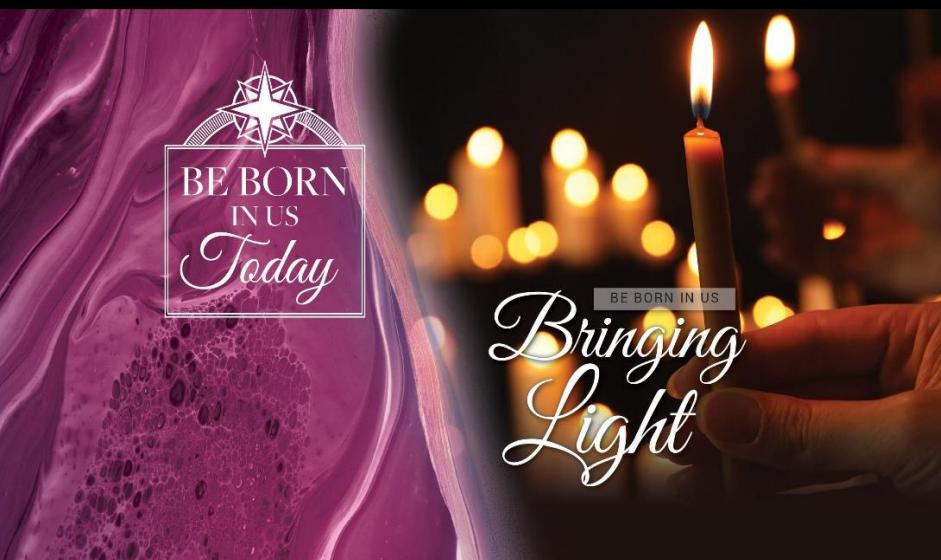


# Christmas Eve Service



December 24, 2023

# Be Born In Us Today Bringing Light

## A Service for Christmas Eve

### 4 pm & 7 pm

## Order of Service

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11*

Prelude

Greetings

**4 pm Service: Eli & Will Vrbas *Good King Wenceslas***

**7 pm Service: Jan Weich *Handbell Solo***

Opening Hymn ... Joy to the World

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

**1 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.

**2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

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### Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P On this holy night, we light the Christ candle on the Advent wreath as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world. The apostle John writes, “In him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:4-5).

**C Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Fill our lives with your life and light.**

P Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).

**C Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Help us by your Spirit to reflect your light and love in our lives.**

### Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

**C Almighty God, we live in the light of our Savior, but we are still tempted by the darkness of sin. We follow our selfish desires. We turn from your Word to listen to the temptations of the world. We fail to love others as we should because we do not let Jesus' light shine through our lives. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sins and turn our hearts and minds to the light of Jesus.**

**P** God has had mercy on us. By his death and resurrection, Jesus, the Light of the world, has overcome the darkness of sin, death and Satan. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C Lord, lead us to live as children of light!**

Prayer of the Day

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.

**Amen.**

Hymn ... From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

### **358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come**

- 1** “From heav’n above to earth I come  
To bear good news to ev’ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing:
  
- 2** “To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child of lowly birth  
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High,  
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will Himself your Savior be  
From all your sins to set you free.

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### Children's Sermon

#### Hymn ... From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

## 358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A quiet chamber set apart  
For You to dwell within my heart.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;  
My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,  
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Public domain

#### Old Testament Reading ... Isaiah 9:2-7

**9:2** The people who walked in darkness  
    have seen a great light;  
    those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
        on them has light shone.

**3** You have multiplied the nation;  
    you have increased its joy;  
    they rejoice before you  
        as with joy at the harvest,  
        as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

**4** For the yoke of his burden,

and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**5** For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

**6** For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**7** Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Epistle Reading ... Titus 2:11-14

**Titus 2:11** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **12** training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, **13** waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, **14** who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Gospel Reading ... Luke 2:1-7 (KJV)

**Luke 2:1** And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. **2** (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) **3** And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. **4** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) **5** To be taxed

with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. **6** And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. **7** And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Hymn ... O Little Town of Bethlehem

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

- 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!

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Gospel Reading ... Luke 2:8-14

**8** And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. **10** And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. **12** And this shall

be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

**Luke 2:13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

**14** Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Hymn ... Angels We Have Heard on High

**368 Angels We Have Heard on High**

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains. Refrain
- ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain

Text: Public domain

Gospel Reading ... Luke 2:15-20

**15** And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. **16** And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. **17** And when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. **18** And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

**19** But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart.

**20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

### Sermon Hymn ... Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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

**1** 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

ref 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 the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel! 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 man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth. Refrain

## Sermon

### Hymn of Response ... Once in Royal David's City

#### **376 Once in Royal David's City**

- 1** Once in royal David's city  
    Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
    Where a mother laid her baby  
        In a manger for His bed:  
    Mary was that mother mild,  
    Jesus Christ her little child.
  
- 2** He came down to earth from heaven,  
    Who is God and Lord of all,  
    And His shelter was a stable,  
        And His cradle was a stall;  
    With the poor and mean and lowly  
    Lived on earth our Savior holy.

### Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Offering

**4 pm Service: Korrey & Tucker Klein *Happy Birthday Jesus***

**7 pm Service: Corky Miller *Mary's Little Boy Child***

## Prayers

P Lord and Savior, through your birth in Bethlehem, through your life, death and resurrection, you brought the light of hope to the world. Comfort those who are suffering through illness or grief. According to your will, bring them healing and hope through the promises of your Word. Jesus, Light of the world,

**C Shine in us and through us. Teach us according to the wisdom of your Word and lead us by the Holy Spirit to reflect the light of your forgiveness and love.**

P Lord and Savior, Word made flesh, you are the Light no darkness can overcome. By your death and resurrection, you overcame the darkness of sin, death and the devil. You have brought us life and light, now and for all eternity. Jesus, Light of the world,

**C Shine in us and through us. Help us to be bold witnesses for you, so that others will come to trust in you for salvation and live in the light of your love.**

P Lord and Savior, through Baptism we were created anew as children of light, delivered from the domain of darkness and brought into your kingdom. Jesus, Light of the world,

**C Shine in us and through us. Lead us to walk in love and to serve others in your name.**

P Lord and Savior, Light of the world, hear our prayers and accept our praise.

**C Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

## Benediction

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

**C And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”**

P And suddenly there was with the angel a 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!”” (Luke 2:11-14).**

P “Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

**C Amen.**

*[As the hymn is sung, the Pastor will light the candles of the ushers, who light the candles of people sitting by the aisles, who in turn light those next to them, tipping unlit candles toward lit ones. Lights may be extinguished as the candlelight increases.]  
(Please tip only your unlit candle to receive the flame.)*

### HYMN     "Silent Night, Holy Night"

*LSB 363*

1     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.

2     Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav’ny hosts sing, Alleluia!  
    Christ, the Savior, is born!  
    Christ, the Savior, is born!

3      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.

***You May Extinguish Your Candles***

***Silence for Prayer***

Have a Blessed & Mighty Christmas Celebrating the Birth of the Christ-Child.

***Join Us for worship -***

***Christmas Day @ 10 am with Holy Communion***

*Many thanks and praise to the LORD for all who helped out this evening using their God given gifts in worship to the Christ-child. Many combined hours and talent were exercised on the front lines and behind the scenes to edify our worship this evening. Again, thank you for all your talents and time.*