



CHRISTMAS EVE
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
December 24, 2024 8:00 PM

GATHERING MUSIC

Away in a Manger

String Ensemble

Once In Royal David's City

Jonathan Davies & Tara Grove, soloists

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

Heaven and Nature Sing arr. Matthew McNaughton
String Ensemble

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.

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL

Angels We Have Heard on High

#289 v. 1

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 #289 v. 2

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.

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL Angels We Have Heard on High #289 v. 3

MESSAGE Pastor Ryan Dockery

MESSAGE SONG Hark, The Herald Angels Sing #270 vv. 1-3

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

The Christ Child Lullaby
Shana Norton, harp

English Traditional

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

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Jonathan Davies & Tara Grove, soloists

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

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

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

All: Thanks be to God, and WE WILL!

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; Bob Cannon, trumpet
Assisting Minister	Alana Oehler
Reader	Herb Palmer
Acolyte	Alicia Calvo
Altar Steward	Elnora & Ken McDonald
Communion Servers	Alana & Charlie Oehler, Herb & Kathy Palmer, Elnora & Ken McDonald, Alicia Calvo, Tim & Tiffany Stein
Hosts/Tellers	Debi Schoenfelt, Christine Stern Calvo, Terri Thomas
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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