

Silent Night, Holy Night



Christmas Eve Service



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
www.duluthernan.org

December 24, 2025

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

Office Phone (218) 722-4364 | Email contact@dulutheran.org | www.dulutheran.org

WELCOME

We are glad that you have chosen to spend time with us in worship. In our worship, we gather, before Jesus, our Good Shepherd, to offer him our love and praise. Our Lord builds us up in faith through his Word and equips us for living now and in eternity. Our prayer is that the good news of Christ's love touches your heart and transforms your life. Whether you're worshipping with us here today or watching online, we are happy you have joined us.

WORSHIP SERVICE

The goal of our worship is to praise God and enrich your faith through his Word. To make your experience today easier, the worship folder you're holding has the entire order of service. The pieces marked [P] are spoken by the pastor, and the parts marked [C] are to be spoken or sung by the congregation. **In this evening's service, the pieces marked [L] are spoken by the leader, Elder Ryan Bogart.**

If you prefer to use a physical hymnal or wish to see the songs in four-part harmony, there are hymnals available in the pew stands.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Our congregation enjoys the "worshiping family." Parents with small children are an essential part of God's kingdom. That's why children are never considered an inconvenience to our worship. We also want your family to be comfortable. There is a cry room outside the main doors to the right if you need a moment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to Ryan Bogart for leading today's service, as well as all of our musicians, accompanists, and organizers who worked to make this special service possible.

Pastor Call Meeting: We will be having our next meeting to extend a call on **Tuesday, January 16th, at 6pm**. Childcare will be available. Please continue to attend these meetings; your input is valuable as we continue to seek a full-time shepherd!

Teacher Call Update: On Thursday, December 18th, we extended a call to Molly Berg, who currently teaches at Holy Trinity in New Hope, MN, to serve at Little Lambs Learning Center. Please keep Molly in your prayers while she deliberates her calls.

Upcoming Schedule: Please note that there will not be Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Youth Group, or Confirmation Classes on Sunday, December 28th or the following Sunday, January 4th. Our regular Sunday schedule will resume on Sunday, January 11th.

For more announcements and event information, visit the church website at www.dulutheran.org/events or sign up for our weekly email at www.dulutheran.org/subscribe. You can also view the church calendar at www.dulutheran.org/church-calendar.

OPENING RESPONSIVE READING

L: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light:

C: **On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.** [*Isaiah 9:2*]

L: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. [*Luke 2:11*]

C: **Mary and Joseph gave him the name Jesus, because he would save his people from their sins.**
[*Matthew 1:21*]

L: Christ himself has come in the fullness of time. Born of a woman, born under law to redeem those born under law, that we would receive God's adoption as sons. [*Galatians 4:4,5*]

C: **To all who receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gives the right to become children of God—but born of God.** [*John 1:13*]

PRAYER

L: Let us pray.

Almighty God, with your Word and Spirit you have made us ready for the celebration of our Savior's birth. With repentant hearts we come, cleansed by the forgiveness of sins he accomplished by his death on the cross. With joyful hearts we come, knowing that our redemption is drawing near. Christ Jesus has revealed himself as the Son of God and Mary's Son. He is our highest joy. Receive our hymns of praise for your greatest Gift, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Please stand

BIDDING PRAYER

L: Dear people of God, in this Christmas season, it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us—the Christ Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of this community and for all those in our own congregation.

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, and the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, those who do not love him, and those who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Be seated

TONE CHIME CHOIR: In the Bleak Midwinter

Arranged by Lloyd Larson

✠ NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS ✠

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8–15

The Seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head.

⁸They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹The LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰The man said, "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself."

¹¹God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?"

¹²The man said, "The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³The LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the livestock,
and more than every wild animal.

You shall crawl on your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed.

He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel.

HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CW 327 sts. 1, Ref, 2

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HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CW 327 sts. 1, Ref, 2



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from

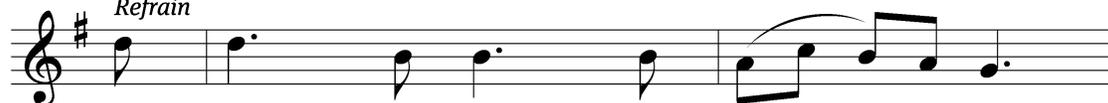


cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15–18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

¹⁵The Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, “I have sworn by myself, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will bless you greatly, and I will multiply your descendants greatly, like the stars of the sky and like the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the city gates of their enemies. ¹⁸In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CW 327 sts. Ref, 3–4

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HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CW 327 sts. Ref, 3-4



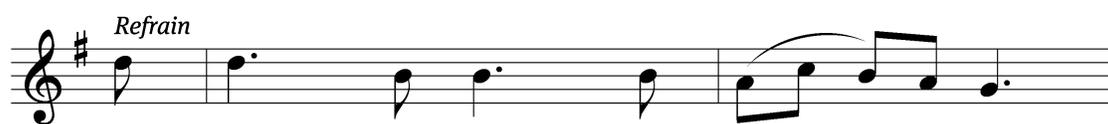
3 O come, O Day-spring from on high, and cheer us
4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen



by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



clouds of night, and death's dark shad-ows put to flight.
leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.



Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.

⁶For to us a child is born.
To us a son is given.
The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.
He will be named:

Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

⁷There will be no limit to his authority
and no end to the peace he brings.
He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
from now on, into eternity.
The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

HYMN: My Soul in Stillness Waits

CW 325

Congregation & choir sing the refrains; soloists sing stanzas 1, 2, and 4.



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

- 1 O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,
your radiance shines in all who look to you;
come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow. (Refrain)
- 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits;
our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word;
come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts. (Refrain)
- 4 O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage;
we ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain;
open to us the pathway of your peace. (Refrain)

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1–9

A Branch from the stump of Jesse will bear fruit.

¹A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.

²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears,

⁴but with righteousness he will judge the poor,
and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death.

⁵Righteousness will be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his hips.

⁶The wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat,
the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together,
and a little child will lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear will graze together,
and their young ones will lie down together.
The lion will eat straw like the cattle.

⁸The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole,
and the weaned child will put his hand into a viper's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD,
as the waters cover the sea.

HYMN: Behold, a Branch Is Growing

CW 360 sts. 1-2



1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and
2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise



grace! As proph - ets sang, fore - know - ing, it springs from Jes - se's
sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and



race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of
pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to



cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.
her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary the birth of a son.

²⁶In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."

²⁹But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. ³¹Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

³⁸Then Mary said, "See, I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

SONG OF MARY (MAGNIFICAT)

CW 218

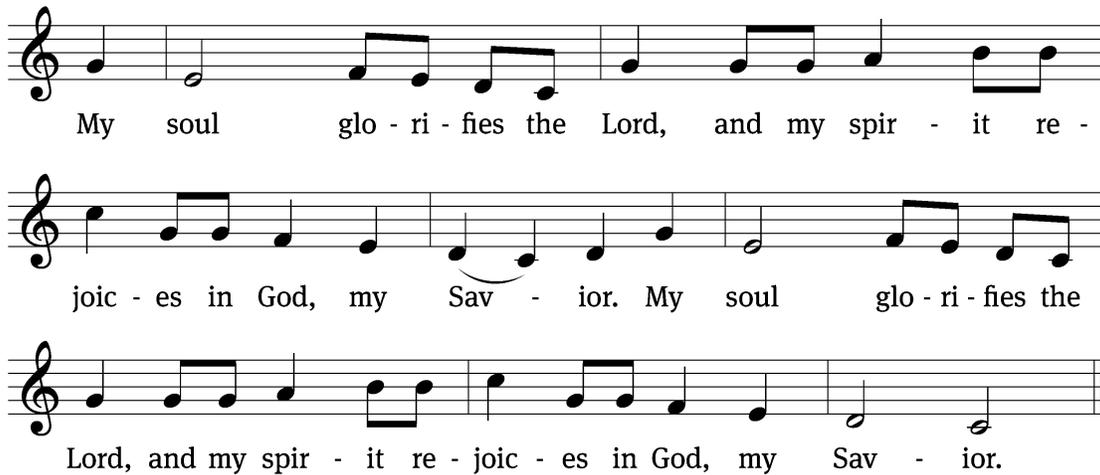
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SONG OF MARY (MAGNIFICAT)

CW 218

Choir leads; congregation joins in singing the second and third refrains.

Refrain



My soul glo - ri - fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -
joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul glo - ri - fies the
Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.

- 1 For he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. For indeed from now on all generations will call me blessed. (v. 2)
- 2 For the Mighty One has done great things for me—and holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. (Refrain)
- 3 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. (v. 4)
- 4 He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever. (Refrain)

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1–7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

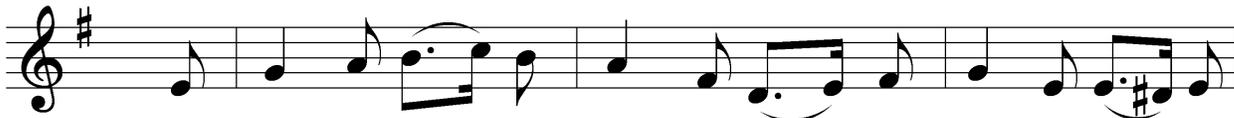
¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³And everyone went to register, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

⁶And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

HYMN: What Child Is This

CW 344

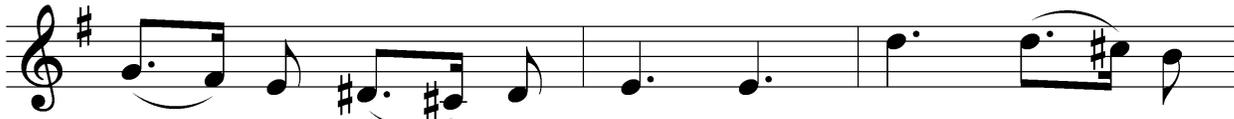
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1 What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox - en now are
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing, whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the
 own him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne him. Raise, raise the



Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

The shepherds go to the manger.

⁸There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: ¹¹Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind."

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Now let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told

about this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

HYMN: To Shepherds as They Watched by Night

CW 335 sts. 1-3



1 To shep - herds as they watched by night ap - peared a
 2 "At Beth - le - hem, in Da - vid's town, as Mi - cah
 3 O then re - joice that through his Son God is with



host of an - gels bright; "Be - hold the ten - der
 did of old make known. It is the Christ, your
 sin - ners now at one; made like your - selves of



babe," they said, "in yon - der low - ly man - ger laid,
 Lord and King, who will to all sal - va - tion bring."
 flesh and blood, your broth - er is th'e - ter - nal God.

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi are led by the star to Jesus.

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ²"Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴He gathered together all the people's chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

⁶You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him."

⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

One for the star in the sky over Bethlehem;
 Two for the hands that will rock him to sleep;
 Three for the kings bringing gold, bringing myrrh, bringing incense;
 Four for the angels that watch over his bedside.

Blue for the robe of the sweet Virgin Mary;
 White for the dawn of the first Christmas Day;
 Red for the blood that he shed for us all on Good Friday;
 Black for the tomb where he rested till Easter.

Lullaby! See Jesus asleep;
 Angels and shepherds their watch on him keep;
 Lullaby! He soon will awake,
 For the oxen are stirring and morning will break.

And one for the heart, one for the heart,
 one for the heart that I give as my offering to Jesus.

WORSHIPING THE LORD WITH OUR OFFERINGS



Members of Shepherd of the Hills respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully and freely according to how the Lord has blessed them. If you are a guest today, please know that there are no expectations for you to make a donation. If you wish to support us by making an online offering, scan the QR code here or visit our website: www.duluthlutheran.org and click on the "GIVE" tab.

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1–14

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

⁹The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

PRAYER

- L: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

- L: May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with such joy that comes from the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the ✠ Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.
- C: **Amen.**

Be seated

✠ CANDLE LIGHTING ✠

INSTRUCTIONS

The leader will light his candle from the Christ Candle. He will pass the light to the ushers.

The ushers will walk down the center aisle and light the candles of those sitting closest to the aisle.

As the light comes to you, please hold your unlit candle to the flame. Only tip the unlit candles; never tip the lit candles.

While your candle is lit, please keep it upright so the wax dripping is minimized.

Once your candle is lit, hold it to the person next to you so they can light their candle from yours.

In this way we symbolize how Jesus – the Light of the world – brings light to a world darkened by sin as his gospel spreads from one person to the next.

After all the candles have been lit... The church lights will be dimmed.

Please stand

CANDLE LIGHTING DIALOGUE

- L: This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

- C: **If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.**
[1 John 1:5,6, NIV]

- L: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

- C: **and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.** *[1 John 1:7, NIV]*

- L: As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it reminds us of Christ, our Light, the Child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross, and soon to come from his throne on high as Judge of all. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need for candle or sun. Rejoice! The Light of the World has come!

CLOSING HYMN: Silent Night, Holy Night

CW 337 sts. 1-3

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - dant beams from thy ho - ly face
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts__ sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Be seated and enjoy a moment of silence and reflection.

Candles should be carefully extinguished and kept upright to prevent wax dripping. Please place the candles in the baskets by the door as you exit the sanctuary.

Christmas Day Worship

Please join us back here as we celebrate the birth of Jesus
tomorrow morning at 9:00 am

Acknowledgments

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from Christian Worship

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