

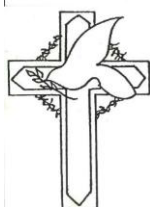
# ***Living Christ Lutheran Church (L.C.M.S.)***

***Faith | Love | Outreach | Worship***

726 Moon Road, Plainfield, IN 46168 (317) 839-4800 (317-450-7505 cell)

Pastor Steven D Latzke 574-261-4427

[www.livingchristplainfield.com](http://www.livingchristplainfield.com)



## ***Christmas Eve Candlelight – December 24, 2025***

**THE HEART**

CIAL TALK:

LOVE  
MADE  
FLESH



### **As We Gather**

It is at the darkest time of the year that we celebrate that “to us a child is born, to us a son is given” (Isaiah 9:6). Tonight we remember “God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people” (Titus 2:11). Jesus came into the darkness of our world, as He was born of Mary, to redeem us. God shines a great light on all who live in this land of deep darkness tonight to increase our joy. He is called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). We celebrate the birth of the One who rules with justice and righteousness now and forever.

### ***Living Christ for Kids***

*Christian educational childcare for infants thru 11 years - Mrs. Kim Willis, Director  
317-837-9998*

**Visitors, we welcome you** and thank you for being with us tonight. May we be a blessing to you and you to us. Please come again soon to receive with us God’s gifts of forgiveness, peace and life in the name of Jesus Christ.

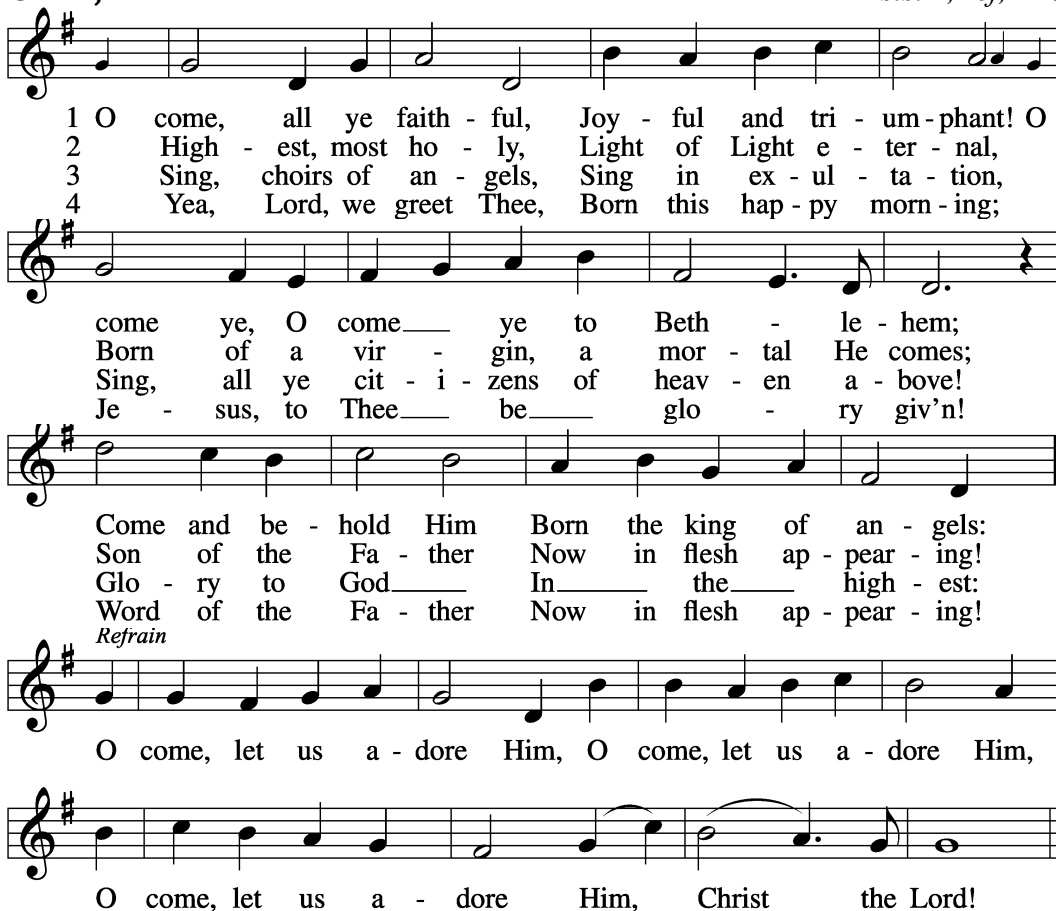
Join us tomorrow at 10:00 am – Christmas Day – to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Holy Communion will be celebrate.

Offering: Please place your offering in the offering plate in the back.  
Ringing of the Bell --Candles lit by Acolytes

## PREPARATION

### 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

*sts. 1, ref, 2-4*



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!

Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God In the high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,

O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-80, alt.  
domain

Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786

Text and tune: Public

### Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

### Opening Sentences

*Isaiah 9:2; Luke 2:8-9*

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
C **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light  
shined.**

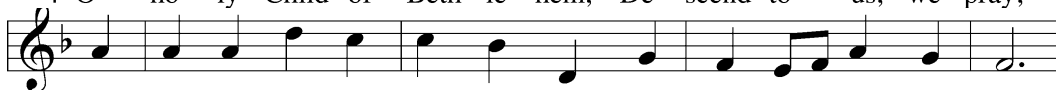
P There were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

C **And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.**

### 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.  
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93

Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

Text and tune: Public domain

### Confession and Absolution

*Luke 2:10, 14*

P Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,

C **we gather on this not-so-silent night to celebrate the birth of the One who brings us peace. Yet, we are not at peace with You, with one another, or with ourselves. Our sinfulness can cause us to be filled with fear. For the sake of Jesus, the Child who was born and the Son who was given to redeem us from all**

**lawlessness, purify us as Your people and make us zealous for good works.**

P The angel said to the shepherds, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people.” So, as God’s servant, I say to you, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy.” As a called and ordained servant in Christ’s church and with His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Let us join our voices with the multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

C **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!” Jesus in flesh born for us**

### 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*sts. 1, ref*

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”  
Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”

*Refrain*  
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47

Text and tune: Public domain

### Introit

*Psalm 2:1–2, 4–6; antiphon: Liturgical Text*

P When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

-P The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His anointed. He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying, "As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill."

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne. **Jesus in flesh born for us**

### 366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

*sts. 1, 3-4*



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,  
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,  
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:  
When down in-to the cir-cle years Came Christ as was fore-told.



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king."  
Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,  
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an-cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.  
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.  
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

### Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, we praise and thank You for bringing salvation for all people. Train us as we wait for our blessed hope that will come when You appear again in glory at the end of the age; for You live and rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

C **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Micah 5:2–5a*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;

then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the  
LORD,

in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup> And he shall be their peace.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## 387 Joy to the World

*sts. 1-2*



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -



King; Let ev - 'ry and heart pre - pare Him  
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748      Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.      Text and tune: Public domain

## Psalm

*Psalm 96*

- P Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!  
**Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.**  
 Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!  
**For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.**  
 For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.
- P Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.  
**Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!**  
 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts!  
**Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth!**

**Love: Jesus in flesh born for us**

# 387 Joy to the World

sts. 3-4

3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -  
flow ness Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748      Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.      Text and tune: Public domain

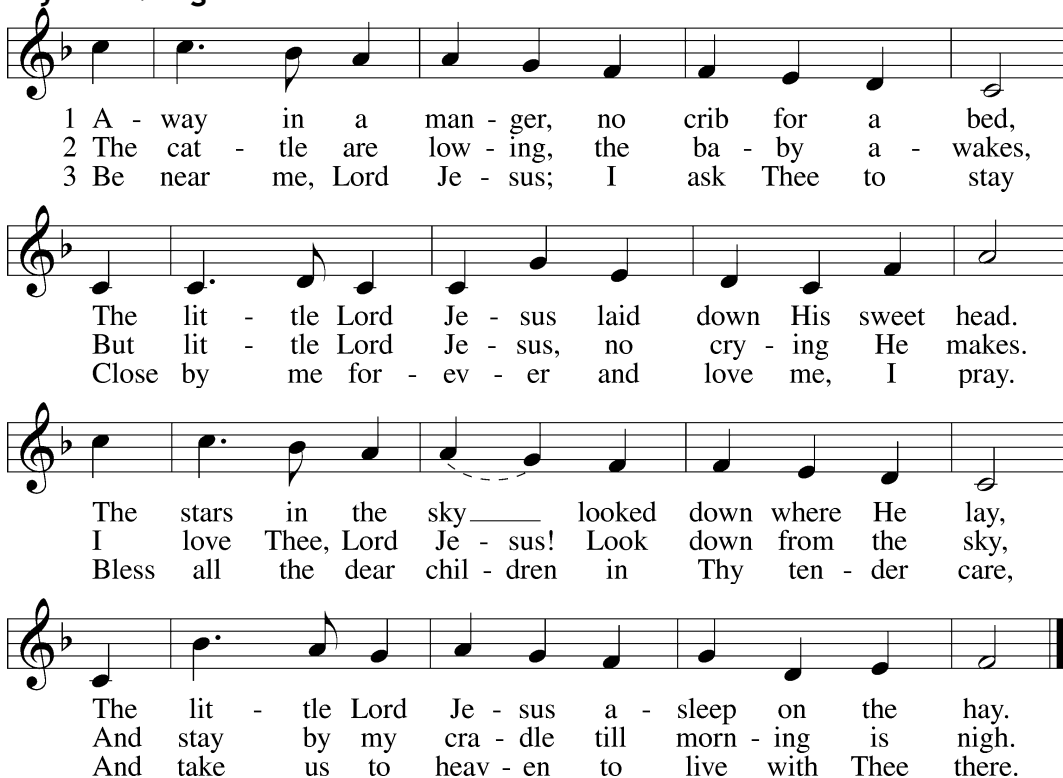
## Psalm

- P Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established;  
it shall never be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity.”  
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar,  
and all that fills it;  
let the field exult, and everything in it!
- P Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for  
He comes,  
for He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in  
righteousness,  
and the peoples in His faithfulness.

**Love: Jesus in flesh born for us**



### 364 Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.  
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.  
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1-2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.  
Tune: James R. Murray, 1841-1905  
Text and tune: Public domain

### Verse

*Luke 2:11*

P Alleluia.

C **For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

P Alleluia.

### Holy Gospel

*Matthew 1:18-25*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her

quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ. Love: Jesus in flesh born for us**

### 382 We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth

*sts. 1, 7*



1 We praise You, Je - sus, at Your birth; Clothed in flesh You  
7 All this for us our God has done Grant - ing love through

came to earth. The vir - gin bears a sin - less boy  
His own Son. There - fore, all Chris - ten - dom, re - joice

And all the an - gels sing for joy. Al - le - lu - ia!  
And sing His praise with end - less voice. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text (st. 1): German, c. 1380; (st. 1): tr. Gregory J. Wismar, 1946; (st. 7): Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (st. 7): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006  
Tune: Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein, 1524, Erfurt  
Text: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110018662  
Tune: Public domain

Sermon

THE HEART LOVE MADE FLESH

## Prayer of the Church

- P To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder.
- C **Praise God from whom all blessings flow! The glory of the Lord has come down to us in Christ. Alleluia!**
- P O Wonderful Counselor,
- C **hear our prayers and grant us Your peace and favor.**
- P O Mighty God,
- C **give us eyes to see Your glory, ears to hear Your grace, and mouths to voice Your praise.**
- P O Everlasting Father,
- C **You sent Your Son into this world to be born of the virgin Mary, suffer under Pontius Pilate, be crucified, die, and be buried before rising to life again on the third day to redeem us from all lawlessness and purify for Yourself a people for Your own possession. We thank and praise You for making us Your people and making Your favor shine on us.**
- P O Prince of Peace,
- C **we ask that You give us the peace that surpasses all understanding, that we trust that You have come into our imperfect world to bring the perfect gift of salvation, which You have freely given to us.**

*Silence for personal prayer.*

- P Into Your hands, O gracious Lord, we place our prayers and praise. We place ourselves and our loved ones into Your care, trusting in Your mercy and coming to You with confidence, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God forever.
- C **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

- C **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.**

, alt.

Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

Text and tune: Public domain

### 370 What Child Is This

*sts. 1, 3*



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98

Tune: English, 16th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

### Closing Sentences

*Luke 2:17*

**P** Like the shepherds who were greeted by the angels, God has revealed the glory of the Lord to us.

**C** **And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.**

### 368 Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav' - n - ly song?  
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.

Text and tune: French

Text and tune: Public domain

### Candlelighting

**Pastor will light his candle from the Christ candle and then pass the light to the acolytes who will pass the light to the congregation.**

*(Please Note! Do not tip a lighted candle!*

*Only unlit candles should be tipped to receive light from a burning candle.)*

**P Love: Jesus in flesh born for us**

With renewing faith, growing hope, and expanding love on this most holy night, we sing "Silent Night, Holy Night."

### 363 Silent Night, Holy Night

sts. 1-3



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,  
 all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy  
 peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820-85

Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787-1863

Text and tune: Public domain

Closing Prayer

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### Benediction

*Romans 15:13*

**P** May the God of hope – Jesus in flesh born for us -- fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**C** **Amen.**

**Please wait for the extinguishing of the altar candles.**

## 392 God Loves Me Dearly

1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -  
 2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and  
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -  
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did  
 5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -

va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.  
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.  
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.  
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.  
 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

*Refrain*

There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me  
 dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Text: August Rische, 1819–1906; tr. Composite      Tune: German      Text and tune: Public domain

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