



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023

6950 Ward Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120
www.stjohnnt.com, (716) 693-9677

✠ CHRISTMAS EVE HYMN SING ✠

WELCOME AND GREETING

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC & HYMN SING

Congregation sings following musical introductions.

“FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME”

HANDBELLS

ORGAN Musical Introduction

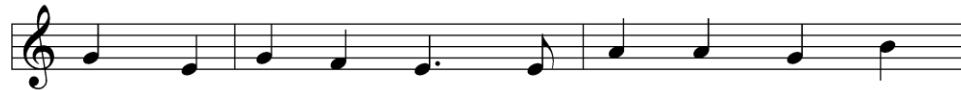
CONGREGATION

Musical interlude between stanzas 5 and 7

Lauren Delaney
Michael Burkhardt
LSB 358



1 “From heav’n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 “To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
5 “These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad - dling
7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what



news to ev - ’ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the
in the man - ger lies. Who is this child, so



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
in - fant laid By whom the heav’ns and earth were made.’ **Interlude**
young and fair? It is the Christ Child ly - ing there.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valtin Schumann
Text and tune: Public domain

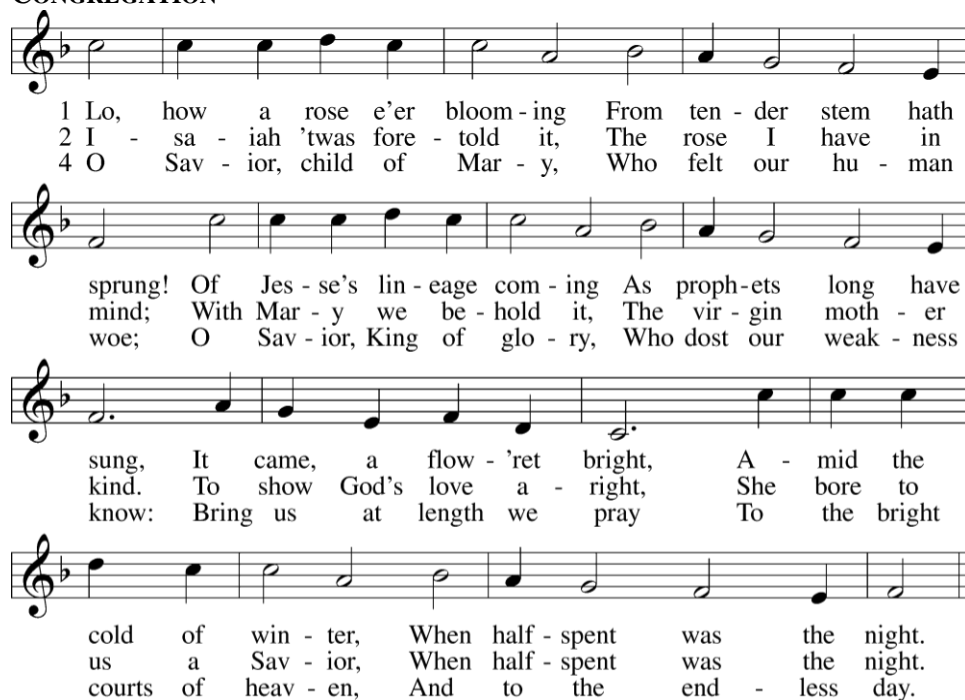


“LO, HOW A ROSE E’ER BLOOMING”

HANDBELLS

ORGAN *Musical Introduction*

CONGREGATION



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man
 sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness
 sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright
 cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Ron Mallory
 David Cherwien
 LSB 359

Text (sts. 1–2): tr.
 Theodore Baker, 1851–
 1934, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4):
 German, 16th cent.; (st.
 3): Friedrich L. C. Layriz,
 1808–59; (st. 3): tr.
 Harriet R. K. Spaeth,
 1845–1925; (st. 4): tr.
 John C. Mattes, 1876–
 1948 Tune: Alte
 Catholische Geistliche
 Kirchengeseng, 1599,
 Köln Text and tune:
 Public domain

“O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”

HANDBELLS

ORGAN *Musical Introduction*

CONGREGATION



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,
 4 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;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 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!
 Glo - ry to God In the high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
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!

Ron Mallory
 Jacob Weber
 LSB 379

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt. Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786 Text and tune: Public domain

✠ CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP ✠

RANDOM RING: Handbell Choir

INVOCATION

- P** 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 **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. (Isaiah 9:2)**
P “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman,
C **born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, (Galatians 4:4-5)**



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN: “GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD”

LSB 374

1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;

There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.

Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933 Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald Text and tune: Public domain

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

- P** Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ,
C **Mighty God, on this day of celebration, we confess our sin to You. We are by nature sinful. Without Your help, we are powerless to overcome it. We confess our impatience with You and with others, our seeking after worldly passions, and our self-indulgent ways of life. By our sin, we have hurt others, ourselves, and You. We plead with You to forgive our sins for the sake of Christ and to transform our broken lives.**
P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, and the light shines on them. The grace of God has appeared through the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, bringing salvation to all people. I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, by His authority, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen. Glory to the newborn King!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth, we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song), Chris Eaton & Amy Grant

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace

there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God!

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons,

God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God!

HYMN: "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

LSB 361

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908 Text and tune: Public domain

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL

Tonight the reading of the Gospel will take place in the middle of the congregation.

This is a reminder that God the Father sent His Son to us as Matthew 1:23 states "they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)".



GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)

¹ And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. ² (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴ 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:) ⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷ 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. ⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born

this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, Good will toward men. ¹⁵ And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ 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 our Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ!

APOSTLES' 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.

HYMN: "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"

LSB 368

Musical interlude between each stanza. Women sing stanza 2, all join in on the refrain.

Women

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 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

All

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

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt. Text and tune: French Text and tune: Public domain

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Main Points:

One thing NEW I learned:

What can I apply to my life?

PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- 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.

OFFERING

Noel Peace Canon, Choir

✠ CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY ✠

As the lit candle is brought down the aisle, tip *ONLY* the *UNLIT* candle;

DO NOT tip the lighted candle, in order to avoid dripping wax.

The lights will be turned off and we will join in singing *AFTER* all candles are lit.

HYMN: "SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT"

LSB 363, 3rd verse is sung accapella

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
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
peace, born! Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

Sung Accapella

- 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.**

BENEDICTION

Luke 2:11-14; 2 Corinthians 13:14

- P** Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
C "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"
P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C Amen.

You can now extinguish your candle and return them as you leave after our final hymn.

HYMN: "JOY TO THE WORLD "

LSB 387

Organ: *Introduction by Jacob B. Weber*

Musical interlude between stanzas 3 and 4.

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
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
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
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.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Interlude

POSTLUDE: *Festival Flourish*

Jacob B Weber



Poinsettias

Flowers adorning our church have been placed to the Glory of God:

In Memory of

Jan Meissner
Our Parents
June Werth
K. Gilbert Kroening,
Helen & Steve Warchocki
Mom & Dad
Michael Sonnen
Bryan, Nicole, & Jamie
Dad
Bill & Ruth Stange, Rich & Nancy Musall,
and Colleen Syruws
Grandpa Gordie
June Werth, Bob & Jean Sutherland
Bryan & Nicole Argo
Fred & Janet Mumm
Ron Harder, John Watt, Philip & Emma Moll,
and Norman & Mabel Harder

Given by

Herb Meissner
Barb & Jeff Manning
Marvin Werth

Dave & Wendy Warchocki
Don Schroeder
Linda Sonnen
Dad, Mom, & Rita
Greg & Sherri Martin

The Drenko Family
Gregory, Jamie, & Alyssa Martin
Bruce, Doreen, & Luke Sutherland
Grandpa & Grandma Atkinson
Heidi Sue McCormick

The Harder Family

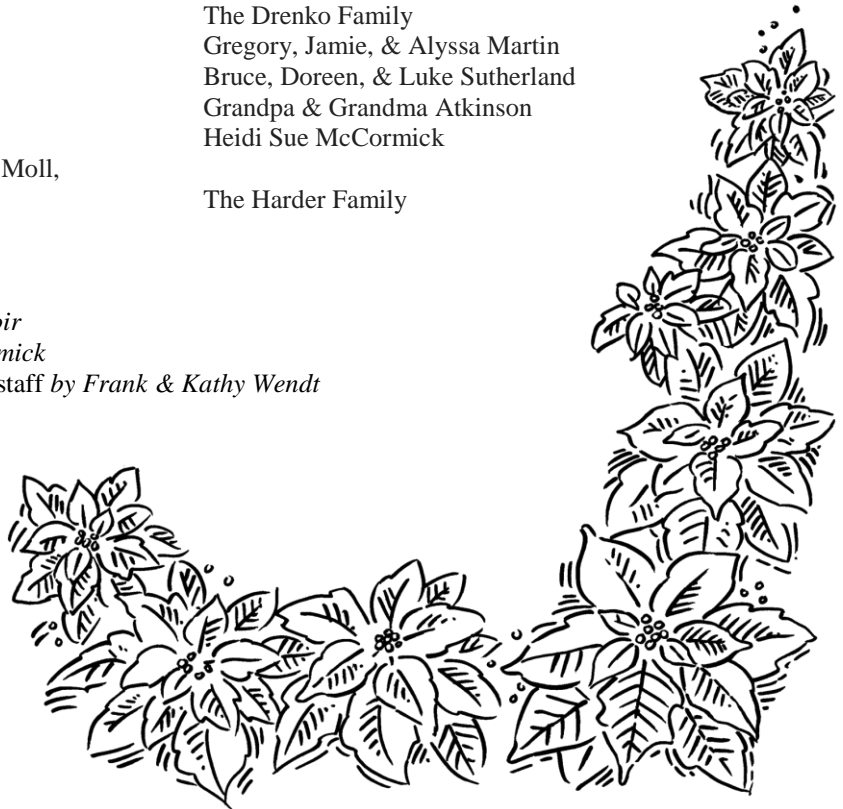
In Honor of

Our Parents *by Cathy & Dan Schultz*
Doreen Sutherland *by The Handbell Choir*
My Kindergartners *by Heidi Sue McCormick*
All the teachers, Pastor Mike, Sara, and staff *by Frank & Kathy Wendt*

For Blessings Received

Bob & Jeanne Borgstede
The Scive Family
The Weir Family
Frank & Kathy Wendt

*Flowers may be picked up after
the Christmas Day service.*



Brass:

Josiah Borgstede
Luke Sutherland
Michael Scive
Zachary Will

Handbells:

Kelly Carney
Josiah Borgstede
Michael Scive
Suzette Drenko
Melissa German
Elaine Schaeffer
Michele Stiener
Lynn Willis
Lorrie Wier
Theresa Werth

Choir:

Sara Borgstede
Thomas Carney
Bill Carney
Emily Carney
Kelly Carney
Roger Carr
Suzette Drenko
Herb Meissner
Peggy Meyer
Heidi Sue Mumm-McCormick
Cheryl Oliver
Kathy Wendt
Theresa Werth