

# Christmas Eve Worship

5:00 & 7:00 p.m.

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## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

## GATHERING SONGS:

### “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” [Hymn #257 verse 1]

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

#### *Chorus*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

### “O Come, All Ye Faithful” [Hymn #283]



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! *Chorus*

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*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: *Chorus*

#### *Chorus*

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing: *Chorus*

## CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

P: God of unimaginable love,  
on the first Christmas You became one  
of us.

**All: We celebrate Your love for every  
person in every place and time.**

P: God of all humanity,  
You offered Your Peace to anyone  
who would be satisfied with Your  
presence.

**All: We celebrate Your Peace in Your  
Church and accept Your commission  
to share it in all the world.**

P: God of the shepherds,  
You announced Your arrival among us to the poorest, the most humble.

**All: We celebrate Your good news to each of us and to everyone,  
right here where we are.**

P: God of the manger,  
You came to us through Your Son in a small and simple place.

**All: We celebrate Your presence with us this day  
in this small place made glorious by Your being in it.**

P: God of Christmas,  
bless us as we once again celebrate Your coming into Your creation.

**All: Amen.**



## CAROL OF PRAISE:

### “Angels from the Realms of Glory” [Hymn #275 verse 1]



- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

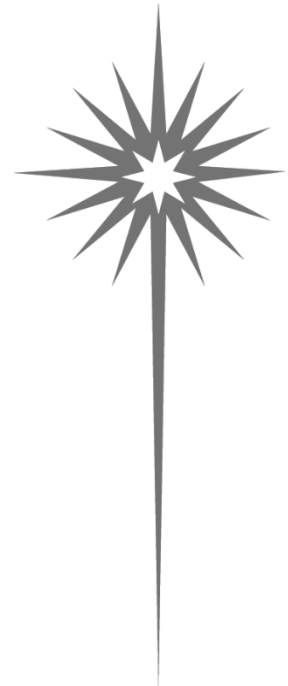
Creator God, by your greatness you became small, by your power you became powerless. Through your birth into creation, let us live in your light that shines on a world transformed by the limitless power of your love. Amen.

## FIRST READING: Hebrews 1:1-3

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**



## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

### **“Angels We Have Heard on High” [hymn #289]**

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

#### *Chorus*

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song?  
*Chorus*

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

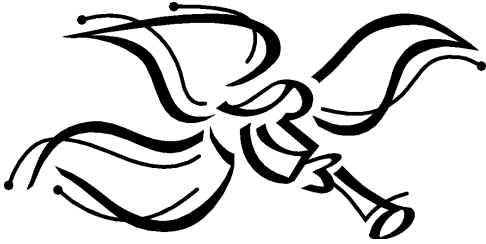
## **GOSPEL:** Luke 2:1-14

<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.

<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!"

## SERMON

GOSPEL CAROL: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" [Hymn #270]



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!

*Chorus*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn king!

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Chorus*

3 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. *Chorus*

## PRAYERS

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict. This year, we pray in particular for all in the holy land, for Syria, for Sudan, and for Ukraine. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

Sung during offering:

### **"It Came upon the Midnight Clear" [Hymn #282]**

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow:  
look now, for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing!
- 4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,  
by prophets 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.

## HOLY COMMUNION

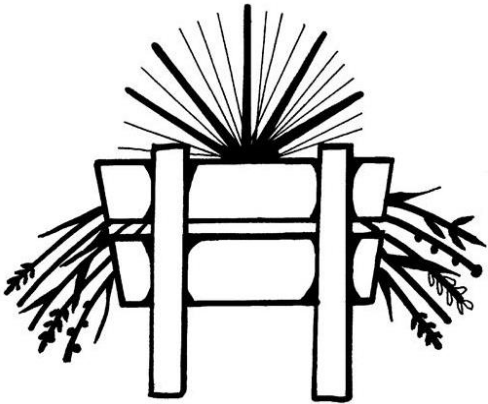
### LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

### COMMUNION SONGS

“What Child Is This?”

[Hymn #296]



- 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 Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 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!

## “Away In A Manger” [Hymn #277]

- 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.

## “The First Noel [Hymn #300]

- 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.

### *Chorus*

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

- 2 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.

### *Chorus*

- 3 And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.

### *Chorus*

- 4 This star drew near to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.

### *Chorus*

- 5 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. *Chorus*



## “The Bells of Christmas” [Hymn #298]



- 1 The bells of Christmas chime once more;  
the heav'nly guest is at the door.  
He comes to earthly dwellings still  
with new year gifts of peace, good will.
- 2 This world, though wide and far outspread,  
could scarcely find for you a bed.  
Your cradle was a manger stall,  
no pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.
- 3 Now let us go with quiet mind,  
the swaddled babe with shepherds find,  
to gaze on him who gladdens them,  
the loveliest flow'r of Jesse's stem.
- 4 Oh, join with me, in gladness sing,  
to keep our Christmas with our king,  
until our song, from loving souls,  
like rushing mighty water rolls!
- 5 O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,  
O Dayspring bright, awaited long,  
O Son of Man, incarnate Word,  
great David's Son, great David's Lord:
- 6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,  
and keep your Christmas in our breast;  
then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,  
shall swell our jubilee of song.

### **THE GOSPEL OF INCARNATION:** John 1:1-5

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was 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.



**SPECIAL MUSIC: “O Holy Night” [Solo]**

## **CANDLELIGHT CAROL:**

### **“Silent Night” [Hymn #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

## **SENDING CAROL: “Joy to the World” [Hymn #267]**

- 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 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.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow 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.
- 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.

P: Go in peace, Christ is with you.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Credits for this Worship Service**

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Christmas Dialogue written by Brad Offutt for the 2008 Christmas services at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Port Townsend, Washington.