

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church  
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

4:00 p.m. Service

Christmas Eve Family Service

**Introduction to this Blessed Night:** On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh - in Christ's body and blood - so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

✧ O Come All Ye Faithful ✧

Prelude

Christmas Greeting

Pastor Karen Natterstad

*Gathering*

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Opening Litany

In the hustle of Bethlehem, you quietly come to a stable where animals reside, O God.

**We welcome you into the world, Baby Jesus.**

The gift we celebrate today is the Light of the World, born in humble Bethlehem.

**Let us spread the light of God's love in Bethlehem to the people gathered here.**

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God

**Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Opening Carol

**#283 Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful**

Greeting

Good news of great love, joy, and hope be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Dear God, we thank you this night for the gift of your Son, who comes to save the world from sin. Help us to love as Jesus loves and spread the good news to all the world. This we pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our newborn King.

**Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

Praise Kids! Anthem

*Bells are Ringing* by Joanne LeDoux - Praise Kids!

*Bells are ringing, we are singing alleluia, alleluia; alleluia. Bells are ringing, we are singing alleluia, Christ, the Savior is born.*

*Share the news with ev'ryone that Jesus is born, today! Jesus is born, today! Jesus is born, today! Share the news with ev'ryone that Jesus is born, today! Christ, the Savior is born.*

*Born in a manger, oh, what a sight! Jesus, the Baby born tonight.*

## ✧ In the Beginning Was the Word ✧

### Word

Christmas Delivery – Pastor Karen Natterstad

Bethlehem City

Carol

### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we\_ see thee lie!  
 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent\_ stars go by;  
 yet in thy dark street shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
 The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893. Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908. Tune: St. Louis 86 86 76 86.

## Angels and Shepherds

## Carol

## 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?



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?



Glo - - - - - ri - a



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



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

Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864. Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958. Tune: Gloria 77 77 and Refrain. Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908. Tune: St. Louis 86 86 76 86.

## The Manger and Gifts

## Carol

## Away in a Manger

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;  
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay;  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th Cent. Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921. Tune: Cradle Song || || || ||.

## The Star

## Carol

## What Child is This



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



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Raise, raise the 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, 1837-1898. Music: English Ballad, 16th Century. Tune: Greensleeves, 87 87 68 67.

## Gospel Reading

## Luke 2:8-20

The Christmas Good News from St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter:

There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, “Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger.

When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please be seated)*

Message

Pastor Karen Natterstad

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Sharing of Christmas Peace

At the birth of Christ the angels sang of peace and goodwill. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

✧ And the Word was Made Flesh ✧

*Thanksgiving*

*(Please be seated)*

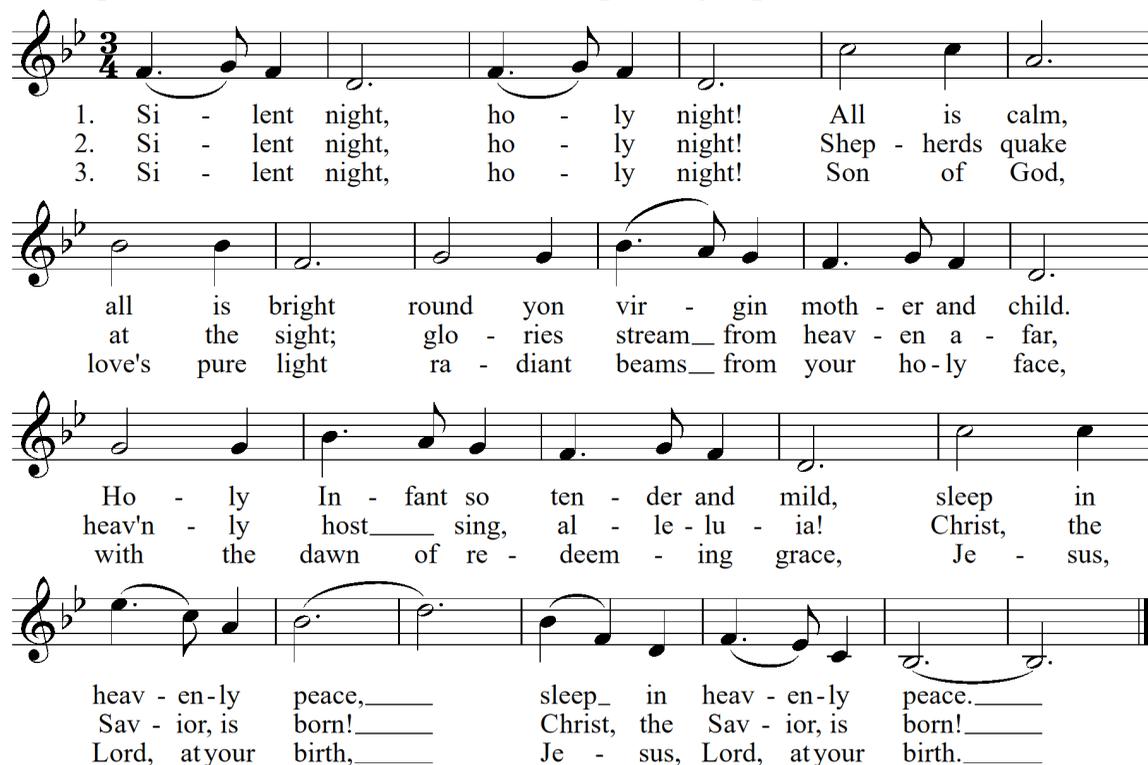
Musical Offering

*Infant Holy* arr. by Phil Perkins

(Please stand as you are able)

Offering Carol

**Silent Night, Holy Night**



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 your ho - ly face,

Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild, sleep in  
 heav'n - ly host\_ sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus,

heav - en - ly peace,\_\_\_\_\_ sleep\_ in heav - en - ly peace.\_\_\_\_\_  
 Sav - ior, is born!\_\_\_\_\_ Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!\_\_\_\_\_  
 Lord, at your birth,\_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.\_\_\_\_\_

Tune: Stille Nacht, Irr. Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863. Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885.

Christmas Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Almighty God, we are thankful of the gift that you gave us in a manger in Bethlehem. Humbly we offer our gifts of service in joyful thanksgiving for the love you have given us.

**We bring as well the concerns of our hearts for ourselves and for others. Hear our prayers and accept these gifts for the sake of your Son who was born this day, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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.

...Lord in your mercy.

**Hear 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.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

✧ And Dwelt Among Us ✧

Sending

## Benediction

And now, little children, abide in him.

**See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God!**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the faithfulness of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. May the almighty God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**Amen!**

## Closing Hymn

**#270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

## Dismissal

As heralds of God's peace, go forth in joy to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to the newborn King!**

## Postlude

*Puer Nobis Nascitur-Unto Us Is Born a Son*  
by Aaron David Miller

✧ And of His Reign There Will Be No End ✧