

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**

**December 24, 2023
7:00 p.m.**



Prelude *What Child is This* ~ Richard Purvis

Welcome

Christmas Dialogue and Prayer

In the beginning, God dreamed of a beautiful world.

In Egypt, the Israelites dreamed of freedom.

In the wilderness, the people dreamed of safety.

In Jerusalem, the people dreamed of a Messiah.

In Bethlehem, the shepherds and Wise Men dreamed of a new beginning.

Then Jesus walked this earth and dreams came true.

The sick were healed. The poor had food.

The forgotten and ignored were seen.

The children were welcomed.

Everyone was invited to the table, and the world has never been the same.

So tonight, we are those who dream.

Tonight, we dream the same dreams of our ancestors before us.

Tonight, we dream of justice and mercy, of love and kindness, of peace and hope.

Tonight we dream of a God who draws near to us out of unfailing love.

May this night remind us that there will be a day when every dream will be fulfilled.

And until then, we will be those who dream.

Let us worship God in gratitude and wonder, as those who dream.

Gathering Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ~ ELW 283

Prayer

Holy God, if we listen closely, we can almost hear the angels sing. If we listen closely, we can almost hear the bleats of sheep following shepherds. If we listen closely, we can almost hear the star whisper, "Follow me."

If we listen closely, God, we can almost hear you. So as we worship tonight, don't let us miss a thing; in your holy name we pray; Amen.

Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God

Anthem *The Moon of Wintertime* ~ Karissa Dennis (Hallelujah Ringers)

Reading Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce
impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled,
upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the
glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he
might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are
zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God

Anthem *Wexford Carol* ~ arr. Bob Chilcott (All Saints Choir)

Reading Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hymn *What Child is This* ~ arr. Sandy Wilkinson; (choir/bells/congregation)
Congregation sings verses 1,3 from ELW 296

Reading Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’

Anthem/Hymn *What a Glorious Night* ~ arr. Erik Foster & Dan Galbraith
(Grace Notes)

Reading Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord
Thanks be God

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in hope.

We believe that to hope is to dream with our eyes wide open.

We believe in peace.

We believe that peace is not found by accident. Prepare the way.

We believe in joy.

We believe that joy is angel choruses and gifts from the Magi, as well as soul food, big tables, open doors, candle light, fireside, singing together, and the body of Christ gathered as one.

We believe in love.

We believe that God loves us so much that God could not stay away. So God showed up as a child. We believe that *that* love is real, and we know that it changes us.

Therefore, we believe in the power of dreams,

And we believe that nightmares, which are all too real here and now, will have no place in God's promised day.

Until then, we believe in passing the light, in showing up, in doing the work,

**In listening for angel choruses,
In opening our eyes and hearts to the wonder of the Christ Child**

The Prayers

*Each portion of the prayers concludes, Hear us, O God
and you may respond, **Your mercy is great***

Musical Offering

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear ~ arr. Tom Trenney
(All Saints Choir)*

Offertory Hymn

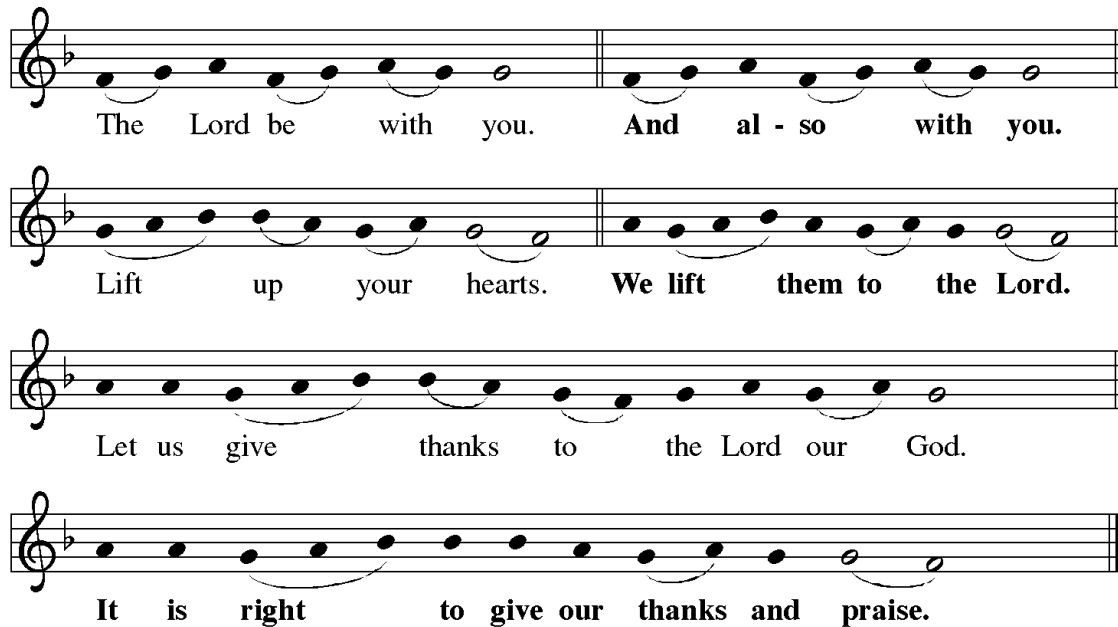
What Feast of Love ~ ELW 487 (vs. 1,3)

We are not passing the offering plate; instead, the plate is sitting near the door to the worship space to receive financial gifts which support our ministry. You can also give using the Vanco App. on your digital device.

Offering Prayer

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen

Holy Communion



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right . . . Join their unending hymn:



My soul pro-claims Your great-ness, Lord; I — sing my Sav-ior's praise!

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full_ of grace.

Now ev -'ry land and ev - 'ry age this_ bless - ing_ shall pro - claim:

great won-ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is_ Your name.

Holy one

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit...

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, O God, now and forever

Amen

Lord's Prayer

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.

Holy Communion

You are beloved of God, and this meal is for you. Come forward down the center aisle, and return to your seat by the side aisle; the left (north) side will come first. The bread is gluten-free and there is wine or grape juice. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, you may come forward and cross your arms over your chest.

Communion Hymns

Of the Father's Love Begotten ~ ELW 295 (vs. 1,2,4)

Away in a Manger ~ ELW 277

Angels We Have Heard on High ~ ELW 289



The Gospel of the Incarnation

The minister lights a large candle from the center of the wreath, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.

John 1:1-14

**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 your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

Blessing

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child.

Almighty God, Creator, ✝ Christ, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

Amen.

The candles are extinguished.

Sending Hymn *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ~ ELW 270*

Dismissal

Go in the peace of the Savior who has come into the world

Thanks be to God

Postlude *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ~ Keith Chapman,
arr. Nathan Cleaveland*

Poinsettias provided by:

Lucy Archambault-Celebrating Christ's light coming into the world.

Virginia Huenniger -In memory of family members.

Ginny Cruz- In memory of Larry Cruz.

Lois Howard-In memory of Mother Henrietta B. Nelson

Karen Hyde-In memory of Tom Hyde and other lost family.

The Ferdig Family-In memory of Kirk Ferdig

Altar Flowers- In honor of Nita and Milia, Mothers of Cynthia P. & Carl G.



Welcome, Visitors! Merry Christmas to you!

- Men's and Women's rest rooms are located in the hall south of the sanctuary (to your right as you sit in the church). Family/non-gender rest rooms are located down the west hall behind the kitchen.
- If you require assistive listening device, please see the ushers or pick one up from the sound board at the south of the sanctuary.
- Children are always welcome in worship at All Saints. We have a worship bags for kids at the entrance to the sanctuary.
- We have an open table for Holy Communion. You are welcome to participate, coming forward to receive the bread and wine, which brings to us the presence of Christ. The bread is gluten-free and there is also white grape juice if you prefer. If you would like to receive communion but cannot come forward to the table, let an usher know and the pastor will come to your seat to serve you.

All Saints is a Reconciling in Christ church, which means we intentionally welcome people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer.

Whoever you are, whoever you love, you are welcome to worship with us Sundays at 10:00 a.m. We worship in person and on Zoom each week.



I am so glad you chose to worship with us at All Saints tonight. May the coming days be blessed and bright for you and your loved ones.

If you would like to find out more about All Saints or would like to get together to talk about your spiritual journey, please call me at 505-898-3932

Grace and peace,
Pastor Kristin Schultz

