



**Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve 7:30 pm**

**As We Gather**

**Handbells Prelude " O Come All Ye Faithful"**

Today we shall turn our attention to the words of Mary in her great Magnificat, sung by the church for two millennia. Through this song, we hear the message of Jesus Christ, who has come to rescue us from our sin.

## Invocation

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

## Opening Sentences

*Isaiah 7:14; Jeremiah 33:16*

- A** And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world,  
**C** **And people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.**
- P** God is light!  
**C** **And in Him is no darkness at all.**
- A** If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in the darkness,  
**C** **We lie and do not practice the truth.**
- P** But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another  
**C** **And the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**
- A** Let us therefore come into His light and confess our sins.  
**C** **Lord, I confess that I have spent too much time hiding in the darkness, denying the reality of my sin, living a lie. Even as I have claimed to be Yours, in reality I have loved darkness more than Your light. I have been afraid to admit the truth that I am a sinner, that I have sinned against You in thought word and deed, by the evil things that I have done as well as by the good things I have failed to do. I need Your light to shine tonight into the dark places of my life, to expose the truth about my sin and even more importantly to make known the greater truth of Your forgiveness and love. By the light of Your grace forgive me and cleanse me of all my sin!**

**P** I have good news of great joy for you this night - a Savior has been born for you. He is Christ the Lord. Yes His light now shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it! Because of Him, our sins are all forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen!**

**A** So come this night, all ye faithful. Come and celebrate His birth!

**C O Come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord**

### **O Come, All Ye Faithful      LSB 379**

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: Refrain

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

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

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786  
Text: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

**A** The Lord be with You.

**C** **And also with You.**

**A** 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!**

## Reading

*Isaiah 40:9–11*

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,

**O Zion, herald of good news;**

lift up your voice with strength,

**O Jerusalem, herald of good news;**

lift it up, fear not;

**say to the cities of Judah,**

“Behold your God!”

<sup>10</sup>**Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,**

and his arm rules for him;

**behold, his reward is with him,**

and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>**He will tend his flock like a shepherd;**

he will gather the lambs in his arms;

**he will carry them in his bosom,**

and gently lead those that are with young.

## Away in a Manger LSB 364

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.

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 till morning is nigh.

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 take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children’s Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.

Text: Public domain

## The Christmas Gospel Part 1

*Luke 2:1–5*

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **"Darkness Covers Bethlehem" Choir**

### **The Christmas Gospel Part 2**

*Luke 2:6–7*

<sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### **Angels We Have Heard on High LSB 368**

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain

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

Text: Public domain

### **The Christmas Gospel Part 3**

*Luke 2:8–12*

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

### **"Welcome to Our World" Jennifer Rasch**

### **Christmas Gospel Part 4**

*Luke 2:13–14*

<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,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

### **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing LSB 380**

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

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 man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth. Refrain  
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## **The Christmas Gospel Part 5**

*Luke 2:15–20*

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## **What Child Is This LSB 370**

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!



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!

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!  
Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98  
Text: Public domain

## **Sermon** "Mary's Christmas Treasures- Her Firstborn Son"

### **Affirmation of Faith**

**P** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God begotten of the Father from all eternity and also true man, born of the virgin Mary is my Lord, who has redeemed me a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, death and the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with His holy precious blood and His innocent suffering and death; that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true. Amen.

## Offering "Gabriel's Oboe" Ken Wolski

### Prayer

#### **The Christmas Prayer of God's People**

**P** O God, as long ago you sent your angels to tell the shepherds Christ was born in Bethlehem: so You have come to our dark world this night to stir our hearts with their message of your love in Christ. Aided by your Spirit, grant that may we grow in faith and understanding of your purposes, and so be moved to wonder and to praise. Lord in Your mercy...

**C Hear our prayer**

**A** O God most joyful, on this night of expectant wonder, we have once again gone in spirit to Bethlehem and to the child whose birth was heralded by prophets, proclaimed by angels, and welcomed by shepherds. Open our eyes to see in that infant your loving purposes, and stir up within us the spirit of adoring praise. In the quietness of this hour, touch our hearts and minds with your Holy Spirit, that we may know again in true reality the wonder of your love in Jesus Christ; and though there was no room in Bethlehem's inn, make room for Yourself in the busy-ness of our daily life, that our lives may be filled with Christ's peace and share that peace with others. Lord in your mercy...

**C Hear our prayer**

**P** All thanks to you, generous God, for the gift of Your Son, our Savior Jesus, the light in our darkness and hope of the world, whom you have sent to save all humanity. With singing angels, let us praise your name, and spread everywhere the good news of His coming, that faith and salvation might take hold in the lives of more and more people. Lord in your mercy...

**C** **Hear our prayer**

**A** Lord, Remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray....

**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.**

## **The True Light has Come**

*John 1:9–14*

<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 was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## **Lighting of Candles**

## Benediction

- P** Arise! Shine! For your light has come  
**C** **And the glory of the Lord rises upon you.**  
**P** See, darkness covers the earth  
**C** **But the Lord rises upon you.**  
**P** And His glory appears over you.  
**C** **Nations will come to your light.**  
**P** **And Kings to the Brightness of your dawn**

## O Little Town of Bethlehem LSB 361

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.

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;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93

Text: Public domain

## Silent Night German verse first

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
    Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
    Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

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,  
Heav'nly 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.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85  
Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863

Text: Public domain  
Tune: Public domain

## **Benediction**

- A** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C Amen.**

## **Joy to the World LSB 387**

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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows 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.

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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Text: Public domain

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