

STORM LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DECEMBER 24, 2023
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
COLOR: WHITE

PRELUDE

"Christmas Fantasy"
"Gesu Bambino"
"What Child Is This"
"O Come All Ye Faithful"

Deanna Larson, organist
F. Freeman
P. Yon
arr. N. Johnson
R. Schulz-Widmar

WELCOME

Please stand and join in singing...

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful (1-3)"

UMH # 234

-Verse 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

-Verse 2-

True God of true God
Light from Light Eternal
Lo he shuns not the Virgin's womb
Son of the Father
Begotten not created

-Chorus-

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

-Verse 3-

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
O sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God all
Glory in the highest

-Chorus-

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

Please join in the Call to Worship and read responsively...

Liturgists: (3:00) Marjean O'Bannon (5:00) Katie Lindgren (7:00) Joan Rude

*CALL TO WORSHIP

- L: Dear friends, you are in the presence of the Light.
P: **We greet the Wondrous Light, our Messiah, Christ the Lord.**
L: We have waited and watched, longing for God to show up and save us from the suffering and pain in our world.
P: **We greet the Wondrous Light, the fulfillment of our shocking hope.**
L: We have waited and watched, longing for peace to reign among us, a peace that removes unjust barriers, frees us from sin, and binds us together as neighbors, family, and friends. Be merciful on the people of Palestine and Israel. Shine your light upon them.
P: **We greet the Wondrous Light, the bringer of our just peace.**
L: We have waited and watched, longing for joy that is persistent in the face of the grief, lament, chaos, and oppression that weigh on us day in and day out.
P: **We greet the Wondrous Light, the source of our fierce joy.**
L: We have waited and watched, longing to encounter the love that transforms us, the Love that is now here among us, first as a babe in a manger, then as a teacher, a friend, and our Savior. Show up among Palestinians and Israelis.
P: **We greet the Wondrous Light, Love Incarnate who has come to save us and transform us. Amen.**

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock and adapted by Rev. Kiboko I. Kiboko)

Please join in the...

Liturgists: (3:00) Marjean O'Bannon (5:00) Katie Lindgren (7:00) Joan Rude

*OPENING PRAYER

Emmanuel, God-with-us most of all tonight, your light lifts up our hearts, our spirits, and our voices. We give you thanks for your birth long ago and presence with us always. Your hope is more trustworthy than our promises. Your peace is deeper than our prayers. Your joy teaches us to sing even when we want to cry. Your love is wider than the chorus of the galaxies, and yet your Star shines on us now in this church which has become a manger. Amen.

(Written by Maren C. Tirabassi, in Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, Updated, eds. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2012), 21.)

*GLORIA PATRI

"Glory Be to the Father"

UMH # 70

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning
Is now, and ever shall be
World without end.
Amen, Amen

You may be seated...

Liturgists: (3:00) Marjean O'Bannon (5:00) Katie Brostad (7:00) Joan Rude

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38

Please join in the...

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

"Away in a Manger"

UMH #217

Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

-Verse 2-

The cattle are lowing the Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes
I love Thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh

-Verse 3-

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there

Liturgists: (3:00) Marjean O'Bannon

(5:00) Katie Brostad

(7:00) Joan Rude

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-45

Please join in the...

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

"What Child Is This"

UMH #219

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

-Refrain-

This this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste haste to bring Him laud
The Babe the Son of Mary

-Verse 2-

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding
Good Christians fear for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading

-Refrain-

This this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste haste to bring Him laud
The Babe the Son of Mary

-Verse 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
(continued...)

-Refrain-
This this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste haste to bring Him laud
The Babe the Son of Mary

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

(3:00) Cory & Alicia Gatzemeyer, Hannah and Haylee
(5:00) Matt & Anna Phillips, Aiden, Peyton and Natelyn
(7:00) Patrick and Brayden Lyle

Reader 1: To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared,

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. (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Reader 2: Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

ALL: We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kingdom.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! Amen.

(Light all five candles of the Advent wreath.)

SPECIAL MUSIC (3:00) Linda Baier with Children's Handbells
(5:00) Shelby O'Bannon, soloist Deanna Larson, accompanist
"Breath of Heaven"

Liturgists: (3:00) Marjean O'Bannon (5:00) Katie Brostad (7:00) Joan Rude
THE GOSPEL READING Luke 1:46-56

(3:00) Congregation (5:00) Congregation (7:00) Matt Collins, vocal solo w/Ted Hoffman, guitar
HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High (1-4)" **UMH # 238**

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
(continued...)

-Chorus-
Gloria
In excelsis Deo
Gloria
In excelsis Deo

-Verse 2-
Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song

-Chorus-
Gloria
In excelsis Deo
Gloria
In excelsis Deo

-Verse 3-
Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

-Chorus-
Gloria
In excelsis Deo
Gloria
In excelsis Deo

-Verse 4-
See Him in a manger laid
Whom the choirs of angels praise
Mary Joseph lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise

-Chorus-
Gloria
In excelsis Deo
Gloria
In excelsis Deo

Liturgists: (3:00) Marjean O'Bannon
THE GOSPEL READING

(5:00) Katie Brostad
Luke 2:1-7

(7:00) Joan Rude

SPECIAL MUSIC (3:00)

Melanie Hauser, soloist
"O Holy Night"

Deanna Larson, accompanist

(5:00)

Shelby O'Bannon, soloist
"Mary Did You Know"

Deanna Larson, accompanist

(7:00)

Matt Collins, soloist
"Mary Did You Know"

Ted Hoffman, guitar

REFLECTION ON CHRISTMAS

THE INVITATION TO GIVING *-offering plates by the communion rails-*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. From the silence before creation, your Word spoke all that is into being. You saw the darkness and called forth light, dividing the day from the night, and giving each its name and your blessing. We abused your blessing,

P: **choosing to control rather than tend, to consume rather than nourish, to turn away from your light, and turn your darkness into a hiding place, a place of fear and shame.**

L: Still you chose to bless us and redeem us, calling us to restored fellowship through prophets, leaders, and faithful people.
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

P: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, 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.**

L: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. From the darkness of a stable, You brought forth the light of the world, He carried Your light into every darkened corner, calling those kept in darkness to rejoice in your love, and exposing those who hid from Your Truth to the light of your righteous judgment. By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

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

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."

(continued...)

And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

P: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

L: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them to be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ in his sufferings, one with each other in mutual love, and one in ministry to all the world with healing grace, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, With the Holy Spirit in your holy church, All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.
Amen.

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE 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. Amen.

The pastor breaks the bread ...

L: Alleluia! In the midst of our longest night, Christ our Savior dwells among us!

P: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Liturgists: (3:00) Marjean O'Bannon (5:00) Katie Lindgren (7:00) Joan Rude

OFFERTORY PRAYER (In Unison)

Glorious God, we sing with the angels to celebrate the tremendous gift of your Son Jesus! We rejoice with gladness. You give us wonderful joy and peace in our Savior. May we exult in your goodness with the exhilaration of children opening presents. As we bring our offerings, we ask that our lives would reflect your joy and generosity. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Luke 2)

Introduction to candles

At this time, the Pastor and ushers will come to the end of each row and light the candle of the first person there. Pass the light to the person next to you, and so on. The lit candle remains upright. The candle being lit will tilt to the lit candle.

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night"**

UMH # 239

-Verse 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

-Verse 2-

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

-Verse 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

-Verse 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

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Kiboko I. Kiboko

POSTLUDE

"Joy to the World"

Deanna Larson, organist
G.F. Handel