

ORDER OF WORSHIP
AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH – December 26th, 2021
LESSONS AND CAROLS
DECEMBER-FEBRUARY WORSHIP 8:30AM

PRELUDE BY SHIRLEY BERGMAN

Lessons and Carols for Christmas

Gathering Dialogue

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.**

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lessons and Carols(1st and 2nd verses only)

Isaiah 9:2-7 *God promises a king*

O come, all ye faithful ELW 283

- 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:

Refrain

- O come, let us adore him,
- O come, let us adore him,

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

- 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! *Refrain*

Micah 5:2-5a *The king will come from Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem ELW 279

- 1 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.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!

Luke 1:26-35, 38 *The annunciation to Mary*

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice ELW 288

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!
- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice

with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Luke 2:1-7 *The birth of Jesus*

Infant holy, infant lowly ELW 276

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

- 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

Luke 2:8-16 *The shepherds go to see the Savior*

What child is this ELW 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!

Luke 2:21-36 *Jesus receives his name*

Away In A Manger ELW 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.

Matthew 2:1-11 *The magi follow the star*

The First Noel ELW 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.

Refrain

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. *Refrain*

Matthew 2:13-18 *The slaughter of the holy innocents*

In the Bleak Midwinter ELW 294

- 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.

- 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.

John 1:1-14 *The mystery of the incarnation*
The Bells of Christmas ELW 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You come to us in gatherings of your church across the globe. Unite us with those who celebrate your birth even when they are weighed down by grief, loss, poverty, hunger, or injustice. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You come to us in the diverse splendor of the universe. Grant us the humility to trust our place in the network of creation, that we live in service to you and the natural world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we recognize the Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You come to us through people whom the world forgets. Poor shepherds and an imprisoned Paul announced your good news. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in any need this day, especially those we name in our hearts. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You come to us in acts of justice and forgiveness. Open our hearts to forgive one another, without permitting injustice. Supply us with the wisdom to be clothed with love, binding all things together in perfect harmony. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You come to us through those who have died yet live with you forever. We give thanks for Stephen, deacon and martyr, who gave his life to tell the story of your love. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Hymn: Angels, from the Realms of Glory, ELW 275 (All verses)

- 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.

- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

4 All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Responsive Prayer

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace.
You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.
You share our humanity.

**Have mercy on the sick, the dying,
and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God.
You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament
that we may bear your light to all the world.**

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.**

Blessing

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song: Hark! The herald angels sing, ELW 270 (All verses)

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!"

Refrain

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! Refrain

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. Refrain

Dismissal

Go in peace to serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

And have fun doing it!

We will! Amen!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Worship time is 8:30 AM December 5-February 27.

ALC Christmas offering designation: All ALC Christmas offering envelopes and offerings will be split 50/50 between **Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach** (which funds an ELCA Lutheran Chaplain at the University of Iowa Hospital) and ALC member **Stephanie Winkelpleck** (to help with her medical expenses for Acute Myeloid Leukemia). **Caring Bridge** link:

<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/stephaniewittwinkelpleck>.

Financial gifts & designations: December is a great time to reflect on your regular giving, and to consider increasing the amount that you regularly give to God through the church, as well as how much you designate to various ministries. Anything designated "Mission Support (Benevolence)" goes to support the ministries of the Northeastern Iowa Synod. Anything designated "Improvement" goes to support property upkeep and improvements to the church building and parsonage. Anything designated "Current," as well as anything undesignated, goes to support the general operating expenses of the congregation. Thank you for your continued generosity in all of these areas!

ALC Committees: Council will be looking to fill committee openings for 2022. Please consider sharing your time and talents as we try to establish a three-year rotation. We currently have openings on **Property, Technology, Hospitality, Worship and Music.**

Prayer Shawl meets Tuesdays, 10 AM - noon. Enjoy fellowship while knitting and crocheting. New members welcome. The shawls and blankets are shared with those who are ill, grieving, and in need of comfort.

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief: We will take a break during December. Please talk to Sharon McAtee, Kaye Jones, or Mary Adams if you are interested

in this ministry. Our next work day is January 10, 2022 at 1:00 PM. We gather every second and fourth Monday to cut, pin, sew, iron, and tie quilts. Come join us!

Sheets for Quilting needed: Sheets for quilt backs can be put in the back pew. Thanks for your help.

Mobile Giving App If you give your regular contributions using Give Plus App, we have been notified that they will stop supporting the Give Plus app as of January 31, 2022. You should download the new app called Vanco Mobile to continue using. Note: your username and password will remain the same, and any recurring payments you have scheduled will continue in the new app. **If you do not currently have anything setup, now is a great time to download the Vanco Mobile app and start your recurring giving today.**

ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY:

Music: Shirley Bergman

Usher: The Borlands

Reader: Maureen Even

THIS WEEK AT ALC

Sunday December 26th:

8:30am Worship– Lessons and Carols

Tuesday December 28th:

10 am- 12pm Prayer Shawl

Sunday January 2nd:

8:30am Worship/Sunday School Christmas Program

BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance: 12/19/21–18

12/24/21– 61

Current: \$18329.61

Offering: 12/19/21

Current: \$1,980

Benevolence: \$107

Improvement: \$435

Non Synod Benevolence: \$200

Offering: 12/24/21

Current: \$3,505.00

Benevolence: \$2,020.00

Lutheran Chaplaincy: \$1,027.00

Non Synod Benevolence: \$1,157.00