



*Glory  
to  
God  
in the  
Highest*

**CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE**

St. Martin's Lutheran Church + Archbold, Ohio

December 24, 2021 - 4:00 p.m.

# CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE

December 24, 2021 - 4:00p.m.

Worship Notes: Regular Text by the Worship Leader **Bold Text by the Congregation**

*\*Indicates to stand as you are able*

## Prelude

## Welcome

## \*Opening Hymn

## "O Come All Ye Faithful"

1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! Oh,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Glo - ry to God . . . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*

Oh, come, let us a - dore him, oh, come, let us a - dore him,

oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

### **\*Greeting & Call to Worship**

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.**

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given

**And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

God of glory, heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds and you became one of us as a child in a manger. Through the telling of the Christmas story, may we be reminded of this wonderful event so that we might join our voices with the shepherds and all of heaven in praising the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

- <sup>2</sup> The people who walk in darkness will see a great light.  
For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.
- <sup>3</sup> You will enlarge the nation of Israel, and its people will rejoice.  
They will rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest  
and like warriors dividing the plunder.
- <sup>4</sup> For you will break the yoke of their slavery and lift the heavy burden from their  
shoulders. You will break the oppressor's rod, just as you did when you destroyed  
the army of Midian.
- <sup>5</sup> The boots of the warrior and the uniforms bloodstained by war will all be burned.  
They will be fuel for the fire.
- <sup>6</sup> For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his  
shoulders. And he will be called:  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- <sup>7</sup> His government and its peace will never end.  
He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David  
for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies  
will make this happen!

Word of God, come down to us.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY: LUKE 2:1-20

***Glo---ria, in excelsis Deo; Glo---ria, in excelsis Deo.***

In those days, the Roman emperor, Augustus, declared that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> All returned to their own ancestral hometowns to register for this census. <sup>4</sup> And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. <sup>5</sup> He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there in Bethlehem, the time came for her baby to be born. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them in the inn.

To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ, the Lord.**

***Glo---ria, in excelsis Deo; Glo---ria, in excelsis Deo.***

<sup>8</sup> That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, <sup>10</sup> but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. <sup>11</sup> The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! <sup>12</sup> And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ, the Lord.**

***Glo---ria, in excelsis Deo; Glo---ria, in excelsis Deo.***

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly, the angel was joined by a huge gathering of other angels—the armies of heaven—all praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to God's people on earth."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ, the Lord.**

***Glo---ria, in excelsis Deo; Glo---ria, in excelsis Deo.***

<sup>16</sup> They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. <sup>18</sup> All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, <sup>19</sup> but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ, the Lord.**

***Glo---ria, in excelsis Deo; Glo---ria, in excelsis Deo.***



Message

*“God Comes in Spite of our Expectations”*

**\*Christmas Carol**

*“Away in a Manger”*

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his 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 you to stay close by me for -

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The system ends with a repeat sign.

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. It features the same treble and bass clef staves. The lyrics are aligned with the notes. The system ends with a repeat sign.

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. It features the same treble and bass clef staves. The lyrics are aligned with the notes. The system ends with a double bar line.

## **\*Christmas Prayers**

### **\*Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always

**And also with you.**

*(We greet one another with the words "Peace be with you.")*

## HOLY COMMUNION

### **\*Words of Institution**

Holy God, Creator of all and source of life, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world. On this 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 Distribution

*Communion will be distributed in a continuous fashion. Please come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread and move to the side to receive the wine. The center ring in each tray is white grape juice. You may return to your seat by the side aisle.*

### \*Blessing

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

**Amen**

### \*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** – *please dip the unlit candle toward the lit candle*

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.

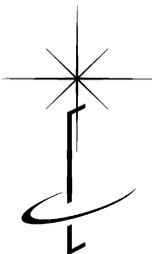
**\*Prayer & Benediction**

On this holy night, we pray for peace, O God. We pray for peace in your Church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. Take away the arrogance and hatred that separates us and spread your spirit of peace that all people may be gathered as your children under the banner of the Prince of Peace.

**Amen**

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house.

**Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”** *(Matthew 5:14-16)*



God of all, hold us close and keep us safe at the close of this day. As day becomes night, and then as dark becomes the light, as Word becomes Flesh; care for us, bless us, love us, now and always.

**Amen.**

**\*Closing Carol**

*“Joy to the World”*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing...  
And heaven and nature sing...  
And heaven and heaven 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.*

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the Good News.

**Thanks be to God**

**\*Postlude**

*“Joy to the World”*

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**Preaching & Presiding**  
**Acolyte**  
**Usher**  
**Communion Assistant**

Deacon Steve Basselman  
Charlee Forward  
Mark Weaver  
Rich Winzeler

**Welcome to St. Martin's...** We welcome you on this Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May you be blessed by His presence this day during your celebrations and throughout the coming New Year. If you are visiting with us for the first time, do come back to worship with us again and let us introduce ourselves and the Lord we serve. Our regular Sunday schedule resumes January 9.

Regular Sunday Worship – 9:00 am + Sunday School – 10:20 am

Wednesday Informal Worship – 6:00 pm

[www.the-welcome-place.org](http://www.the-welcome-place.org)

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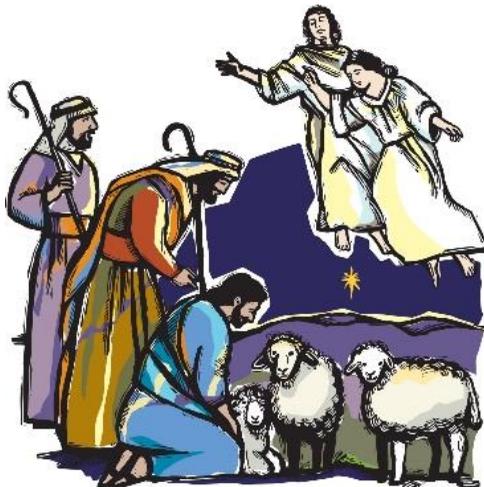
***Christmas Eve Worship continues...***

*7:00 – Festival Worship with Candlelight, Holy Communion*

***Christmas Day Service, 10:00 am, Holy Communion***

***Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 26, 9:00am Worship, No Sunday School***

***2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas, Jan 2, 9:00am Worship, No Sunday School***



## Christmas Poinsettia Donations

Clare Badenhop in memory of husband, Elden Badenhop

Pat Basselman in memory of husband, Rudy and sister, Carolyn

Jeff & Jo Ann Benecke in memory of Dexter & Janis Benecke,  
Melissa Benecke, Joe & Juanita Goubeaux

Linda & Bruce Bernath in memory of their parents: Russel &  
Roberta Opdycke, "Pup" Bernath and "Rosie" Carpenter

Michelle Collins in honor of Bridget Lovejoy and Jess Short

Jeff & Kristin Forward in memory of Til & Melba Schnitkey and Jason Forward

Steve & Bonnie Meyer in memory of Bob & Buzzy Meyer

Steve & Bonnie Meyer in memory of Wayne & Mabel Wyse

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

Linda Parnell & David McDonel in memory of Dawn Cramer & Ada Thrasher and in  
honor of their children, grandchildren and great-grand children

Bill & Diane Phelps in memory of William & Olga Summers and Edgar & Katherine  
Phelps

Greg & Nona Rupp in memory of Steve Liechty and Suellen Rupp and their parents and  
in honor of their children & grandchildren

Keith & Cristie Sevey in memory of Elden Badenhop and in honor of all of their  
grandchildren, Owen, Benji, Nolan, Simon and Molly

Marilyn Sholl in honor of Nona & Greg Rupp, Louise Belden, & Brenda Shibler

Tim & Deb Smith in memory of Fred & Ginnie Witte, Harold & Marilyn Smith, Max Smith,  
Sr. and in honor of Ken & Michelle Collins & Family, Paul & Toni Thiel & Family  
and Tyson & Katie Smith & Family

Don Spohler in memory of Anna & Arthur Spohler, Esther & Paul Greene and Sandie  
Spohler

Scott & Sheryl Spohler in memory of Sandie Spohler, Anna & Arthur Spohler and Paul &  
Esther Greene and in honor of Don Spohler

Jim & Jane Stevens in memory of their parents, Herb & Mildred Stevens and Rodney &  
Claudine Arnold

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

