

Peace Lutheran Church

Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025, 4:00 p.m.



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND WELCOME!

Thank you for joining in Worship today.

Whether you regularly worship with us, are here for the first time, or are returning after a time away, your presence is important for the worship we offer to the glory of God. May your experience of God's love be a blessing in your life. If you are visiting with us, please sign the guest register in the Narthex, near the front door. All are welcome at Jesus' table. The center ring in the communion tray has grape juice and the other two rings have wine.

Information in italics | **Congregation responses in bold** | * indicates please stand as you are able
Worship services may involve photography, as well as audio and video recording.

Welcome & Announcements to Prepare Us for Worship

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Christ Candle

* Christmas Dialog

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

The light no darkness can overcome.

We gather tonight to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven".

In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.



***Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

***The Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray...**Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷ 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.

...the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



(remain seated)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

...the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

* Gospel Acclamation

* *He Came Down*

He came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope;
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace; (repeat)
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have joy; (repeat)
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have love; (repeat)
hallelujah forevermore.

***Gospel: Luke 2:1-20**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter...**Glory to you, O Lord.**



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

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were

terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”



¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord... **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon – Pastor Carol Jeunnette



*** *What Child is This***

ELW 296

***Prayers of Intercession**

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need. (*A brief silence.*)

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming.

Each petition ends with: Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for Dianna Shamel, Michael Knaption, Bill Goulding, Lynn and Phil Klein.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Share the peace with each other as you are comfortable.

Musical Offering *O Holy Night* – Kerry Bieneman

***Offering Prayer**

Let us pray... **God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

***The Eucharist**



***Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

God of all times and places...

...imagination He inspires and we sing...



In the Bleak Midwinter (vs 1)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

We remember Jesus...

...even those who gave him over to death, and we sing...



In the Bleak Midwinter (vs 2)

Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord... God almighty, Jesus Christ.

In the night in which He was betrayed...

...Do this for the remembrance of me.



In the Bleak Midwinter (vs 3)

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

***Come to us, life-giving Spirit of God. Bless us, these gifts, and what we do here, so that we might sing your song of love for your people and for your world.**

***The Lord's Prayer (traditional)**

***Invitation to Communion**

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy.
(please be seated)



Away in a Manger

ELW 277

Please come forward as you are able to receive communion.

Prayer after Communion

God of shepherds and kings, you gather us by the light of the star of promise. You lead us not only to hope for the future, but to trust in your presence and renewal of life in every time and place. Guide us this night, by the light of that same star. Lead us to the mangers of this world, where uncertainty is met with the renewal life and the transformation of this world is most deeply felt, in love, one with another. Be with us on this most wondrous of nights, we ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Service of Light

Pastor Carol lights candle from Christ Candle; ushers will distribute the light to others. Please keep the lit candle upright.

A reading from the Gospel of John, the first chapter.



“Silent 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.



** Joy to the World*

ELW 267

(ring your bells through verses 1 and 4)

***Blessing**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. And may the Almighty God, Father, son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***Dismissal**

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Grow in joy and peace.

Thanks be to God.

Offering - Please place your gifts in the basket at the back of the Sanctuary.

Church Website: www.peacelutheranburlington.org

Church Email: peacelca@gmail.com

Pastor Carol's email: pastorcarol.peace@gmail.com

+++++

*Worship Assistants for today – Council member in charge: Bev
Stobber, Lector: Bill & Elsie Goulding, Marilyn Hart, Communion
Assistant: Bev Stobber, Tech: Sean McGinty*