

Zion Lutheran Church

210 North Wayne Street Saint Marys, OH 45885

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2022 7:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

Prelude

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen arr. Bish Once In David's Royal City arr. Whipple Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine arr. Paxton Hark! The Herald Angels Sing arr: Thygerson The Sussex Carol arr: Lau Now Is Born the Divine Christ Child arr: Smith What Shall I Give To The Child in the Manger arr: Wagner O Holy Child of Bethlehem arr: Wagner arr: Wagner In The Bleak Midwinter

Welcome & Announcements

Scripture Reading Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Processional Hymn & Lighting of the Advent Wreath "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #283

Christmas Litany (Remain Standing)

P: There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

C: and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

P: And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,

C: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding

P: the Spirit of counsel and might,

C: the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

P: And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

C: In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time

P: to recover the remnant that remains of his people...

Prayer

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray...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.

C: Amen.

(Be Seated)

Psalm 110:1-4

- ¹The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."
- ²The LORD will send the scepter of your power out of Zion, saying, "Rule over your enemies round about you.
- ³Princely state has been yours from the day of your birth; in the beauty of holiness have I begotten you, like dew from the womb of the morning."
- ⁴The LORD has sworn and he will not recant: "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

Second Reading 1 John 4:7-16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; if we love one another. God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God. God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). 24When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Sermon Pastor Bill

Hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #270

Confession

(Please Stand)

P: Behold, the miracle born in human flesh, let us approach the God of grace to confess our human sin and weakness (stand or kneel):

C: we confess: that we have wandered away from your presence into darkness, sought other gods, treated others poorly, stood by in apathy, failed to stand for justice, and refused to extend mercy and grace to others. Forgive us our sins O Lord. Increase our faith in you and redirect us to loving you and loving our neighbors in thought, word and deed. P: Behold! You are not to remain in darkness. Out of mercy for us and for the world, Jesus - the light of the world - is born of flesh and blood to bear all of our sins on the cross so that we might have forgiveness, wholeness and life now and forever. Rejoice, in the name of Jesus your sins are forgiven.

Offering 7:00, Zion Choir *The First Noel* arr. Forrest 11:00, *One Small Child* by Meese Sung by: Diane Uhlenhake & Nicole Carpenter



Prayers of the People

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Lord's Prayer

P: Let us pray together the prayer our Lord taught us...

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.

Words of Institution

(sit)

The Whole Meal

Body of Christ given for you.

Blood of Christ shed for you.

Communion Hymns

"It Came upon a Midnight Clear"	#282
"Away in a Manager"	#277
"Of the Father's Love Begotten"	#295
"The First Noel"	#300

Post Communion Blessing (stand)

Lighting of the Candles

Pastor will light his candle from the Christ Candle and then he will light the Usher's candles. The Ushers will share their candle's flame with the congregation, pew by pew, and in the balcony. The candles remind us that Jesus - the light of the world - overcomes the darkness in it.

The candles will remain lit through the singing of "Silent Night". Please be careful with the candles to avoid dripping wax onto clothes, pews and the floor. Parents please decide whether or not your child is old enough to hold a candle. Sharing a candle with them can also be extremely meaningful.

Hymn

"Silent Night, Holy Night!"

#281

Moment of Silence

Blessing

P: May the light of the world illumine your path and your life forever. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Recessional Hymn

"Joy to the World"

#267

Sending

P: Go in peace!

C: The savior is born!

Postlude

Postlude on "Gloria" arr. Payne Vieuz Noel Franck, edited by Godding

A shepherd & stable animals have been added to the Willow Tree Nativity Set given in memory of Jack Rouhier and in honor of Jo Rouhier by Bill Kellermeyer.



ACOLYTES: Jessica Eberle, Makenna Meinerding

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Ann Maki, Ruth Hoenie

CRUCIFERS: Will Ross, Zoey Henning

USHERS:

Jody Slemmons, Ryan & Brandy Yahl, Joyce Finke Dan Macklem, Deb Henning, Steve & Dora McAfee

READERS: Linda Decker, Kathy Lampert

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