

Christmas Eve

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

Orinda, California

December 24, 2024 @ 5p



Welcome to Worship with Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, whether you worship with us in-person or online (on Facebook Live or archived at www.holyshepherd.org.) May you know God's grace as we celebrate the arrival of the Christmas baby.

Know that You Are Welcome! We share in Holy Communion during the context of this evening's service. This is the table of the Lord. Jesus is the host and we are his guests. Jesus welcomes everyone to come and eat and be nourished, fed and forgiven. Come and eat and live!

Offerings are an Act of Worship! Offerings are one way we express both our gratitude for God's wondrous love and our commitment to for work of ministry. To support our work electronically, visit www.holyshepherd.org and utilize Givelify, our online giving platform.

▲ indicates that you are invited to stand as you are able

GATHERING MUSIC

Marc Levine

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

WHO'S THE LITTLE BABY?

Lyrics and Music by Matt Limbaugh / arr. Mary McDonald

WORDS OF WELCOME

▲ A WORD FOR THOSE WHO GATHER

L: As we gather at the Christmas manger this evening, let us recognize why it is that we stand so in need of the great news of this day – the news of the Christ-Child's birth. For Jesus comes as the light of the world

P: **But we've focused on the darkness that surrounds and overwhelms us, that frightens and numbs us.**

L: Jesus Christ comes as the light of the world

P: **But we've used artificial lights to try and eliminate the darkness in our lives.**

L: Jesus Christ comes as the light of the world

P: **But we've tried to deny the power of the darkness by pretending that it isn't there.**

L: Forgive us, O God, for these our actions of failure and our failures to act.

P: **Forgive us, O God, for putting our trust in ourselves rather than You.**

L: People of God, hear the good news! God does come to us as a light in the darkness. In the light of Christ we find forgiveness for our past, strength for our present and hope for our future. In and through this One, we are enabled to live anew. Thanks be to God! So let us pray ...

P: **Almighty God, it was at Christmas that you took on flesh and became as us — and it was at Christmas that you illuminated our world with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and wake to the brightness of his glory. Amen.**

▲ GATHERING SONG

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Lyrics and Music by John Francis Wade / ELW #283

**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!**

**The 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!**

BETHLEHEM'S STORY

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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.

A BETHLEHEM SONG O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
Lyrics by Phillips Brooks / Music by Lewis Redner / 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.***

***How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.***

THE ANGELS' STORY Luke 2:8-14

Now in that same 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!"

THE ANGELS' SONG HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING!
Lyrics by C. Wesley / Music by F. Mendelssohn / ELW #270

***Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners 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 new-born 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 new-born king!"***

THE SHEPHERDS' STORY 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, and 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, just as it had been told them.

THE SHEPHERDS' SONG WHAT CHILD IS THIS?
Lyrics by W.C. Dix / Music Trad. English / 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!***

***Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!***

***So bring him incense, gold, 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!***

CHRISTMAS KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

A SONG OF PEACE IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR
Lyrics by E.H. Sears / Music by R.S. Willis / ELW #282

*It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.*

*And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow;
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!*

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Pastor John Valentine

▲ WORDS TO LIVE BY

based on Philippians 2

As people of God, we find our hope and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

OFFERTORY

WERE YOU THERE?

Lyrics and Music by Natalie Sleeth

▲ THE COMMUNION LITANY

L: Lord Jesus, you came to us as a tiny Baby born in danger and discomfort. You grew into a Man whom the world can never forget. You offered up your body and blood for the sake of our broken lives and our broken world. So come to us now in this bread and this wine. Unite us and strengthen us by your presence and through your Word, that we might be your faithful children in this world.

P: **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.**

L: 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

As we share the gift of Holy Communion, we invite you to come down the center aisle to receive the bread and wine that bear the Promise of Christmas. After consuming the elements, please deposit your empty cup in the basket and return to your seat by the side aisle. During Holy Communion, please join in the following songs:

AWAY IN A MANGER

Lyrics Trad. American / Music by W.J. Kirkpatrick / ELW 278

*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 on 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.*

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

Lyrics and Music by Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne

*Said the night wind to the little lamb
Do you see what I see? (Do you see what I see?)
Way up in the sky, little lamb
Do you see what I see? (Do you see what I see?)
A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite
With a tail as big as a kite*

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy
Do you hear what I hear? (Do you hear what I hear?)
Ringin' through the sky, shepherd boy
Do you hear what I hear? (Do you hear what I hear?)
A song, a song high above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea
With a voice as big as the sea

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king
Do you know what I know? (Do you know what I know?)
In your palace warm, mighty king
Do you know what I know? (Do you know what I know?)
A Child, a Child shivers in the cold
Let us bring him silver and gold
Let us bring him silver and gold

Said the king to the people everywhere
Listen to what I say! (Listen to what I say!)
Pray for peace, people, everywhere
Listen to what I say! (Listen to what I say!)
The Child, the Child sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light

A TIME FOR CANDLE-LIGHTING

A SONG OF PEACE SILENT NIGHT
Lyrics by Joseph Mohr / Music by Franz Gruber / 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,
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.

▲ THE BENEDICTION

L: May the humility of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the joy of the angels, and the peace of the Christ-child be God's gift to you this Christmas time and always.

P: **Amen!**

▲ A SONG OF JOY JOY TO THE WORLD
Lyrics by Isaac Watts / Music by Lowell Mason / ELW #267

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 all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

▲ THE CHARGE

L: Go in peace, to love the newborn King by serving your neighbor!
P: **Thanks be to God!**

SENDING MUSIC WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Thank you to the members of our Worship Team for sharing their gifts of music with us tonight, including:

Bethany Valentine – Vocalist and Creative Co-Director
Tom Henry – Vocalist and Creative Co-Director
Julie Hamre – Organist and Accompanist
Marc Levine – Pianist and Bassist

Vocalists

Gretchen Stenson	Meagan Kim
Diana Riveness	Pam Schaefer Dawson
Sharon Tissue	Bob Schmalz
Elizabeth Humphrey	John Valentine
Marci Bauer	

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