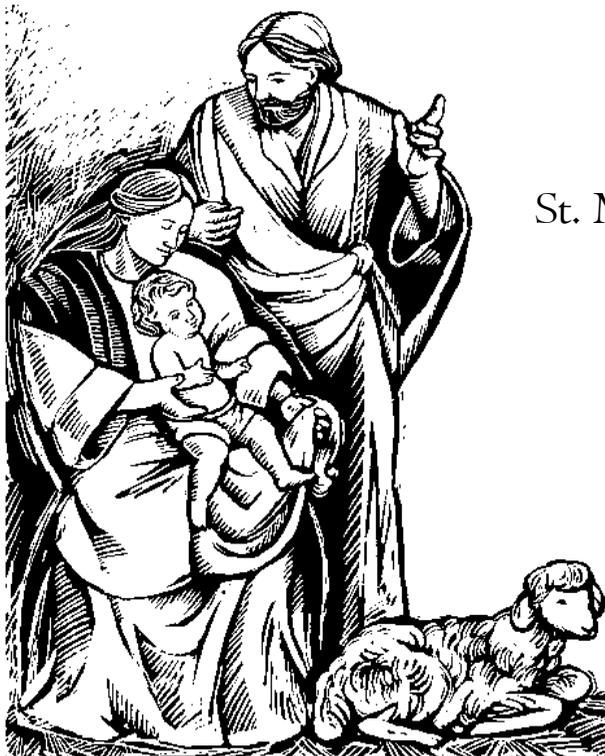


Christmas Eve Candlelight



St. Martin's Lutheran Church
203 S. Defiance Street
Archbold, Ohio

December 24, 2020
11:00pm

Christmas Eve + December 24, 2020 + 11:00 p.m.

ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Archbold, Ohio

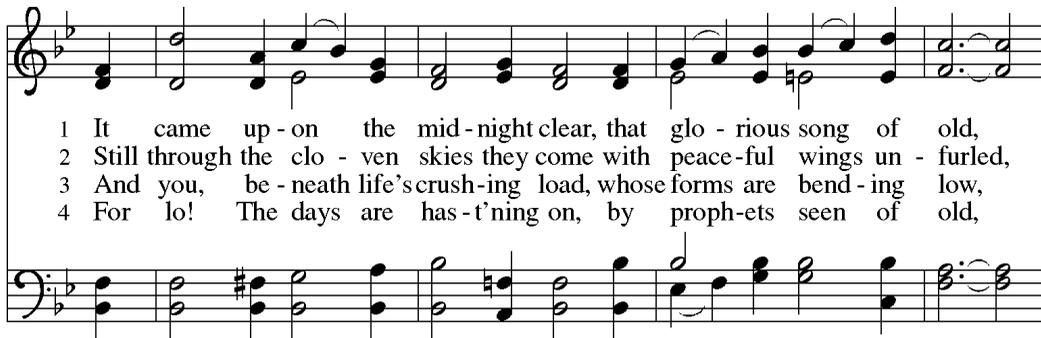
PRELUDE

"O HOLY NIGHT" & "SILENT NIGHT" arr. by Christopher Uehlein

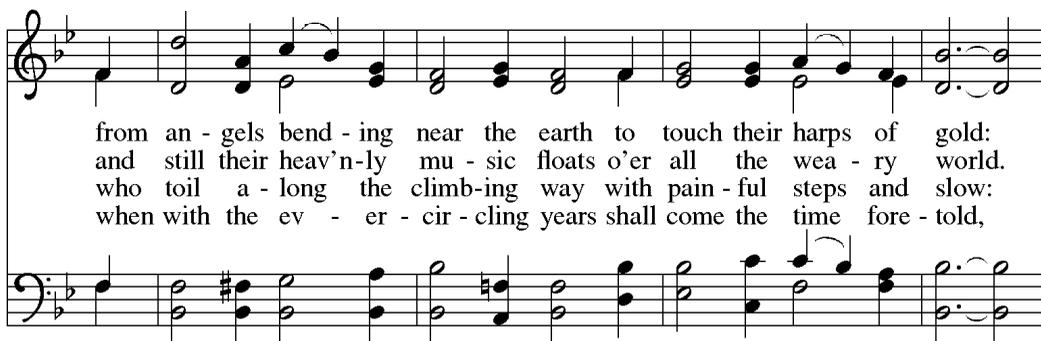
BELL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING HYMN

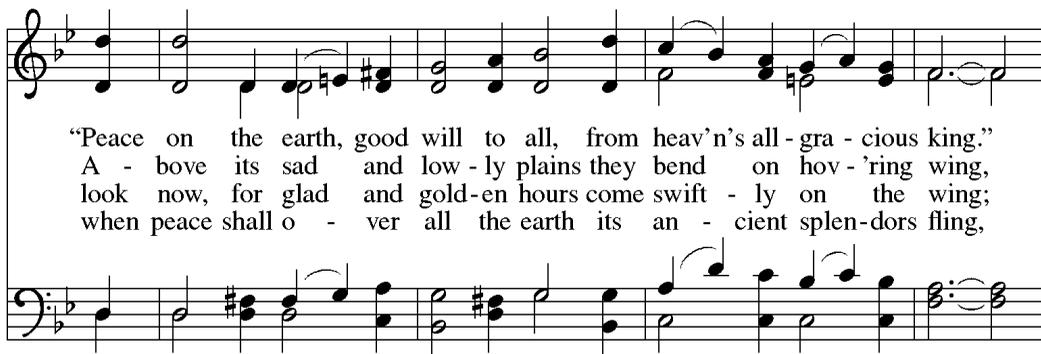
"IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR"



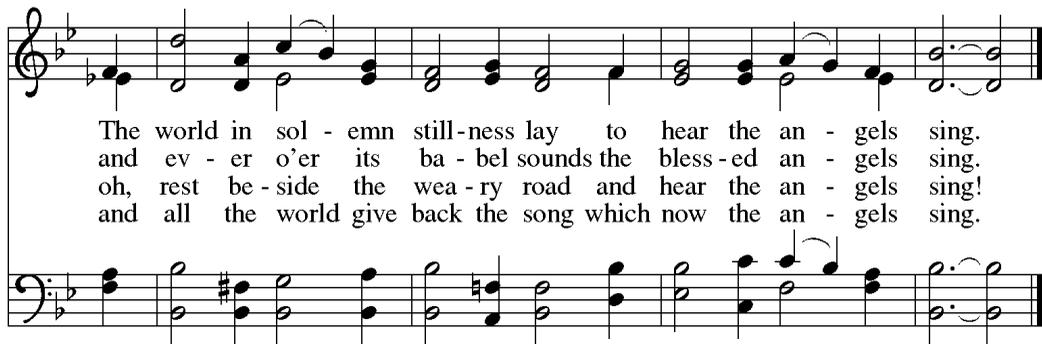
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

***GREETING AND PRAYER**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

O Holy One, heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds and eternity entered time in the child of Bethlehem. Through the telling of the Christmas story, let our mortal lives be caught up in the eternal in that same child, that we might join the shepherds and all the heavenly host in praising the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

FIRST READING – *responsive reading based on 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.

The Light of God shines on us tonight.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, 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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Light of God shines on us tonight.

Word of God come down to us.

Thanks be to God

PSALM 96 – read responsively

¹Sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;

proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

³Declare God's glory among the nations

and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,

more to be feared than all gods.

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,

ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his holy name;

bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;

tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰Tell it out among the nations:

"The LORD is king!

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

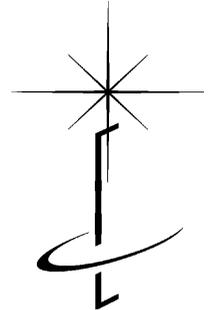
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,

for you come to judge the earth.

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness

and the peoples with your truth.



SECOND READING

TITUS 3:4-7

⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Word of God come down to us.

Thanks be to God

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(tune: "Angels from the Realms of Glory")

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. →

***Alleluia! Alleluia! God's abiding Word now hear.
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the Son of Man appear.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.***

*HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before 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 see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

"STARS IN THE SKY LOOKED DOWN"

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, Creator of all and source of life, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world. On this holy night, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your sons and daughters.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

All praise and glory are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

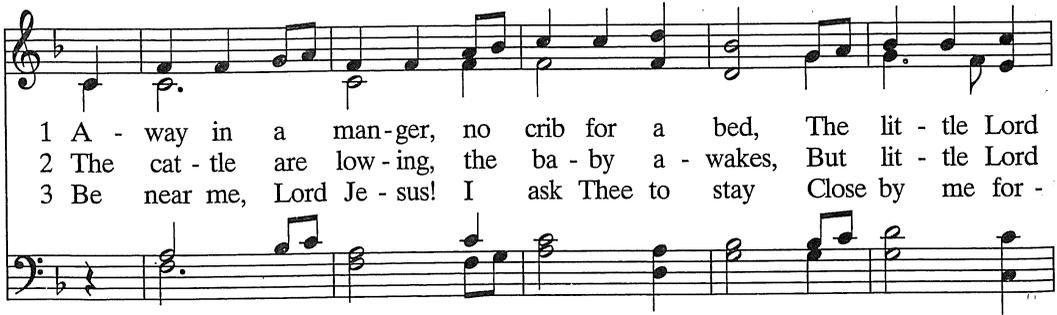
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

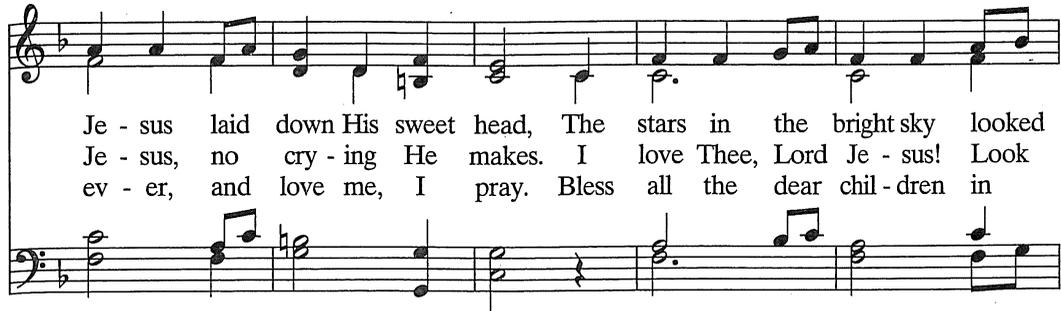
BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, The lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, But lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus! I ask Thee to stay Close by me for -



Je - sus laid down His sweet head, The stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes. I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look
 ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where He lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky, And stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 Thy ten - der care, And fit us for heav - en, to live with Thee there.

*PRAYER

O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence, and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Strengthened by this sacrament, send us from this place so that we might share Christ's love with the entire world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever.

Amen

CANDLE LIGHTING

Candles will be lit beginning with the individuals seated near the center aisle. Please pass the light by tipping the unlighted candle to the flame of a nearby lighted candle.

"SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT"

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 - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

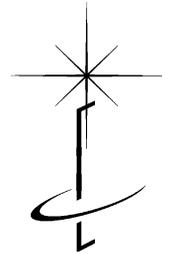
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

***READINGS: JOHN 1 AND LUKE 2**

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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (*John 1:1-5, 14*)

**Lord, now let your servants go in peace;
your word has been fulfilled.
Our eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of all people:
a light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel. Amen** (*Luke 2:29-32*)



***BENEDICTION**

Almighty God, the One who is and who was and who will be,
the Word made flesh,
the holy and life-giving Spirit,
bless us and keep us in His light and love, + now and forever.

Amen

You may extinguish your candle.

Please leave them in the boxes in the back of the Sanctuary as you leave.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun-tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace! Share the Good News!

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated. You will be ushered from your seat.

POSTLUDE

“ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALL CHRISTIANS SING” *arr. by A. Fedak*

+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+

Worship Leaders: Melanie Nagel, Diana Ziegler

Organist: Steve Basselman

Our Christmas Worship continues...

CHRISTMAS DAY Worship and Holy Communion – 10:00am

In-person and livestreamed

NEXT SUNDAY, December 27 - 9:00 am – In-person and livestreamed

+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+



**Thank you to all who shared your Poinsettias with us this Christmas . . .
You may take yours home if you are here for worship today. Please check
with Janet Wyse before you take one.**

Clare Badenhop in memory of Elden Badenhop

Pat Basselman in honor of Pastor Paul, Deacon Steve and all
others who gave a special effort to help St. Martin's through this
pandemic

Steve & Jen Basselman in appreciation to all those who served in
the music and worship ministries the last 9 months

Jeff & Jo Ann Benecke in memory of Dexter, Janis & Melissa Benecke; Joseph &
Juanita Goubeaux and in honor of Pastor Paul

Dick & Melanie Nagel in memory of Karl & Mildred Nagel and Fred & Virginia Witte

Steve & Bonnie Meyer in memory of Wayne & Mabel Wyse and Bob & Buzzy Meyer

Tim & Debbie Smith in memory of Fred & Ginnie Witte and Harold & Marilyn Smith
and in honor of the Ken & Michelle Collins Family, the Paul & Toni Thiel Family
and the Tyson & Katie Smith Family

Sheryl McCarthy & Scott Spohler in memory of Sandie Spohler, Esther & Paul
Greene, and Anna & Art Spohler and in honor of Don Spohler, Kate & Ellie
McCarthy and Anna & Sarah Spohler

Jim & Jane Stevens in honor of their grandchildren

Tim & Chris Ziegler in memory of Alexa Pinter, Junior & Harriette Eicher and Jim &
Willie Ziegler and in honor of their children and grandchildren

