

# Welcome to Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 ..... 7:00pm

St. Mark Lutheran Church  
West Henrietta, NY

Rev. Mark Brown

Prelude: "Pastorale on 'O, Sleep Now, Holy Baby' ... Karl Osterland  
'O Tannenbaum' ... arr. David Overton ... Anna and Ethan, violin  
'The First Noel' ... Charles Ore

Processional: **"Of the Father's Love Begotten" [LSB 384 v. 1, 2, 4, 5]**

Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore

Oh, that birth forever blessed, When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His  
praises sing. Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him  
And extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
silent, Ev'ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost,  
to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

Appearance of the Light (Christ Candle brought in)

Hymn: **"O Come, All Ye Faithful" [LSB 379 v. 1-3]**

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

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!  
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:  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Invocation & Collective Prayer

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

C. **Amen**

P. Let us pray

**O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance  
of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.  
Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer,  
We may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge;  
Through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.**

Read responsively: Pastor, **Congregation**

*Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

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

**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.

**Hymn: “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!”

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!

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.

**Luke 1: 26-35, 38 (ESV)**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**Hymn: “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” [LSB 384 v. 1 - 3]**

“From heav’n above to earth I come  
 To bear good news to ev’ry home;  
 Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
 Where-of I now will say and sing:

“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.

“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.

**Luke 2:1, 3-7 (ESV)**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 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, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 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.

**Hymn: “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.**

**Luke 2:8-16 (ESV)**

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” 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.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

**Hymn: “Angels from the Realms of Glory” [LSB 367 v. 1-3]**

Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation’s story,  
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth  
Come and worship, Come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds in the field 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 new-born King.

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen His natal star.  
Come and worship, Come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

**Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”

After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**Hymn: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” [LSB 393]**

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!

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!

**John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 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. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light

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

**Hymn: “A Great and Mighty Wonder” [LSB 383]**

A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:

The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure! *Refrain*

The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,  
And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky. *Refrain*

‘While thus they sing your Monarch, Those bright angelic bands,  
Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands. *Refrain*

Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,  
The infant born in Beth’em, The Savior and the Lord. *Refrain*

All idols then shall perish And Satan’s lying cease,  
And Christ shall raise His scepter, Decreeing endless peace. *Refrain*

***Refrain***

Proclaim the Savior’s birth:

“To God on high be glory

And peace to all the earth!”

**Sermon/Homily**

**Christmas Candlelight:** *The Ushers will each light candles from the Christ candle; they will then move down the center aisle lighting the candle at the end of the pew. Each pew should then pass the light to the others in the same pew. The Hymn will be sung after the lighting.*

**Hymn: “Silent Night, Holy Night” [LSB 363]**

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.

**Benediction**

**Recessional: “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 em-ploy,  
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 righteous-ness  
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

**Postlude: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” ... Schaffner**

Communion will be shared at the 9am Christmas morning Service.  
Please join us.

***Poinsettias have been given by:***

*Sylvia and John Bayer in memory of loved ones*

*Judy and Brian Beeman in memory of our parents*

*Doreen & Gary Blankenbush in memory of Bobbie, Art, Debbie and Rob*

*Pastor Mark & Ellen Brown in honor of our children: Anna, David and Ethan*

*Brown Family in memory of Aaron Brown*

*Margaret & Nick DiFonzo in loving memory of mother Charlotte L. Fedorischak*

*Marilyn & Jerry Gardner for blessings received*

*Debbie & Jon Lundberg in memory of Nancy T. Lundberg and Elizabeth D. McNeal*

*Dee Dee & Wayne Warriner for blessings received*

Plants may be taken home after this Service.