



# **Nativity of Our Lord**

## **December 24, 2023**

### **7:00 PM**

**Abiding Love Lutheran Church**

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# Nativity of Our Lord

## December 24, 2023

### 7:00 PM

#### PRELUDE

“Hope Was Born This Night”

Tonight I can see a star shine  
And its splendor fills up the sky  
It's the same that appeared  
And the wise men revered  
When hope was born this night

Out upon the snowy fields  
There's a silent peace that heals  
And it echoes the grace  
Of our Savior's embrace  
Because hope was born this night

*Chorus:*

Glory to God in the highest  
Peace on earth  
Good will toward men  
Let all of the world  
Sing a chorus of joy  
Because hope was born this night

I can hear the Christmas bells ring  
As softly a church choir sings  
It's the song used to praise  
The Ancient of Days  
When hope was born this night

There are angels in this place  
And my heart resounds with the praise  
Like a shepherd so scared  
I'll rejoice and declare  
That hope was born this night *(Repeat Chorus)*

Gloria gloria  
Gloria gloria  
Gloria gloria  
Gloria gloria

*Repeat Chorus 2x*

I know hope was born this night  
Because Christ was born this night

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

"O Come All Ye Faithful" ELW #283 v. 1-3

1. O come all ye faithful  
Joyful and triumphant  
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold Him  
Born the King of angels

*Chorus*

O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord

2. The highest, most holy  
Light of light eternal,  
Born of a virgin a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! *(Repeat Chorus)*

3. Sing Choirs of angels  
Sing in exultation  
O sing all ye bright  
Hosts of heav'n above  
Glory to God  
In the highest. *(Repeat Chorus)*

## LUKE 2: 1-7

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> 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.

## SONG

## "Joseph's Song"

## LUKE 2: 8-15

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup> 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."

## SONG

## "O Little Town of Bethlehem" ELW #279

O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight

How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is giv'n  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but, in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still,  
the dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Immanuel!

For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king,  
and peace to all the earth!

## LUKE 2: 16-20

<sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.  
<sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## SONG

**"Mary Did You Know?"**

## LUKE 2: 25-33

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup> "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

## SONG

## "Jesus Come"

Jesus come Jesus come  
Come to us Jesus come  
Oh God, we are your people  
We wait in hope for you, Lord  
And though we lived in a shadowed land  
You have given us joy

Jesus come Jesus come  
Come to us Jesus come  
For you have lifted our burdens Lord  
And set Your people free  
Your enemies are defeated now  
Your glory forever will be

Jesus come Jesus come  
Come to us Jesus come  
A child is given to us, oh God  
A mighty ruler He'll be  
A wonderful Counselor Mighty God  
Our Father Prince of Peace

Jesus come Jesus come  
Come to us Jesus come

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

God of compassion, **Hear our prayer.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**“Sound the Trumpet”**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** *(Spoken together)*

The grace of God be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts to God.

**We lift up our hearts in anticipation.**

Let us give thanks and praise to God.

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

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** *(Spoken together)*

Holy, holy, holy One, God of love and radiant light.

Blessed are You who comes from God,

We sing Your praises through heaven and earth

Holy are You, hosanna. Blessed One, hosanna.

3

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**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.

4

*All are welcome to celebrate communion at Abiding Love. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. Take a cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white) from the tray. Children and adults not communing are welcome to receive a blessing. Please follow the direction of the ushers.*

## COMMUNION SONG

## "The First Noel"

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

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. *(Refrain)*

## COMMUNION SONG

## "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heav'n's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heav'nly music floats  
o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hov'ring wing,  
and ever o'er its babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.



For lo the days are hast'ning on  
By prophet seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Shall come the time foretold  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And all the world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

## COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE LIGHT SHINES FORTH

*A candle is lit, symbolizing Christ, the Light of the world. Ushers will light their candles then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. **Please hold the lighted candle upright at all times, bringing the unlit candle to it to give light to another.***

## JOHN 1: 1-14

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was with God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> 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.

## SONG

"Silent Night" ELW #281

- 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 your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.
- 4 Silent night, holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light  
With the angels, let us sing  
Alleluia to our King  
Christ, the Savior, is born,  
Christ, the Savior, is born.

## BLESSING

Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge that God is always coming into the world.

**We will seek God, not in a long ago stable or ancient manger, but in the people we meet and the depths of our own hearts.**

May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others; may the peace of the season be in all that you do.

**We will welcome the challenge of discipleship.**

**We will offer ourselves as God's ministers.**

**We will go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love.**

**SENDING SONG**

**"Joy to the World" ELW #267 v. 1,2,4**

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.

4. 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.

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

**PROCLAIMING OUR MISSION AND SHARING GOD'S PEACE**

**POSTLUDE**

**SERVING IN WORSHIP  
DECEMBER 24, 2023**

**Presiding Minister**

Pastor Brad Highum

**Communion Assistants**

(5:00) Jeff Roberts, Lacye Matejowsky

(7:00) Rosa Hatfield, Kurt & Robbie Lowe

**Tech**

(5:00) Jan Haas

**Ushers**

(5:00) Willie Haas , Marvin Haddock,  
and TJ Shoaf

(7:00) Karin & Lloyd Matthys

**Altar Guild**

(5:00) Denise Alaimo

(7:00) Tricia Slovacek & Coleen  
Thompson

**Music**

(5:00) Gus Sterneman, Stephanie  
Morrison

(7:00) Mixed Blessings

**Storytellers**

(5:00) Delaney Matejowsky, Jeff Roberts,  
Mabry Roberts, Parker Bryant, Pat Dove



# Christmas Poinsettias



Thank you to the following individuals and families who have purchased poinsettias this season:

The Atwell Family: Remembering Irving and Marian Njus

—  
Jan Haas

—  
Marvin & Drenda Haddock: in honor of their granddaughters Sadie, Emma, and Harper Haddock

—  
Nan & Bill Hatcher: in thanksgiving for our many blessings

—  
Tom & Joan Hokanson: in remembrance of Ernst & Mathilde Lindig, Steven Lindig, Jerry Hokanson, & Adrian Pruneda

—  
Emily Lawson: in remembrance of Dorothy Schultz

—  
Robbie & Kurt Lowe: celebration of family and friends

—  
Lloyd & Karin Matthys: celebration of family

—  
Paul & Amelia Mettke: in remembrance of our parents and children

—  
Greta Rymal: in remembrance of Joe Rymal, Cheryl Henry and Rex & Irene Medcalf

—  
Ruth Shane: in remembrance of Jonathan, Eleanor, and Miles Kight

—  
The Taylor Family: remembering Marilyn Taylor

—  
Bob & Kim Thonhoff: in celebration of grandchildren Roland, Raimund, and Hazel Thonhoff

—  
Lee & Georgia Wood: in celebration of grandchildren Regan, Morgan, Caden, Harper, and Bowen

—  
Andrea & Terry Wyatt: in remembrance of Frank & Bernadette Valis

