Christmas Eve
Service of Song and Story

St. Martin's Lutheran Church + Archbold, Ohio
December 24, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.
www.the-welcome-place.org

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF SONG AND STORY

December 24, 2025 – 4:00p.m.

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

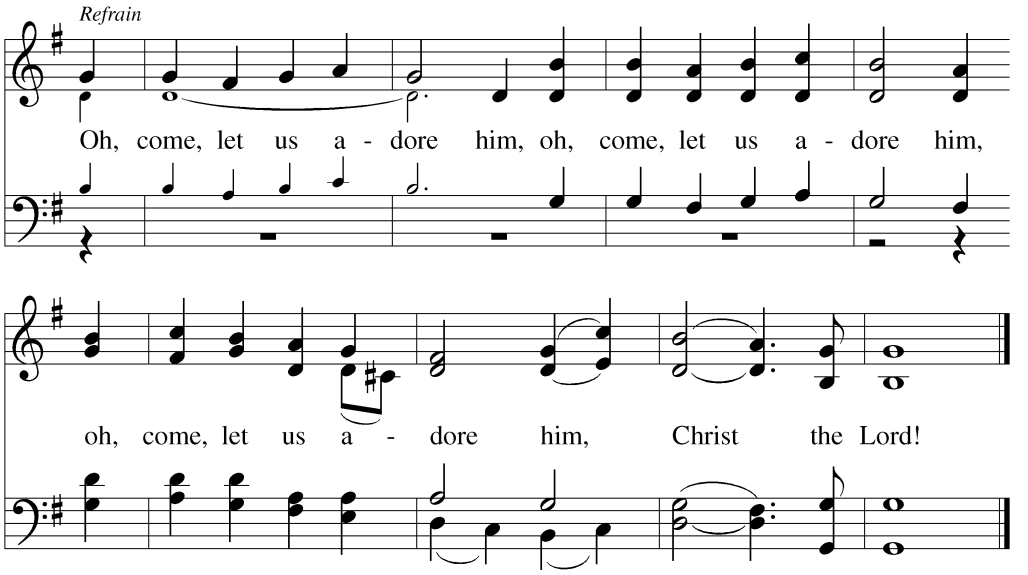
***** *Indicates to stand as you are able*

Prelude **"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"**

arr. Mary Beth Bennett

Welcome

Opening Hymn** ***"O Come All Ye Faithful"



*Greeting

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.

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.

*Lighting the Advent Wreath

Our Advent waiting is nearly finished.
Now is a time of fulfillment and celebration.

In the darkness of night, we give thanks for light.

We light a candle of hope:
hope for ourselves, and for God's beloved world.
We light a candle of peace:
peace in our hearts, and on earth.
We light a candle of joy:
joy to the world, and within our whole being.
We light a candle of love:
the promise of God's love for us, and for all creation.

We light the Christ candle,
the light of the world, the light of possibility.

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

2 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.
3 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.
4 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.
5 The boots of the warrior and the uniforms bloodstained by war will all be burned.
They will be fuel for the fire.
6 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.
7 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.

New Testament Reading — Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. 12 And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, 13 while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. 14 He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

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. **2** (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3** All returned to their own ancestral hometowns to register for this census. **4** 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. **5** He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. **6** And while they were there in Bethlehem, the time came for her baby to be born. **7** 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.

8 That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. **9** Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, **10** but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. **11** The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! **12** 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.

13 Suddenly, the angel was joined by a huge gathering of other angels—the armies of heaven—all praising God and saying,
14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to God's people on earth."
15 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.

16 They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby,
lying in the manger. 17 After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had
happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. 18 All who heard the
shepherds' story were astonished, 19 but Mary kept all these things in her heart and
thought about them often. 20 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 ***"For All Seasons"***

***Hymn of the Day** **"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"**

*Christmas Prayers

each petition ends:

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

*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.")

Offering

"Welcome to Our World" *– arr. Kadidlo*

Andrea Avers – vocalist; Eliza Avers – flutist

*Offertory

*Offertory Prayer

Good and loving God,

we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

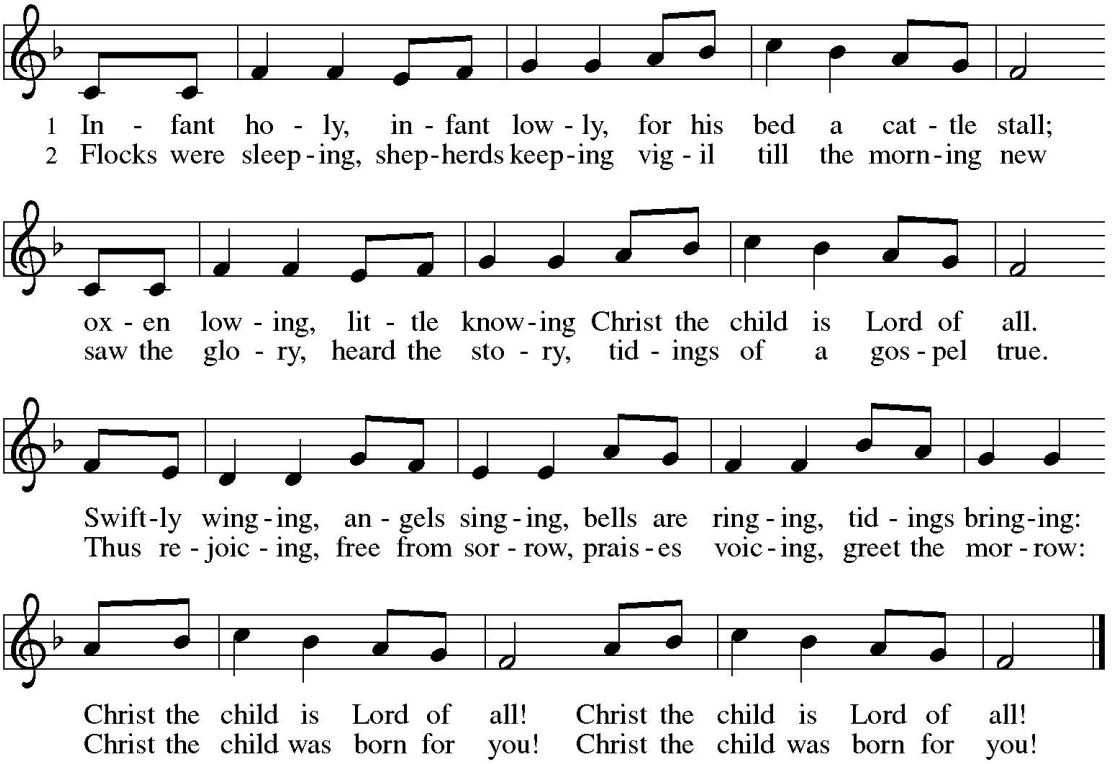
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

"Away in a Manger"

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"



*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*

“Silent Night”

*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.

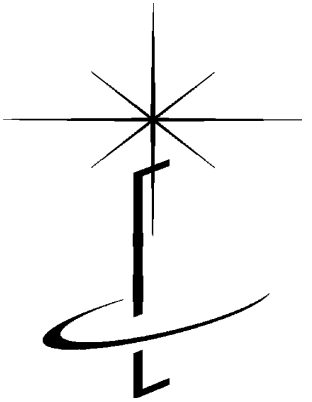
Amen

"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 Hymn *"Joy to the World"*

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the Good News.

Thanks be to God

***Postlude** **Carillon on "Antioch"**

arr. Mary Beth Bennett

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Preaching & Presiding	Pastor Steve Basselman
Acolytes	Alexa Schneider, Violet Schneider
Organist	Matthew Wachtman

Online Giving - Mobile Access

Mobile users can now access the giving page to set up recurring donations or make one time donations directly from phones using this QR code.
To change or delete recurring donations you will still need to go to:
https://givingtools.com and sign in to your account.

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 4.

Regular Sunday Worship – 9:00 am + Sunday School – 10:20 am
Wednesday Informal Worship – 6:00 pm
www.the-welcome-place.org

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Christmas Eve Worship continues…
7:00 – Festival Worship with Candlelight, Holy Communion

***Christmas Day Service**, 9:00 am, Holy Communion*

***Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 28,** 9:00am Worship, No Sunday School*

2025 Christmas Poinsettias

Pat Basselman in honor of 5 children, 14 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren

Jeff & Jo Ann Benecke in memory of Dexter & Janice Benecke and Joseph & Juanita Goubeaux and in honor of grandsons, Levi & Emerson

Dana & Peg Bjorlin in honor of our thankfulness for God's many blessings

Dana & Peg Bjorlin in memory of Wilbur & Doris Koerner and Paul Bjorlin and in honor of Doris Bjorlin

Jeff Mires & Gwen Grisier in memory of Eric Grisier & Julie Mires and in honor of our children

Philip & Carla Hoverman in memory of our parents, Carl & Fae Fogt and Howard & Katherine Hoverman

Linda Parnell in honor of our children, grandchildren, & great-grandchildren

Dianne Parsons in memory of family

Michael & Tess Pinter in memory of Alexa & in honor of Maddox, Andi, Emi, & Audra

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

Jay & Kiley Schnitkey in honor of our children Kasyn, Kaylee, Palmer, and Parker

Cristie Sevey in memory of Keith Sevey

Marilyn Sholl in honor of Greg & Nona Rupp

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

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

The Trudel's in memory of Jon Trudel and Jim Neff and in honor of John & Janette Trudel

Bonnie Wyse-Meyer in memory of Steve Meyer

The Wyse Family in memory of Wayne & Mabel Wyse

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

Sharon Ziegler in memory of Todd Ziegler