

CHRISTMAS EVE

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
December 24, 2024

10:00 PM

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Assist: Like the shepherds, we come to the stable, uncertain of what we have heard and seen,

All: longing to hear a word of peace and joy.

Assist: Like the wise ones, we have journeys to make, gifts to offer, and hope in our hearts,

All: that this world can change for the better.

Assist: Here, in the stillness of a winter's night, we gather to share the light of Christ, a light that shines in the nightfall. We gather in the wonder of this night

All: to share our joy and thanks for new life.

SONG

Verse 1

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Verse 2

For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Assist: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Assist: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

Assist: 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. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



SONG

Verse 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.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Verse 2

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.

Verse 3

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!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-14

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Pastor: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

SONG OF RESPONSE

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Luke 2:15-20

Pastor: When 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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Pastor Ryan Dockery

SONG

Away In A Manger

Verse 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

Verse 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 cradle
Until morning is nigh

Verse 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 fit us for heaven
To live with You there

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All: We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us. We believe in Jesus Christ: God “with us” born among us as a fragile baby, embodying love, calling us to rest in God as a trusting tiny child. We believe that he was crucified, died and buried; he was raised from death to bring a new creation.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always encouraging, comforting, and inspiring our growth. We believe that the birth of a child is a glimpse of the face of God, a sign of the life to come, a call to live in peace and with hope, and to celebrate living together. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth! Amen.

Adapted from Nathan Nettleton

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition... Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

To make a gift online to the mission and ministry of UPBRING, use the QR code, go to shephills.org/GIVE or send to 3525 Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX 78746.



SONG

What Child is This?

Verse 1

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems
sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels
sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Verse 2

So bring him incense, gold, and
myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and the
angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

OFFERING PRAYER

Assist: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

All: Amen.

COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

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

All: Amen.

Assist: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

All: Amen.

BLESSING OF THE LIGHT

John 1:3b-5

Pastor: What has come 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.

SONG

Silent Night

Verse 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.

Verse 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!

Verse 3

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

John 1:14

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The God of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

All: Amen.

COMMISSIONING

Assist: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God, and WE WILL!

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SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

3525 BEE CAVES ROAD, AUSTIN, TX 78746

SHEPHILLS.ORG

SUNDAYS 8:15 & 10:45

PRAYERS

We pray for:

- Marie Fortune
- Hunter Clark
- Lydia Perkunas
- Dana Dertien

We pray for family and friends of Shepherd members:

- Drew Officer and Kate Sheeran, friends of Kathleen Macaulay
- Emma Katherine Phillips, sister of Hilary Russell
- Linda Maidment Meyers, daughter of Helen and David Maidment
- Winnie and Brad Nelson, sister and nephew of Mary Macaulay
- Taylor Schobey, daughter of Deanna Schobey
- Steph and Gina Geller and family, friends of Dee Jackson

WORSHIP TEAM

Senior Pastor	Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner
Associate Pastor	Pr. Ryan Dockery
Director of Worship & Arts	Kevin McClure
Assisting Minister	Joel Timmons