—so that we may help bring your Light, Peace, and Love to all the earth. We pray in the Name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. AMEN!**

Blessing

Celebrant May the joy of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, the worship of the wise men, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas season; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

People **Alleluia! AMEN!**

If you are able, please light a candle or other symbolic light at this time.

Service of Light

Celebrant In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

(John 1.1-5)

Celebrant Jesus Christ is the light of the world:

People **A light no darkness can quench.**

Celebrant Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening:

People **And the day is almost over.**

Celebrant Even the darkness is not dark for you:

People **And the night shines like the day.**

Celebrant Let your light scatter the darkness,

People **And fill your church with your glory.**

Celebrant The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light,

People **Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

Celebrant For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace.

People Alleluia! AMEN!

♪ **Silent Night, Holy Night**

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.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;

Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.!

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1816; trans John Freeman Young, 1863, alt. Music: *STILLE NACHT*, Franz X Gruber, 1818.

Sending

Celebrant "Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it," proclaims the ancient word; Light stands firm against the dark landscape of reality, warmth prances in rooms too long drafty. Each of us holds a flickering candle; seemingly insignificant one by one, yet magnificent when held together.

People Each of us makes a choice to stand in the Light, and to proclaim the indisputable presence of unquenchable Light. Light shines in the darkness—darkness cannot overcome it.

Celebrant Go forth bearing the Light of Christ to the world! Alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!



St James Episcopal Church, 434 North 8th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220

If you have any questions, concerns, or pastoral needs, please call The Rev Diane M Murray, Rector: 920.860.5152

Thank you for your support! Gifts may be mailed to the church or sent through your bank.

There are also online giving options on our web site at mySJEC.com/donate.

December's special offering supports the Rector's Discretionary Fund—please label accordingly.