

PRAYERCARE Cheryl Moberg's Mom Fern, Caren Carlson, Yutaro Nakanishi, Annie Lindgren, Brian Maloney, the family of Andrew Dorsing, Don & Verna Grover & the rest of Daniel Gray's family, Cheryl Slattengren, the family of Phyllis Berg, Sandy & John Solheim, the family of Gail Peterson, Cheri, Cara, Emily, Tammi, Shawna, Aunt Bobby, Aunt Barb, Uncle Jerry, Amanda's foster Mom, Amanda's Dad & brother Mike, Vicki Ford, Mike Moberg, the family of Gordon Fick, the family of Jeanne Nelson and Kevin Nelson, Dave Danberg, the family of Curt & Fern Anderson, Geri Swenson and the family of Andy Swenson, Deborah Stojevich, Caroline Greene, Nia Glynn, Doris Fors, the family of Jeremy Greene, Helen Swanson, Jolene, Maggie, Mary Anne Fehlen, the family of Bob Linnngren, the Hackmann Family, Dan Peterson, Julie Valez, David Clow, Margaret Dale, Marcielle Rogers, Cleo Stomberg, Leo Nelson & Rose Anderson.

DISCIPLESHIP/WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

4:00 pm Service

Ushers: Eleanore Collins, Joe Szczepanski

Communion Assistant: Don Hansen

Music: Toni Brekke, Organist

Choir Director: Michelle Lynch

Special Music: FELC Choir, Ingrid Olson, Piano and Molly Moberg, Piano

10:00 pm Service

Ushers: Stan & Judy Peterson

Jason & Angie Linnngren

Communion Assistant: Levi Linnngren

Music: Toni Brekke, Organist

Special Music: Levi Linnngren, Piano and Dylan Lynch, Soloist

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Dwight Rudquist

561 Chestnut Street, Taylors Falls, MN 55084 ~ Phone: 651-465-5265



December 24, 2019

4:00pm and 10:00pm

*"...to you is born this day in the city of David
a savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11*

* Please stand as you are able

Prelude

4pm Ingrid Olson and 10pm Levi Linngren

Choir Prelude

In the Bleak Midwinter

4pm Service

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Cloth for the Cradle, Iona Community

P: When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came.

C: You crept in beside us.

P: And no one knew. Only the few who dared to believe that God might do something different.

C: Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?

P: Will you come into the darkness of tonight's world; not the friendly darkness as when sleep rescues us from tiredness, but the fearful darkness, in which people have stopped believing that war will end or that food will come or that a government will change or that the Church cares?

C: Will you come into that darkness and do something different to save your people from death and despair?

P: Will you come into the quietness of this town, not the friendly quietness as when lovers hold hands, but the fearful silence when the phone has not rung, the letter has not come, the friendly voice no longer speaks, the doctor's face says it all?

C: Will you come into that darkness, and do something different, not to distract, but to embrace your people?

P: And will you come into the dark corners and the quiet places of our lives? We ask this not because we are guilt-ridden or want to be, but because the fullness our lives long for, depends upon us, being as open and vulnerable to you as you were to us, when you came, wearing no more than diapers, and trusting human hands to hold their maker.

C: Will you come into our lives, if we open them to you and do something different?

P: When the world was dark and the city was quiet you came.

C: You crept in beside us.

P: Do the same this Christmas, Lord.

C: Do the same this Christmas. Amen.

HYMN *Angels From The Realms of Glory, Vs 1-2, 4*

ELW 275

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.

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS INVOCATION *from Cloth for the Cradle, Iona Community*

P: Light looked down and saw darkness. **C: "I will go there," said Light.**

P: Peace looked down and saw war. **C: "I will go there," said Peace.**

P: Love looked down and saw hatred. **C: "I will go there," said Love.**

P: So the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace, the King of Love, came down and crept in beside us.

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

HYMN *O Come All Ye Faithful, Vs 1 & 3*

ELW 283

Oh, come all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him Born the King of Angels:

Chorus: Oh, come, let us adore Him. Oh come let us adore Him,
Oh, 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: (Chorus)

SPECIAL MUSIC

4:00 pm *The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy*
10:00 pm *O Holy Night*

Choir
Dylan Lynch

HYMN *Angels We Have Heard on High*

ELW 289

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Glo—ria in excelsis Deo; Glo—ria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song: (Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn king. (Refrain)

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Pastor Dwight Rudquist

HYMN *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Vs. 1 & 3*

ELW 270

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

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.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

4pm Service: Special Music

Molly Moberg

THE OFFERTORY

10pm Service Only *O Little Town of Bethlehem, Vs 1 & 4*

ELW 279

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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God of time and eternity,

**C: you have given your only Son, born of Mary, to save and redeem us.
Receive now these gifts that we bring, and let the works of our hands proclaim the news
of your redeeming love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

HOLY COMMUNION

P: In this holy sacrament God makes a home with us. Let us approach in wonder at all that
God has done.

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only
Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks
to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy
Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his
holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup
is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do
this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**C: 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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

HYMN *I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve*

ELW 271

I am so glad each Christmas Eve, The night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and angels sang on earth.

The little child in Bethlehem, He was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above To help a world in need.

He dwells again in heaven's realm, The Son of God today;
And still he loves his little ones And hears them when they pray.

I am so glad each Christmas Eve! His praises then I sing;
He opens now for ev'ry child The palace of the king.

And so I love each Christmas Eve, And I love Jesus too;
And that he loves me every day I know so well is true.

HYMN *Away In a Manger*

ELW 277

Away in a manger, no crib for his 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 in the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes
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.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with you there

HYMN *What Child is This, Vs. 1 & 3*

ELW 296

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!

So bring him incense, god, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, Vs. 1 & 3*

ELW 288

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!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

THE BLESSING AND POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: May this, the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

P: O God of Light, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and at your table we have feasted on your grace. We are renewed in body and spirit through the wonder of the Word made flesh. Send us now into the world to be your holy people; to make known the glory and joy that is ours in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE CANDLELIGHTING CELEBRATION – SHARING THE LIGHT

P: On the Eve of Christmas

C: Hatred will vanish

P: On the Eve of Christmas

C: The earth will flourish

P: On the Eve of Christmas

C: War will be gone

P: On the Eve of Christmas

C: Love will be born.

P: When we offer a glass of water to a thirsty person

C: It is Christmas!

P: When we clothe a naked person with a gown of love

C: It is Christmas!

P: When we wipe the tears from weeping eyes

C: It is Christmas!

P: When the spirit of revenge dies in me

C: It is Christmas!

P: When in my heart I no longer want to stay apart

C: It is Christmas!

P: When I am buried in the being of God

C: It is Christmas!

Pastor will share a lighted candle with the ushers who will in turn share light to the first worshiper in each pew, to be passed down the pew. Please remember to light your candle from the already lit one so as to prevent harm from dripping wax. When all the candles are lit we will join in prayer followed by the singing of Silent Night. The candles are to be extinguished following the benediction.

CANDLELIGHTING PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, ... for your light brings us hope, joy, and peace, now and forever.

C: Amen

HYMN

Silent Night

ELW 281

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,

Heavenly hosts sing alleluia!

Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, loves 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 & Dismissal

P: Light shines ...and the darkness cannot overcome it.

C: Amen.

P: Glory to God in the Highest!

C: Peace to God's people on earth!

(The candles are extinguished)

HYMN

Joy to the World, Verses 1 & 4

ELW 267

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its 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.

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.

Postlude