



## **CROSS+GEN CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

**4:00 P.M. - DECEMBER 24, 2019**  
**SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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Welcome to this worship service especially for households with children! We hope that your Christmas celebration becomes even more joyful through our time together.

Children are invited to choose a costume item and a token from the tables as you first enter. Each child is invited forward at the time indicated in the program to place the token in the manger as an act of adoration of the Christ Child. Family members may accompany them.

*(ELW is the red hymnal.)*

## THE GATHERING

**Prelude** "What Child Is This?" (English Ballad) with  
"Sweet Little Jesus Boy" (Robert MacGimsey)

**Welcome**

**Pastor Mark Perry**

**Opening Dialog**

**Intern Pastor Paul Benz**

**L:** The angel of the Lord announced to Mary that she would bear the Holy Child.

**All:** He was born in Bethlehem then. We pray that He might be born in our hearts again tonight.

**L:** The angel reassured the shepherds who were frightened by the brightness of God's glory.

**All:** God directed them, just as He would direct us, to the gentle light shining out from the manger.

**L:** A choir of angels filled the night sky with hymns of praise for God's Christmas Gift.

**All:** We join that song with thankful hearts. We offer our gifts and adoration to God's gracious Son.

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the king of angels:

*Refrain*

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

2 The highest, most holy,  
light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father  
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest: *Refrain*

## THE JOURNEY

### Reading: Luke 2:1-5

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

## Reflection Time

Pastor Mark Perry

*(After each reflection, all are invited to “wonder” together, following the thought prompts on the screens)*

## Song

“I Wonder As I Wander”

WOV #642

(Children in animal costumes bring up camels & blankets to place in manger)

1. I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.  
For poor on'ry people like you and like I...  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

2. When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,  
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.  
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,  
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

## THE BIRTH

### Reading: Luke 2:6-7

<sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

## Reflection

**Song**                    **“Away in a Manger”**                    **ELW #277; vss. 1 & 3**  
(Children in dove costumes bring up heart tokens)

**1** Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.

**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.

## **THE ANGELS**

**Reading: Luke 2:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

**Reflection**

**Song** **“Angels We Have Heard on High”** **ELW #289; vss. 1 & 3**  
(Children in Angel costumes bring up harps & trumpets)

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.

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

**THE SHEPHERDS**

**Reading: Luke 2:15-19**

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

**Reflection Time**

**Song**                    **"Go Tell It On the Mountain"**                    **ELW #290**  
(Children in Shepherd costumes bring up sheep)

**Refrain**

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. Refrain

2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain

## THE GIFTS BROUGHT

**Reading: Luke 2:20**

<sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### Reflection Activity

*(Wonder together how this Story prompts our response in word and actions. Write or draw your thoughts and place them in the baskets that will be passed around along with the offering plates)*

### Offering

Offering Music                      "O Holy Night"                      (Adolphe Adam)

Song                      "What Child is This?"                      ELW #296; vss. 1 & 3  
(Offerings are received. Children with king's crowns follow ushers with baskets of "Christmas gifts" and place them near in manger)

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!**

**3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!**

## **WE ADORE**

**Offering Prayer (read in unison)**

**\*Christmas Prayer**

**\*Holy Communion/Words of Institution**

**\*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.

**Distribution** (by means of intinction at two stations at the front. Ushers will guide you forward)

**Songs During Communion:**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” ELW #279; vss. 1,3 & 4

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.

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.

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!

**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 angelic hosts 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, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain***

**3 Hail the heav’n-born 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 each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

**Candle Lighting** *(all are invited to light candles and turn on votives at this time)*

**Song**

**“Silent Night”**

**ELW #281**

- 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 your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

**WE PROCLAIM**

**Closing Prayer and Christmas Blessing**

**(Children are invited up to share the blessing together  
and join in singing with instruments)**

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.

3 No more let sin and sorrow 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.

\*Dismissal

L: Go in Peace. Share the Good News.

All: Thanks be to God!