

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Founded 1856

1343 Penniman Avenue

Plymouth, MI 48170

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



Christmas Eve 2016

Carol Festival Service

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL FESTIVAL 2016

Congregation: Processional Hymn #55

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

1 Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels.

Refrain:

Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2 God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
Only begotten Son of God the Father. ***Refrain***

3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest. ***Refrain***

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing. ***Refrain***

Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711–86; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.

Call to Worship – Senior Choir

The lighting of the Advent Wreath candles

“A Flickering Candle”

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A flickering candle sheds its light
In hope of dawn's victorious might,
And backward scurries cowardly night
Reminded of the morning.

(Refrain) Watch, watch, for Christ is near,
The promised Son of God most dear.
Hope, hope, his light will clear the shades of death and sin.

The dawn on God's redeeming grace
Lit Bethlehem, that humble place.
Now radiant beams from Jesus' face illumine all creation.

Refrain

A Prayer for Christmas Eve

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 glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

***The Gospel According to St. Luke, Chapter 2
(King James Version)***

¹ And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

² ([And] this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

Congregation: Hymn #65, "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

1 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.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing To God the King
And peace to all the earth.

3 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.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin And enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, Abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93, abr., alt.

St. Peter's Youth Group: "Once in Royal David's City"
(Yvonne Alaniva, oboe)

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Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord
of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Savior
holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew.
He was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he
knew.

And he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our
gladness.

But our eyes at last shall see him through his own
redeeming love,
For that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heav'n
above,
As he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–95, abr., alt.

⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were
accomplished that she should be delivered.

⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him
in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because
there was no room for them in the inn.

Congregation: Hymn #68 “Away in a Manger”

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 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 take us to heaven to live with you there.

Text: *Little Children's Book*, Philadelphia, 1885, st. 1-2; *Vineyard Songs*, Louisville, 1892, st. 3.

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Congregation: Hymn #54 “Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”

1 Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me,
But there is room and welcome there for me.

2 In that unlikely place I find him as they said:
Sweet newborn Babe, how frail! and in a manger bed,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.

3 How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.

4 Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned
Its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,
To die, to live, and not alone for me,
To die, to live, and not alone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008. © 1987 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense.net License A-722670.

⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

Congregation: Hymn #61 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all you nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th’ incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!

Refrain

3 Hail, the heav’nly 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 us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.

Refrain

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, abr., alt.

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

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

¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Congregation: Hymn #63 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: *Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song? **Refrain**

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **Refrain**

Text: *Nouveau recueil de cantiques*, 1855; tr. *The Crown of Jesus*, Part 2, London, 1862, alt.

¹⁵ And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Congregation: Hymn #60 “Silent Night”
(Leah Brooke, guitar)

1 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.

2 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!

3 Silent night! Holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from thy holy face

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848, abr.; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85.

¹⁷ And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

¹⁸ And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Congregation: #24 “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said he to meek and lowly Mary,
“Most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!

2 “I come from heav’n to tell the Lord’s decree:
A blessed virgin mother you shall be.
Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleases God,” she said.
“My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name.”
Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!

4 Of her Immanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
“Most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!

Text: Basque carol, paraphrase Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.

Senior Choir: Hymn #44 “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning;

Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning.

This Child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,

The power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

Offering: Handbell Choir “Song of the Angels”

Prayer of the Church for Christmas Eve

M: Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.

C: On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.

M: You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.

C: Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.

M: You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and

fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard tonight.

C: May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.

M: You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

C: For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen.

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The Lord’s Prayer

C: 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.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

Recessional Hymn

Congregation #62 “Joy to the World” verses 1,2,4

Senior Choir sings v. 3.

1 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.

2 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.

Choir: 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow

Nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make his blessings flow

Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,

Far as, far as the curse is found.

4 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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Officiant: Pastor Paul Schaefer

Organist: Jan Jacobi

Choirs:

Senior Choir, Handbell Choir,

St. Peter's Youth Group, St. Peter's Wind Band

Oboe: Yvonne Alaniva; Guitar: Leah Brooke



We hope you will join us for the late Christmas Eve Divine Service at 11 p.m tonight and for the Sunday morning Divine Service at 9:30 a.m. Blessings on your celebrations!