



*and of His
kingdom, there
will be no end.*

L u k e 1 : 3 3

Welcome to this
THE “LONGEST NIGHT” SERVICE

*A time to be held by God...
A time to be lifted up in prayer...
A time to experience the warm light of
Christ in the darkness of our world.*

King of Kings Lutheran Church, Renton, WA
Friday, December 21, 2018

Pre-service Music

Opening Song *O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

*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.*

*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;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!*

Welcome

The Invocation and Prayer

P: In the Name of God the Father, God the Son † and God the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

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

C: The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth, and we have seen His glory.

P: In Him was life, and that life was the light of all.

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to extinguish it.

P: Let us pray. Grant, almighty God, that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in human flesh may set us free...

C: Free from bondage to doubt and despair, free to embrace the truth of Your love amid the chaos and pain of our world.

P: Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who comes to us this night by means of His Word and Sacrament.

C: Amen.

Song *“Once in Royal David’s City”*

*Once in royal David’s city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed;
Mary was the mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child*

*He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*For He is our childhood’s pattern
Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness.*

Litany of Remembering and Lighting of the Candles

P: We light this candle to remember those persons who have been loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices. [pause] We give thanks for the memory that binds them to us.

C: May God's eternal love surround them.

(The first candle is lit during a moment of silence.)

P: We light this second candle to remember God's promise to redeem our pain and loss: the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, and the loss of health. As we gather up the pain of the past, we offer it to You, God, asking that into our welcome hearts and open hands, you place the gift of peace.

C: Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into Your future.

(The second candle is lit during a moment of silence.)

P: We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months and for some of us, years of difficult times. We remember the poignancy of our grief, the sadness, the hurts, and the pain of our own mortality.

C: Let us remember that light defeats the darkness.

(The third candle is lit during a moment of silence.)

P: This fourth candle is lit to remember our faith and the gift of hope which God offers to us in the Christmas story. We remember that God, who shares our life, promises us a place and time of rest and no more pain and suffering.

C: Let us remember our Savior Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, the Light of the world, who came down from heaven to us, to be with us, to lead us through the shadow of death, out of darkness and into His marvelous light.

(The fourth candle is lit during a moment of silence.)

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-5, 11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ...

He tends His flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; He gently leads those that have young.

New Testament Lesson: Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Song

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

*"Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace," thus saith our God;
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over."*

*Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.*

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-37

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; His kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

Message

Pastor Paul Birner

Apostle's Creed

C: 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.

Confession

P: Let us confess our faults and failures, sin and guilt. Holy and gracious God, you have searched us and you know us, and so you know how difficult it is for us to be whole-hearted in our celebration of Christmas.

C: At times we find it difficult to listen to the angel's song—we believe their tidings of great joy are for other people but not for us.

P: We grieve, God, and we can't seem to let go of our sorrows. We are stuck in the darkness.

C: And so we confess, not our pain, but the way we tolerate it, our inability to let go, our lack of trust and our failure to embrace Your grace and love.

P: Forgive us, God. Continue to love us, we pray, and help us to hear again the assurance that You are with us, that You love us and You will forgive our sins and help carry our burdens.

C: Give us the light of Your presence in Jesus. Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Jesus says, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake takes your burdens, gives you rest and forgives you

all your sins. As a called servant of the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Song **“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”**

*Infant holy, Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, Angels singing,
Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing;
Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all!
Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all!*

*Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, Heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing. Free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:
Christ, the Babe, was born for you!
Christ, the Babe, was born for you!*

Prayers

P: In the spirit of this season let us now ask God for all the things we need; for ourselves as we participate in whatever way we can this Christmas. God hear our prayer....

C: And in Your mercy answer us.

P: For our families and friends that they may help and support us. God, hear our prayer....

C: And in Your mercy answer us.

P: For the person we have loved, that has died. For all the losses that we know, that all may be redeemed by Your Christmas and Easter promises. God, hear our prayer.

C: And in Your mercy answer us.

P: For all our family and friends that they may receive love and peace and joy in the gift of the Christ-child. God, hear our prayer.

C: And in Your mercy answer us.

P: God of great compassion and love, listen to the prayers of these Your people. Grant to all, especially the sad and suffering ones this Christmas, the blessing we ask in the name of Christ. Amen

Words of Institution

P: Merciful God and Father, heaven and earth are Yours.

C: In great love You sent Jesus Your Son to born of the Virgin Mary, to save us from sin, death and the devil.

P: You promise to hear our prayers.

C: We gather at Your table, at Your invitation to hear Your Word and receive what You promise.

P: On the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks; broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying:

C: “Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

P: Again after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying:

C: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.”

P: Remembering His birth, death, resurrection and ascension, we await His coming in glory.

C: O Lord of heaven and earth, we give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

P: Send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, brighten our darkness, lighten our burdens, rekindle within us the joy of salvation.

C: Amen.

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.

Invitation to Communion

P: Beloved, this is the feast of the people of God. Let us gather now around Christ's table. Come, not because we must but because we may, not because we are worthy, but because we are forgiven.

C: Amen.

Holy Communion

At King of Kings, we welcome at Holy Communion all baptized Christians who believe that Jesus Christ is present in this Sacrament and that forgiveness of sins is given in it. Children who have not yet been instructed to receive Holy Communion and those who are not yet baptized are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

Please see the Pastor if you have further questions.

Post Communion blessing

P: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son to be born among us, come to save us from sin and death, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament.

C: We ask You not to forsake Your children but to stay with us. Reside in our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit. Give us peace and strength day by day; so that we may be enabled to serve You faithfully; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

P: When all was still and it was midnight,

C: Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

P: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.

C: Unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

P: The true light that gives light to every man has come into the world. To all who receive Him, to those who believe in His name, God gives the right to become children of God-- let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Song

“Silent Night”

*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.*

*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.*

(Time for personal prayer at the communion railing.)

Time for fellowship and encouragement

A white silhouette of a nativity scene is set against a dark green background with a starburst at the top. The scene includes a manger with baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, surrounded by shepherds, a donkey, a sheep, and the three wise men on a camel.

JOIN US FOR
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
DECEMBER 24
AT 7:30 PM OR 10:00 PM

JOIN US FOR
CHRISTMAS WORSHIP
DECEMBER 25 AT 10:00 AM

A collection of Christmas decorations including several large, shiny, metallic bows, several reflective disco balls, and several white stars scattered on a background of white and pink confetti.