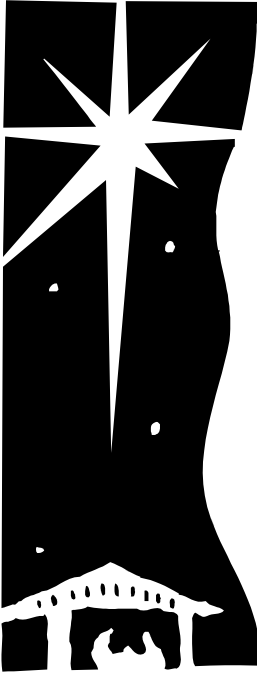


SILENT
Night

Holy NIGHT



ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
Christmas Eve 7:00 & 9:30 p.m.
December 24, 2021



WELCOME! We gather as a community for worship around *word, wine, and water*. Put another way, in worship we meet Christ in scripture proclaimed in speech & song, in the sacraments of Holy Communion & Baptism celebrated or remembered, and in community gathered together. Whether you are a long-time member of St. Matthew, a first-time visitor, or somewhere in between, we are thankful you are here today. If you have questions or need visual, or mobility accommodations, please let a name tagged **usher** know. To learn more about the ministries of St. Matthew, please check out the brochure from the ushers or go to our website at www.stmattlutheran.org. All are invited to join us any Sunday at 9:30 a.m. for Faith Connections, when there are opportunities for all ages to connect with God, our faith, and one another through learning and relationship. Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 for refreshments and information about ways to plug in.

Please tear off and put in the offering basket as you leave:

Names of everyone attending **December 24 at 7:00 or 9:30 p.m.:**

(Please circle one)

Would you like to be added to our email list? **Please list your name and email address:**

Would you like to be contacted by a pastor? Please list phone number:

COVID GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP

Due to the highly contagious nature of Covid and our desire to be welcoming to our youngest, oldest and others with health concerns, please follow these guidelines:

- To **require masks** at our 5:00, 7:00 and 9:30 p.m. worship services regardless of vaccination status.
 - We continue to distance people by marking pews.
 - We continue the current procedures for communion and offerings. A waste basket for the communion cups and napkins is placed at the exits.
 - Offering plates will not be passed. There is a basket at the door.
-



IN WINTER'S DEEPEST NIGHT, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

+ Celebrating God's Love - Serving in Jesus' Name +

NATIVITY RECITAL (6:45)

It Came upon a Midnight Clear arr. Innes
(Nancy Leister, Pianist and Scott Fredericks, Organist)

Tidings of Comfort and Joy arr. Larson
(Emma Carson, Handbells; Daniel Carson, Violin)

Emmanuel Story/Sorenson
(Alayna and Cole Smith, Soloists)

Sleep Little Jesus Preston
(Spirit Singers with Bobbi Little, Flute)

NATIVITY RECITAL (9:15)

It Came upon a Midnight Clear arr. Innes
(Nancy Leister, Pianist and Scott Fredericks, Organist)

Sleep Little Jesus Preston
(Spirit Singers with Bobbi Little, Flute)

Mary's Little Boychild Hairston
(Madison Maloney, Soloist, with Men's Chorus)

Breath of Heaven Waston/Grant
(Spirit Singers)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Isaiah 9:2, John 1:1,14)

Pastor: The impossible is about to happen in a stable.
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:

**All: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,
on them has the light shined!**

Pastor: This is the evening when creation stood still and held its
breath, for God was doing the most unbelievable, dangerous
thing.

**All: This is the evening when God embraced humanity from the
inside, as one of us, from birth to death.**

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

**All: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth. Amen!**

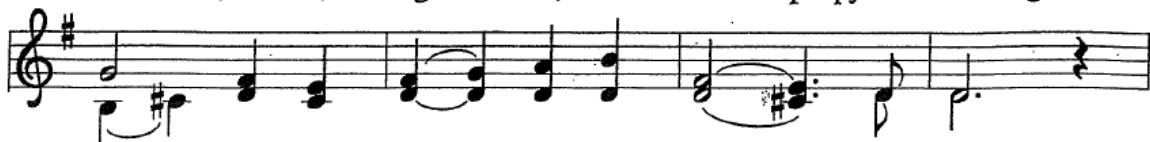
CAROL.....O Come, All Ye Faithful – Wade/Oakeley

(Next Page)





O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the / king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. 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; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

CAROL.....Angels We Have Heard on High – Hemy/Barnes



An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

FIRST LESSON: OLD TESTAMENT PROMISE.....Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Lector: A reading from the 9th chapter of Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

(7:00)

Breath of Heaven
(Spirit Singers)

Waston/Grant

(9:30)

Let There Be Christmas
(Adult Choir with Judy Porowski, Soloist)

Martin

Text:

Let there be music. Let there be praise. Let there be singing to fill ev'ry space.

Let there be sunshine, dazzling and white. Let there be worship. Let there be Christmas to night. Let there be carols. Let there be song.

Let there be angels to sing loud and strong. Let there be candles, gentle and bright. Let there be worship. Let there be Christmas tonight.

Christmas, come now, and fill us with love. Bring your spirit of grace from above.

Christmas, come let our hope be restored. Bring us news that a Savior is born!

Christ, the Savior is born! Let there be glory. Let there be peace. Let there be promise. Let justice increase. Heaven has spoken, "Let there be Light!" Come, all ye faithful. Let there be Christmas to night. Let there be music. Let there be singing. Let there be worship. Let there be Christmas tonight. Come to the manger. Kneel and adore Him, O let there be Christmas tonight. Silent night.

THE CHRISTMAS LESSON: THE NATIVITY..... Luke 2:1-7

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

CAROL..... *Away in a Manger – Murray*



A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

THE CHRISTMAS LESSON: THE SHEPHERDS Luke 2:8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

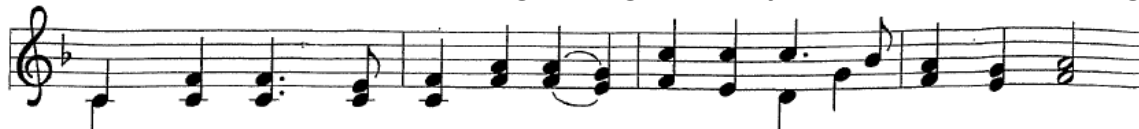
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

THE MESSAGE

Where Jesus Ends Up

Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman

CAROL..... *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* – Wesley/Mendelssohn/Cummings



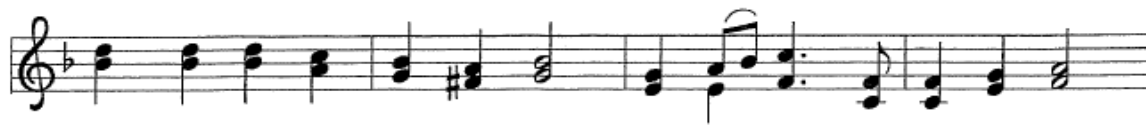
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born king;
Hail the heav’n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

PRAYERS Each petition concludes, *"Loving God,"* and the congregation responds, *"we pray to you."*

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

(The congregation is invited to greet one another with nods and waves)

ANTHEM (7:00)

Mary's Little Boychild

Hairston

(Madison Maloney and Scott Fredericks, Soloists)

(9:30)

Ding Dong Merrily on High

arr. Leavitt

(Adult Choir)

Text:

Ding ding dong dong.
Ding ding ding ding dong, in heav'n the bells are ringing!
Ding dong, verily the sky, is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria Deo, Hosanna in excelsis.
E'en so here below, Let steeple bells be swungen,
And I-o, i-o,i-o! By priest and people sungen.
Gloria Deo, Hosanna in excelsis!
Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria Deo, Hosanna in excelsis! Ding dong gloria Deo!

OFFERTORY - (Tune: *What Child Is This*)

**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!**

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray.

All: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

RECEIVING OF THE ELEMENTS OF BREAD AND WINE

Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.

All: Amen. (*Eat wafer*)

(Pause)

Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

All: Amen. (*Drink wine*)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

All: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.

As we have shared this feast of love,
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.

In Jesus' name we pray.

All: Amen.

CAROL..... *Silent Night, Holy Night!* – Mohr/Young/Gruber



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

BLESSING

Pastor: The God of hope
 fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
 so that we may abound in hope
 by the power of the Holy Spirit,
 through Christ Jesus, the word made flesh.

All: Amen.

SENDING CAROL..... Joy to the World – Watts/Mason



Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 ness and won - ders of his love, and' won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

DISMISSAL:

Pastor: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Christmas Carol Medley

arr. Fredericks

* * * * *

Please note: Music for this service is covered under CCLI # 1000682 –
 Also #A-708989 One License.net

OUR WARM THANKS to all those assisting in our worship services this evening:

MusiciansMadison Maloney, Alayna and Cole Smith, Judy Porowski, Soloists;
Spirit Singers; Emma Carson, Handbells; Daniel Carson, Violinist;
Bobbi Little, Flute; Nancy Leister, Pianist; Men’s Chorus; Adult Choir

Courier 7:00 - Tom Shultz 9:30 - Ardis Kunde

Greeters 7:00 - Dan & Doris Deitzel, Nancy Leister
9:30 - Randy Kline, Barb Frederick, Lance Frederick

Ushers 7:00 - Tom Shultz, Bryant Meckley, Darlene Klenk, Steve Rutters
9:30 - Jay Bowersox, Jim Menges, John Frederick Jr., Lori Unger

The anthem, *Let There Be Christmas*, has been given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Betty Gouker by Barb Rupp and family.

We wish you and your family a joyous and blessed Christmas and prosperous New Year! We thank you for all you do to make our community of faith a wonderful place to work and be.

The Staff of St. Matthew

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Phone: 717-637-7101

General mailbox ext. 221

Email: info@stmattlutheran.org www.stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, Lead Pastor, ext. 231

Rev. Taylor Berdahl, Associate Pastor, ext. 229

Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Visitation Pastor

Scott G. Fredericks, Minister of Music, ext. 235

Tim Peck, Youth Ministry, youth@stmattlutheran.org

Stacy Parsons, Children’s Ministry, sparsons@stmattlutheran.org