



CHRISTMAS EVE

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
December 24, 2024 6:00 PM

GATHERING MUSIC

Heaven and Nature Sing arr. Matthew McNaughton
String Ensemble
Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy P. I. Tchaikovsky
Andrei Zimbalist, piano
Once In Royal David's City
Jonathan Davies, soloist; Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 9 & John 1

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

All: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Pastor: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

All: We have seen Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

Pastor: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

All: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

SONG

O Come, All Ye Faithful

#283 vv. 1-3

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.

WELCOME

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader: 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Love Has Come

arr. Al Roberts

Sissel Wilson & Kristina Bishop, flute

SCRIPTURE READING

Titus 2:11-14

Reader: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Dear Little Stranger

arr. Sheldon Curry

Choir

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-7

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.

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, visit shephills.org/GIVE or by mail send to 3525 Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX 78746.

Passing of the plates.

OFFERING MUSIC

Away in a Manger
String Ensemble

OFFERING SONG

What Child is This? #296 v. 1 solo, v. 2 all

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW Setting 4

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Setting 4

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD’S PRAYER

COMMUNION INVITATION

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Hear these words: "The body of Christ given for you" and "The blood of Christ shed for you."

LAMB OF GOD

ELW Setting 4

COMMUNION MUSIC

Ding, Dong Merrily On High

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

Bell Ensemble

The Christ Child Lullaby

Shana Norton, harp

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

#281 vv. 1-3

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.

SENDING SONG

Joy to the World

#267 vv. 1-4

COMMISSIONING

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

All: Thanks be to God, and WE WILL!

POSTLUDE

March from *The Nutcracker*

Andrei Zimbalist, piano

WORSHIP TEAM & STAFF

| | |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Senior Pastor | Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner |
| Associate Pastor | Pr. Ryan Dockery |
| Director of Worship & Arts | Kevin McClure |
| Instrumentalists | Bruce Colson, Yi Ching Fong, Azariah Reese, Shawn Sanders, Josue Martinez, strings; Nick Valenza, trumpet |
| Assisting Minister | Cindy Nelson |
| Reader | Sara Enochs |
| Acolyte | Caroline Wegner |
| Altar Steward | Kitt Richter |
| Communion Servers | Peter & Linda Miller, Cindy Nelson, Sara and Charlie Enochs, Caroline Wegner, Kitt & Glenn Richter, Carmen Adams-Schulz, Kathy & Mark Gerhardt, Steve Schulz, Larry & Sandy Wikelius, Jonathan Davies |
| Crucifer | Owen Wegner |
| Hosts/Tellers | Rick Burnight, Nuremberg family, Anne & Jerry McDonald, Heather & Rhodes Martin, Janice Benzel |
| Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry | Joel Timmons |
| Children's Ministry Coordinator | Megan Getman |
| Accompanist | Andrei Zimbalist |
| Admin & Community Life Coordinator | Amanda Forsberg |
| Executive Director | Bill Dawson |
| Finance Officer | Hilary Russell |
| Communications Director | Dabney Gomes |
| Campus Superintendent | Philip Perry |
| Digital Media & IT | Dave Wegner |
| Sound & Video | Pete Forsberg, Jamie Nichols, Devin Schueppert, Vince Yokubaitis, Will Coulson, Bjorn Martinsson |

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

**To add a prayer request, email sheep@shephills.org. Prayers for family and friends are listed for 2 weeks, unless we are notified otherwise.*

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran
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www.shephills.org