



# Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

Gainesville, Florida

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021

4:00 pm

Pastor: Rev. Jack Mackowiak



9700 W. Newberry Rd. Gainesville, FL 32606

[www.abidingsavior.info](http://www.abidingsavior.info) – [office@abidingsavior.info](mailto:office@abidingsavior.info) – 352-331-4409

# Announcements and Reminders

## Communion Statement

In accordance with the teachings of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, we believe and confess that in this Sacrament we receive the true body and blood of Jesus Christ under the forms of bread and wine. Our gathering at the Table of the Lord is not a mere symbolic eating and drinking.

Receiving the body and blood of Christ together at this Holy Table is confessing that we who here receive this Sacrament share this common belief. Such celebration of the Sacrament carries two pastoral concerns:

- That all communicants understand what God is giving to us in His Supper. The New Testament speaks of grave harm that will come upon anyone who does not “discern the Lord’s body” (1 Corinthians 11:29). We desire that you receive this gift to your good and never to your harm.
- Each one should be able to examine themselves and recognize their sin and need for God’s grace, lest we contradict Christ by sin against Him and sin against His people. In this Sacrament we are most fully at one with Christ and with one another, and so we should come to this Table at peace with Him and at peace with all our sisters and brothers.

Because communion at the table of our Lord is such a confession of common faith, worshipers who have a different understanding, or who hold a differing confession of faith, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament should first speak with an Elder or the Pastor before communing.

For those with health concerns, gluten-free wafers are available on request and non-alcoholic wine is available in the center cups of each communion tray. Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing by crossing their arms over their chest at the communion rail.

## Join us on Sundays

Worship Services at 8:00am and 10:45am, with Bible Breakfast right after the 8:00am service, and several Bible study class options to choose from at 9:45am.

*Bible Studies are on hold this Sunday (December 26) and will resume Sunday January 2.*

## Serving Today

*Pastor:* Rev. Jack Mackowiak

*Director of Music Ministry:* Joshua Mazur

4:00pm

*Acolyte:* Volunteer

*Elders:* Fred Townsend &  
Derek Sain

6:00pm

*Acolyte:* Volunteer

*Elders:* Michael Arden &  
Chuck Moss

8:00pm

*Acolyte:* Volunteer

*Elders:* Derek Sain &  
Jimmy Flateau

## Sunday Adult Bible Studies.

*Bible studies are on hold this Sunday (December 26) and will resume in the New Year.*

9:45 am – “Girl Friends” Bible Study meets in the Library of Building 3. This class is led by Linda Struckmeyer, Debbie Hill, and Karen Brautcheck and is also available via Zoom. Join us for a study of the book of **Hebrews** titled “*Better*”. Contact Linda at [struck60@gmail.com](mailto:struck60@gmail.com) for a Zoom link.

9:45 am – Study the Bible “*One Book at a Time*” with Chuck Moss in the Building 1 classroom. This group begins studying the Old Testament book of **Esther**. Contact [Chuck\\_Moss@msn.com](mailto:Chuck_Moss@msn.com) for a Zoom link for this class.

9:45 am – Pastor Jack leads a study of the book of **Ephesians**. This class meets in the Octagon room in the FLC.

**Monday 7:00 pm** - A study of the book of **Colossians** is led by Joshua Mazur via Zoom. For the Zoom link, contact [Jmazur@abidingsavior.info](mailto:Jmazur@abidingsavior.info).

**Sunday School for children through 5th grade continues!** Join us in the Family Life Center fellowship hall at 9:45 or contact Sarah Sain at [Sarah.d.sain@gmail.com](mailto:Sarah.d.sain@gmail.com) for an online link for your child.

**Parents and Tots Sunday School** for preschoolers led by Susan Moss in the nursery at 10:00 am.

**Those who have ordered poinsettias for the Christmas season** can take yours home after the Christmas Eve Service.

# CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2021

4:00 pm

## Prelude

*Carol Medley – Brass Buddies*

## Welcome and Announcements

## Opening Hymn: What Child is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;

**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

**P** The Lord is with us this evening and always! Tonight we remember our Lord who was born in strife to bring us life. We remember His birth. But as we ponder His love and the events of His birth, we also realize that looming in the background of the manger is the shape of a cross. This Child was born to die for you and for me; for the sins and the salvation of the world. In Him we place all our hope and trust, for He removes our fears. We are sinners in need of a Savior. Let us reflect on and repent of our sins. Let us also rejoice in the One named Jesus, who came to save us from our sins.

**C** **Lord, have mercy on us and hear our prayer. We are lying in the muck and mire of sin. We have not fully placed our trust in You. Yet we are the reason You came to earth. Forgive us for those sins of which we are aware and those known only to You. Forgive us. Save us. Turn us away from our sins to follow in Your perfect ways. Amen.**

**P** The name “Jesus” means “Savior.” He was given this name because He comes to save His people from their sins. His word and work have been completed perfectly for you and me. As His called and ordained servant, I announce this grace unto all of you, and in the stead and at the command of this holy Lamb of God, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Hymn: O Lamb of God, Our Savior



O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, All sins You take a - way.



Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus, And grant us peace, we pray.



Re - joice we at Your birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

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Tune: Public domain

## The Manger and the Cross Reading, pt. 1

**P** To a small, quiet village in the backwaters of the Roman Empire; to a small band of shepherds, tending their flocks, as they had for years, and as others had done before them for centuries; to a time far removed from us and in a place we can only think of in romantic, unreal ways came an event that changed not only that time and place, but all time and every place.

**C** “An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them.”

**P** To calm those who are frightened by the idea of God’s drawing close to touch our human lives and to prepare us to welcome so wondrous a gift as Emmanuel, God-with-us,

**C** The angel said to them, “Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people.”

**P** To infuse our hearts with joy and to open us to receive the grace that God showers into our lives,

**C** The angel said to them, “To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

**P** To give direction to those who have lost their way and wandered far from God,

**C** The angel said to them, “This will be a sign for you: you will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

**P** To herald the Good News that God has entered human history and to celebrate the beginning of God’s actions to bring all people into fellowship with Him and with one another,

**C** Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

## Hymn: 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*sts. 1, ref. 2*



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,



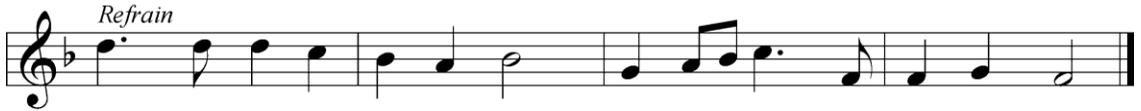
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”  
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!



With the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im-man-u - el!



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

Tune and text: Public domain

### The Manger and the Cross Reading, pt.2

- P** As we ponder His love and the events of His birth, we also realize that looming in the background of the manger is the shape of a cross. This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against.
- C** **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.**
- P** He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.
- C** **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders.**
- P** Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,
- C** **And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
- P** yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted.
- C** **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.**
- P** But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.
- C** **In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to his own town to register.**
- P** We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;
- C** **So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of**

**David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.**

**P** the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

**C** **While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.**

**P** He poured out His life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors.

**C** **She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.**

**P** Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen.

**C** **Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?"**

**P** Above His head they placed the written charge against Him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.

**C** **Herod...gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under.**

**P** At that moment, the earth shook and rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.

**C** **The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.**

**P** They gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole Him away while we were asleep.'"

**C** **And Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and men.**

### **Confession of Faith**

**P** Living together as brothers and sisters, and in trust and hope, we join with the Church throughout the world in confessing our faith:

**C** **I believe in God the Father, Creator of all things, who sent His Son as my Savior. I believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by angels, worshiped by the wise men; who lived to suffer, die, and rise again to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in Jesus Christ and by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ my worship, my life, my love; to live under him as my King, both now and forevermore. Amen.**

## Hymn: Angels We Have Heard On High

1. 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.*

2. As the angels sang his birth,  
We here now proclaim the same.  
For our souls he came to Earth!  
We, in joy, will praise His name.
3. It was not for heav'n a loss,  
when our God was born a man.  
Born to die upon a cross,  
and fulfill the Gospel plan.

## Message

## Prayer of the Church

### Communion Liturgy

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** The shepherds believed the angelic announcement and went to find their Savior.

**C** We have also heard the good news and seek our Lord.

**P** They found their Savior, the long-promised Messiah, in a stable's manger.

**C** And we shall receive him under bread and wine.

**P** In thanksgiving for this great gift, we join the saints of all time and say:

## The Sanctus

*Holy, Holy, Holy (Tune: As with Gladness Men of Old)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord  
God of hosts, by all adored;  
Heav'n and earth cannot contain  
All the glory of Your name!  
With the heav'nly host we sing  
Highest praises to our King!**

**Hail! Hosanna! Endless fame  
Be to Him who, in God's name,  
Now draws nigh with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hail! Hosanna! Praises be  
To the Lord eternally!**

### **Lord's Prayer**

*(Tune: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear)*

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** **Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne,  
Most holy be Your name.  
Your kingdom come. Your will be done  
On earth – in heav'n the same.  
Give us this day the food we need;  
Forgiven may we be.  
Into temptation do not lead;  
From evil set us free.**

**Yours is the kingdom; unto You  
In grateful love we bow;  
And Yours the pow'r, Lord, let us view  
Your mighty presence now.  
The glory Yours, Your praise be sung  
By angel host and men  
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue  
Forevermore! Amen.**

### **Words of Our Lord**

#### **Pax Domini**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

#### **Agnus Dei**

*Lamb of God (Tune: From Heaven Above)*

**O Lamb of God, You take away  
The sin of all, now hear us pray,  
And grant us from our sin release:  
Have mercy on us! Grant us peace!**

## Distribution

## Dismissal

### Nunc Dimittis

*Song of Simeon (tune: God Rest You Merry)*

**Lord, let your servant go in peace,**

**Your Word has been fulfilled.**

**My eyes have seen the saving work**

**Which for the world You willed:**

**The glory of Your chosen race**

**As light for all revealed.**

**O tidings of comfort and joy,**

**Comfort and joy!**

**O tidings of comfort and joy!**

**O thank the Lord and sing His praise,**

**What He has done proclaim!**

**Let all who seek the Lord rejoice**

**And proudly bear His name**

**Who leads His thankful people forth**

**His promises to claim.**

**O tidings of comfort and joy,**

**Comfort and joy!**

**O tidings of comfort and joy!**

### Lighting of the Candles

**P** Tonight we celebrate the coming of Christ, the Light of the world. Our candles bear witness to the Light, and brighten this time of our celebration. With the coming of God's Son, Jesus, Emmanuel, the Light shines still more brightly.

**C** **By the light of God's creating Word, we are led to the brighter light of faith and trust in Him. The Light of our Lord continues to shine as it glows in our lives of Christian love and service, for God has given us His Word.**

(As you light your candle, please hold the lit candle upright and tip the unlit candle to receive the light. You may extinguish your candles after the hymn.)

## Hymn: 363 Silent Night, Holy Night

sts. 1–3

- 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: Public domain

## Benediction

**P** The Lord's benediction is not a wish. As I speak this blessing of the Lord, the gift is yours. Receive it with joy on this holy night, as the Holy Spirit opens this gift and reveals its truth to you: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

**C** Amen!

# Hymn: 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

sts. 1, ref, 2-3



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:

*Refrain*



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



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

Text and tune: Public domain

## Postlude

*Toccata in G Major – Theodore Dubois*

# *Poinsettia Dedications*



*In Memory of those who have died from Covid*

By Judy Bates



*In Memory of Valerie Schadow*

By Jean & Eckhard Schadow



*In Memory of Elizabeth Briner*

By Marilyn Jaquette



*In Memory of our parents*

By Betty & Gary Smith



*In Memory of Loved Ones*

By Karen Nobles



*In Memory of Ethel Heiss & Harvey Heiss,*

*Dr. Sheldon Zane*

*And in Honor of the Birth & Saving Grace of  
Jesus Christ*



By Janice Forguson-Hamilton



*In Honor of our Lord Jesus*

By Len & Muriel Young



*In Memory of Marilyn Kohlberg*

By the Schmitt Family





***In Loving Memory of Fred Townsend Sr.  
and Patricia McPhersen (Priscilla's mother)***

By the Townsend Family



***In Memory of Hazel Martin***

By Carol & Larry Mackenzie



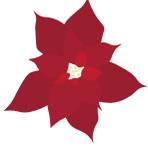
***In Memory of Susan Schutte, Mike Small,  
Lynn & Ardis Mathews, Bill & Marie Small,  
and Jim Small***

By Joel & Kathy Mathews



***In Loving Memory of Art Swett***

By Marlene Swett



***In Loving Memory of Pastor Alan Struckmeyer***

By Linda Struckmeyer



***In honor of God and the many blessing bestowed on  
family and friends***

By Pattie H. Gill



***In Memory of Jerry & Marguerite Shelby,  
Louis & Catherine Kacie, and in Honor of our Lord***

By A.C. Schoonmaker



***In Memory of Barbara B. Schoonmaker,  
David & Dorothy Bale, and Allen & Vesta Schoonmaker***

By A.C. Schoonmaker



***In Memory of Allan & Arline Schmitt***

By the Schmitt Family



# ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Connecting Jesus to People's Hearts since 1991*

*The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*



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