



*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given* Isaiah 9:6

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP**  
**DECEMBER 24, 2021 – 8:00 PM**

❖ *Denotes times when the congregation is invited to stand.*  
*The congregation is encouraged to quietly and prayerfully prepare for worship during the prelude.*

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

Resurrection Brass Ensemble

*Christmas Carols* - arr. D. Marlatt

**PRELUDE**

*Once in Royal David's City* – arr. K. McChesney

Heavenly Handbells

**WELCOME**

❖ **PROCESSIONAL CAROL**

*Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful* – arr. V. Nelhybel, D. Willcocks

**LSB 379**

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*

2. Highest, Most Holy,  
Light of Light Eternal,  
Born of a virgin,  
A mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

*Refrain*      O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

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

4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus to Thee be  
Glory given!  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-4) and Music: Public domain.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder. © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

❖ **INVOCATION AND DIALOG**

P We make our beginning in the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

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

C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.

C **In Him was Life, and the Life was the light of all people.**

P May the Grace and Truth of Christ be with you.

C **And also with you.**

❖ **EPISTLE**

Titus 2:11-14

For the Grace of God that brings Salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed

hope—the glorious appearing of our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

❖ **CONFESSION OF SINS**

*John 20:21-23*

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**C** Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your Will and walk in Your Ways to the glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.

❖ **GOOD NEWS OF FORGIVENESS**

**P** Almighty God in His Mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His Sake forgives you all your sins. As an ordained servant of Christ, and by His Authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

**CAROL**

*Christmas Night - J. Rutter*

Sanctuary Choir

*1. Softly through the winter's darkness shines a light,  
Clear and still in Bethlehem on Christmas Night.  
Round the stable where a virgin mother mild  
Watches over Jesus Christ the holy child.*

*2. Shepherds kneel in adoration by his bed;  
Seraphim in glory hover round his head.  
Wise men, guided by the leading of a star,  
Bring him gifts of precious treasure from afar.*

*3. Choirs of angels sing to greet his wondrous birth:  
Christ our Lord in human form comes down to earth.  
'Glory to God in highest heaven their joyful strain:  
'Peace on earth, goodwill to men' the glad refrain.*

*4. Lullaby! The child lies sleeping: sing lullaby!  
Safe in Mary's tender keeping: sing lullaby!  
Guardian angels keep their watch till break of day:  
Lullaby! Sweet Jesus sleeps among the hay.*

*5. Alleluia! Let the earth rejoice today!  
Christ is born to take our sins and guilt away.  
Praise the Lord who sent him down from heaven above:  
Holy infant, born of God the Father's love.*

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Almighty God, you made this Holy Night shine with the brightness of the True Light.

**C** **Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' Presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of His Glory;**

P through Your Only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY**

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before You as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, You have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over His Kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **CAROL**

*Star Carol* – J. Rutter

Sanctuary Choir

*1. Sing this night, for a Boy is born in Bethlehem,  
Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;  
Bring your gifts, come and worship at His Cradle,  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the Son of Mary!*  
Refrain

*2. Angels bright, come from Heaven's highest glory,  
Bear the news with its message of good cheer:  
'Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us,  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the Son of Mary!'*  
Refrain

Refrain

*See His Star shining bright in the sky this Christmas Night!  
Follow me joyfully; hurry to Bethlehem and see the Son of Mary!*

3. See, He lies in His mother's tender keeping;  
Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.  
Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore Him,  
Offer their humble gifts before the Son of Mary.  
Refrain

4. Let us all pay our homage at the manger,  
Sing His praise on this joyful Christmas Night;  
Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation;  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the Son of Mary!  
Refrain

Refrain

*See His Star shining bright in the sky this Christmas Night!  
Follow me joyfully; hurry to Bethlehem and see the Son of Mary!*

## ❖ CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

*Luke 2:1-20*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.  
**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

**P** And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

**Men** *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:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.*

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

**P** And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 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. And the angel said unto them,

**Women** *Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

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

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

P And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into Heaven, the shepherds said one to another,

**Men *Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.***

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

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

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

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

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **CAROL**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* – arr. V. Nelhybel, D. Willcocks

**LSB 380**

**1.Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the 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 the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!

*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 man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.

*Refrain*

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-3) and Music: Public domain.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder. © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

**HOMILY**

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

Unto Us  
Luke 2: 1-20

**CAROL**

*Angels We Have Heard on High* – arr. V. Nelhybel

**LSB 368**

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*

**Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-3) and Music: Public domain.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder. © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.



**CREED      *APOSTLES' CREED***

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of Heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into Heaven  
and sits at the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the Life ✠ Everlasting. Amen.



**GREETING OF PEACE**

All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (*Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3*) Any gesture accompanying this greeting (wave, hand over heart with slight bow, or handshake) is welcome.

## OFFERING

(The offerings of God's people will be received through electronic giving, by postal mail, and in baskets located in the Narthex.)

## MUSICAL OFFERING

*The Holly and the Ivy* – arr. S. Eithun

Heavenly Handbells

## OFFERTORY CAROL

*The First Noel* – arr. V. Nelhybel

**LBW 56, vs. 1 & 5**

**1. The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in field as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

### *Refrain*

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**5. Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
Full rev'rently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain***

Text (sts. 1, ref, 5) and Music: Public domain.

## ❖ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Blessing and honor and glory and might be to You, Almighty God – worship and praise and thanksgiving...for You have kept Your Word and come at last in Jesus Christ to set Your people free. O God of Great Glory...

**C** **Grant us peace.**

**P** Let the good tidings of great joy sound forth to show Your Glory in every part of the world, that the darkness of sin may give way to the glorious light of Christ's Presence among us. O God of Great Glory.

**C** **Grant us peace.**

P Grant peace to the nations of this world, peace to our communities and neighborhoods, peace to our homes and families, peace to the hearts of lives of all of us. O God of Great Glory.

**C Grant us peace.**

P Grant joy to those who rejoice in these days, and the peace of Your Strength and Comfort to those who are afflicted, that in every circumstance we may see You in action and know the glory of Your Love. O God of Great Glory.

**C Grant us peace.**

P Set us aglow, O God, with the message of the angels – and the prospect of joining them, and all Your People of every time and every place – in the Glory You have prepared for us through Him Whose Birth we celebrate. O God of Great Glory.

**C Grant us peace.**

P Glory in the highest be to You, O God, with Your Only-Begotten Son in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forevermore.

**C Amen.**

## ❖ THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

P Glory to God in the highest,  
**C and peace to God's people on earth.**

P Blessed are You, Prince of Peace, You rule the earth with truth and justice.

**C Send Your Gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

P Blessed are You, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

**C Enliven Your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.**

P Blessed are You, Immanuel, You promised to be with us even to the end of the age.

**C**     **Open our eyes to see Your Presence in all who are hungry,  
lonely, or homeless.**

**P**     Blessed are You, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made  
flesh.

**C**     **Reveal Yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear  
Your Light to all the world.**

*The minister lights a candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world.  
Light your candle now. The candles will be extinguished following the Blessing.*

## **MUSIC FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

*Nativity Carol* – J. Rutter

Sanctuary Choir

*Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago;  
Born 'neath light of star, he who loved us so.  
Far away silent he lay, born today, your homage pay,  
For Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.*

*Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills  
Worship this babe so rare, hearts with his warmth he fills.  
Far away silent lay, born today, your homage pay,  
For Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.*

*Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby;  
Over her son so dear, angel hosts fill the sky.  
Far away silent he lay, born today, your homage pay;  
Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.*

*Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow;  
Innocent dreaming babe, make me thy love to know.  
Far away silent he lay, born today, your homage pay;  
Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.*

## ❖ **CAROL**

*Silent Night* – arr. V. Nelhybel

**LSB 363**

**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 and Music: Public domain.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder. © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

❖ **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**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

P           May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,  
                  the obedience of Joseph,  
                  the joy of the angels,  
                  the eagerness of the shepherds,  
                  the determination of the magi,  
                  and the peace of the Christ Child.  
                  And may Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C           **Amen.**

❖ **CLOSING CAROL**

*Joy to the World* - arr. V. Nelhybel

**LSB 387, vs. 1-2, 4**

**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 men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy...

**4. He rules the world with truth and grace**  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love...

Text and Music: Public domain.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder. © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

## **POSTLUDE**

*Joy to the World* - arr. D. Marlatt

Resurrection Brass Ensemble

### **Acknowledgments**

Portions of the liturgy from *CREATIVE WORSHIP for the Lutheran Parish* @ Concordia Publishing House. UBP Divine Service, Setting One, from Lutheran Service Book © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted with permission. Unless otherwise stated, Scripture taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION copyright @ 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission. All Carols Text and Tune: Public domain. Created by Lutheran Service Builder. © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

## **SERVANT LEADERS IN WORSHIP TODAY**

Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke  
Presiding Minister.....Rev. Alan Shaw  
Liturgist.....Rev. Zach Sarrault  
Organist/Piano.....Robert E. Unger, Director of Worship and Music Ministry  
Accompanist.....Ashley Huddle  
Resurrection Brass Ensemble.....Michal Evans, Garry Grabow, James Linn,  
Mark Beamish, Kathy Silbiger, Frank Longino, Justin Indla, Annie Indla  
Lector.....Rosie Spangenberg  
Camera Operator.....Garett Nigg  
Live Stream Producer.....Susan Moore

## Christmas Poinsettias

### Name

Charlotte Beyer  
Randy & Janet Bowling  
Adam Brake  
Terry & Sandy Brummeyer  
Sally & Robert Cotton  
Mike & Roberta Danilowicz  
John & Sandy Eckstein  
Tim & Amanda Farmer  
Tom & Deb Gebbia  
Mike & Trudy Haertling  
Fred & Daphne Harbinson  
John & Virginia Heilman  
Lorraine Kieffer  
Donna Krupcale  
Annette Langefeld  
Dennis & Linda Merrill  
Darrell & Anita Moore  
Susan Moore  
Elizabeth Morgan  
Paul & Barbara Niffenegger  
Eydee Persson  
The Peterson Family  
Kathy Rasmussen  
Gail Reilly  
Marcia Shaw  
John & Michelle Wood  
Cynthia Wyse  
Jim & Lana Zieglmeier

### In Memory of

Rev. Dr. Arthur H. Beyer  
Carl & Marilyn Boger  
Nancy Brake  
Loved Ones  
Lynne (Cotton) Mansfield (Daughter)  
Roberta's Mother  
Our Son, Larry  
Grandparents  
Judith Gebbia  
Mr. & Mrs. Herc (Trudy's Dad & Mom)  
Grandchildren, Audrey, Gavin, & Finn  
Loved Family Members  
Richard Kieffer  
Sims, Rueckwald, & Krupcale Families  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Dean Moore  
My Grandmothers- Joyce Metz, Bonnie Higgins  
Antonia and William  
Our Departed Family Members  
Husband, Mike Persson  
Sarah Peterson, Glenn & Gloria Peterson  
Mildred Barteck, My Parents  
Mother, Mary Linda  
Lawrence Shaw  
Earle & Jean Wood  
Pastor Paul Kibler, Mabel & Wayne Wyse  
Parents & Grandparents

### In Honor Of

Randy & Janet Bowling  
John & Virginia Heilman  
John & Deanna Leuenberger  
Meta Linde  
The Peterson Family  
Kathy Rasmussen  
John & Michelle Wood

Traveling Family To Be Together  
Jesus Christ Our Savior  
Resurrection Ministers  
Law Officers  
Our Savior's Birth  
My Children & Grandchildren  
Al & Clare Roberts

## Other Christmas Services

### **December 25 ~ Christmas Day**

**10:00 am** - Festival Celebration of Holy Communion  
with Christmas Carols featuring Anno Domini Quartet and Gloria Singers

### **December 26 ~ First Sunday After Christmas**

**9:30 am** - Traditional Sunday Service with Holy Communion



100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518

[rlcary.org](http://rlcary.org)

919-851-7248 | [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org)