



# Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24, 2017  
11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

*A Child is Born*

## Welcome to Christmas Eve Worship!

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

**Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church  
Worship Schedule**

**Saturday**

5 p.m. Heritage

**Sunday**

8:30 a.m. Festival

9:45 a.m. Celebrate!

11 a.m. Celebrate!

6 p.m. The Well

**Wednesday**

6:30 p.m.

**Worship Notes**

*Thank you for spending  
this time in worship!*

Prior to worship you may find it helpful to bookmark the scripture readings in your pew Bible.

Large Print Bibles and bulletins are available from the ushers. If it is uncomfortable for you to stand during the service, please feel free to remain seated.

Children are always welcome to be part of worship, and the nursery is available if necessary.

Please take The Other Page home with you, check out [www.GoodShepherdBismarck.com](http://www.GoodShepherdBismarck.com), or download the GSLC APP – it is available for iPhone and Android Smartphones

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(701) 255-1001  
[GoodShepherdBismarck.com](http://GoodShepherdBismarck.com)

# Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

**He is the Light no darkness can overcome.**

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

**With the heavenly host we sing, “Glory to God in the highest heaven.”**  
In Christ, God’s Word is made flesh and lives among us.

**With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.**

### CAROL “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!**

**Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;**

**come and behold him, born the king of angels:**

### **Chorus: Oh, come, let us adore him (x3)**

**Christ the Lord**

**The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,**

**born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;**

**Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Chorus***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,**

**sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!**

**Glory to God in the highest: *Chorus***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;**

**Jesus, to thee be glory giv’n!**

**Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Chorus***

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful” Text: attr. John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

## WORDS OF WELCOME

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you made this holy day 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. Amen.**

### CAROL “Angels, From the Realms of Glory”

**Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;**

**once you sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth:**

**Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,**

**God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.**

**Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

# Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:2-7

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CAROL “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”  
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

***Refrain* Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

**Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

## PSALM 96 (please read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;  
proclaim God’s salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare God’s glory among the nations  
and God’s wonders among all peoples.

<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,  
more to be feared than all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is king!  
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge  
the peoples with equity.”**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

<sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming,  
O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with your truth.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING Titus 2:11-14

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CAROL “Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”

**Your little ones, dear Lord, are we, and come your lowly bed to see;  
Enlighten ev’ry soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.**

**With songs we hasten you to greet, and kiss the ground before your feet.  
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night that gave you birth, our soul’s delight.**

**Thank You for your  
ministry today!**

### Sermon

(11:00 am)

Pastor Pam Power

(1:00 pm)

Pastor Craig  
Schweitzer

### Prelude

(11:00 am)

Abelardo Flores  
Jennifer Flores

(1:00 pm)

Ashleigh Hubrig  
Courtney Moreau  
Pastor Bob Caranicas

### Organist / Pianist

Karen Petersen

### Interpreter for the Deaf

Cori Quist  
Available by request

*“Sharing the  
Shepherd’s Love  
With All of God’s  
Children”*



**WELCOMING THE GOSPEL** (*please stand*) “Angels We Have Heard on High”

**Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.**

***Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.***

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain***

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

**GOSPEL READING** Luke 2: 1-20

Our Christmas Eve story comes from the Gospel of Saint Luke. In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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. To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

When 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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**



When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.  
To us is born a Savior.

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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

**To us is born a Savior.  
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

#### **CELEBRATING THE GOSPEL “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain***

***Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE**

##### **CAROL OF RESPONSE “Away in a Manger”**

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the  
sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

Text: North American, 19th cent.

#### **CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in God,  
the creator and giver of life,  
who brought all creation to birth,  
who mothers us and fathers us,  
protecting, nurturing,  
and cherishing us.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ:  
God born among us as a fragile baby,  
embodying both love and the need for  
love,  
and calling us to rest in God  
as trustingly as a tiny child.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
breathed into us at our birth,  
always drawing us on to be born again,  
encouraging, exhorting, comforting,  
nourishing our growth  
and inspiring our living.**

**We believe in the reconciliation  
of the world to God, through Christ.  
Hunted at birth  
and humiliated at death,  
Christ entered our fearful darkness  
so that we might enter his glorious light  
and share the life of his resurrection.**

**And we believe that each new child  
is a glimpse of the face of God,  
a sign of the life to come,  
and a call to live in peace  
and celebrate living together.  
Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Amen.**

**There will be NO  
Worship on  
Wednesday,  
Dec. 27th**

“Christmas Affirmation of Faith” written by Nathan Nettleton, 1999, incorporating some lines from “Midwife of our lives” by Kathy Galloway published in Kathy Galloway (ed.) *The Pattern of Our Days*, Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 1996, p.138. Posted on Nettleton’s [Laughingbird.net](http://Laughingbird.net) website.



# Thanksgiving

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

God with us:

**You came as a baby to a manger.  
You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.  
You come again in bread and wine.**

Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

**And then, through these gifts,  
help us to bless the lives of others  
in the strength of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING AND ANTHEM “In the Bleak Midwinter”

*Our offering is a significant act of worship, and we now worship God through our giving. God’s mission through Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is completely dependent upon your financial stewardship and generous giving.*

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long  
ago.**

**Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heav’n and earth shall flee  
away when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God almighty, Jesus  
Christ.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a  
lamb  
if I were a wise man I would do my part; yet what I can give him, give my  
heart.**

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

## PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Wonderful Counselor, increase our joy as the church gathers on this holy day to sing of our dear Savior’s birth. May the story of salvation live in the hearts of all who sing of its wonders.

God of grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, you have broken the yoke of sin’s burden through the birth of your Son. Comfort those whose burdens distract them from the deeper peace of this holy night and grant them a restful mind.

God of peace,

**Hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, uphold all who are in sorrow or need of your divine goodness and mercy, *especially those we name before you now*. We remember with thanksgiving all who have died and who now rest in your peaceful light.

God of love,

**Hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray and who teaches us to pray always...

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Worship questions or conversations  
contact: Peder Gulleson at  
[peder@goodshepherdbismarck.com](mailto:peder@goodshepherdbismarck.com)  
or 255-1001.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## BENEDICTION

May the Lord God,  
who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light,  
grant you the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
and the peace of the Christ Child.  
In the name of Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## SENDING CAROL "Joy to the World!"

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God**

## POSTLUDE



*We are glad that you have spent part of Christmas Eve with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We are thankful you have come. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to worship often with us. Membership information is available online at [www.GoodShepherdBismarck.com](http://www.GoodShepherdBismarck.com) or by contacting the church office at 255-1001.*

*The Holy Child whose birth we celebrate grows to be the Good Shepherd of us all. It is in His life that we see most clearly the love God has for children of every age, every color, every place, every time. Have a blessed Christmas.*

## Thank You!

A special thank you goes out to everyone who helped make this year's Angel Tree successful. Good Shepherd's 2017 Angel Tree was blessed with the opportunity to share the Shepherd's love to 399 individuals in our community. The following local ministries and agencies participated in the Angel Tree: Pride, Inc.; Manchester House; Abused Adult Resource Center; Youthworks; Dacotah Foundation; Burleigh County Social Services; Will-Moore School; and Charles Hall



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# Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24, 2017  
3:00, 3:30, 5:00, 5:30 p.m.

*A Child is Born*

## Welcome to Christmas Eve Worship!

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

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6 p.m. The Well

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6:30 p.m.

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this time in worship!*

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# Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## PRELUDE

**CAROL** “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the king of angels:**

**Chorus: Oh, come, let us adore him (x3)  
Christ the Lord**

**The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Chorus***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest: *Chorus***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv’n!**

**Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Chorus***

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful” Text: attr. John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

## WORDS OF WELCOME

### CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ’s glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

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**

**only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the**

**Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**CAROL** “Do You Hear What I Hear”

**Said the night wind to the little lamb, Do you see what I see?**

**Way up in the sky little lamb, Do you see what I see?**

**A star, a star, dancing in the night, with a tail as big as a kite,  
with a tail as big as a kite.**

**Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy, Do you hear what I hear?**

**Ringin’ through the sky, shepherd boy, Do you hear what I hear?**

**A song, a song, high above the tree, with a voice as big as the sea,  
with a voice as big as the sea.**

**Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,**

**Do you know what I know? In your palace warm, mighty king, Do you  
know what I know?**

**A Child, a Child shivers in the cold;**

**let us bring Him silver and gold, let us bring Him silver and gold.**

Said the king to the people everywhere, Listen to what I say!  
Pray for peace, people everywhere, Listen to what I say!  
The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night,  
He will bring us goodness and light,  
He will bring us goodness and light.

"Do You Hear What I Hear" word and music by Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne © 1962 by Regent Music Corporation (BMI)

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

# Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:2-7

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### CAROL "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

*Refrain* Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Titus 2:11-14

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### CAROL "Your Little Ones, Dear Lord"

**Your little ones, dear Lord, are we, and come your lowly bed to see;  
Enlighten ev'ry soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.**

**With songs we hasten you to greet, and kiss the ground before your feet.  
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night that gave you birth, our soul's delight.**

### THIRD SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-7

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### CAROL "Away in a Manger"

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;**

**The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.**

**I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Thank You for your  
ministry today!**

### Sermon

(3:00 & 5:00 pm)

Pastor Craig  
Schweitzer

(3:30 & 5:30 pm)

Pastor Pam Power

### Sanctuary Worship Team

Robert Hart  
Bill Thompson  
Yvonne Smith  
Erin Hill-Oban  
Erin Jacobson  
Mike Gilbertson  
Drew Wyum

### Lynne Center Worship Team

Clarence Saylor  
Kim Ledger  
Mike Scully  
Angie Kutzer  
Sue Hoefs  
Audrey Saylor  
Drew Sagsveen

### Interpreter for the Deaf

Cori Quist  
Available by request

*"Sharing the  
Shepherd's Love  
With All of God's  
Children"*



Prelude in  
Sanctuary  
Mike Gilbertson

Prelude in Lynne  
Center  
Abby Hopkins and  
Andrew Hopkins

#### FOURTH SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-20

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### CAROL “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav’nly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

#### CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE

#### CAROL OF RESPONSE “The First Noel”

The first Noel the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

*Refrain:* Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

And by the light of that same star  
Three Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

This star drew near to the northwest,  
O’er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full rev’reently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

Text: English traditional

#### CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God,  
the creator and giver of life,  
who brought all creation to birth,  
who mothers us and fathers us,  
protecting, nurturing,  
and cherishing us.

We believe in Jesus Christ:  
God born among us as a fragile baby,  
embodying both love and the need for love,  
and calling us to rest in God  
as trustingly as a tiny child.



We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
breathed into us at our birth,  
always drawing us on to be born again,  
encouraging, exhorting, comforting,  
nourishing our growth  
and inspiring our living.

We believe in the reconciliation  
of the world to God, through Christ.  
Hunted at birth  
and humiliated at death,  
Christ entered our fearful darkness  
so that we might enter his glorious light  
and share the life of his resurrection.

And we believe that each new child  
is a glimpse of the face of God,  
a sign of the life to come,  
and a call to live in peace  
and celebrate living together.  
Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Amen.

## Thanksgiving

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### OFFERING PRAYER

God with us:

**You came as a baby to a manger.  
You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.  
You come again in bread and wine.**

Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

**And then, through these gifts,  
help us to bless the lives of others  
in the strength of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

### CHRISTMAS OFFERING AND SONG "Hallelujah He is Born"

*Our offering is a significant act of worship, and we now worship God through our giving. God's mission through Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is completely dependent upon your financial stewardship and generous giving.*

**Solo: A mighty prayer went up an answer came down from above  
To save a lonely world God sent His only Son  
He came as a baby, quiet as a lamb  
With peace in His heart and us all in His hands  
Saying I'm gonna show you now, What love is all about (and I sing)**

**Chorus: Hallelujah, hallelujah He is born, Hallelujah, He is Christ the Lord  
He's the King of Kings, our redeemer and friend  
Hallelujah, He is born, amen  
Hallelujah hallelujah He is here, Hallelujah, we've got nothing to fear  
To this dark old world He brings a light without end  
Hallelujah, He is born, amen**

**Solo: He came in love and peace on that holy night  
They came from near and far in that guiding light  
Lying in a manger was a baby King  
And from that night until this day we sing  
Lord Jesus is His name, Heaven and earth proclaim (and I sing)**  
**Chorus**

"Hallelujah He is Born" words and music by: Gregg Hubbard & Mark A. Miller. © 1997 Travelin' Zoo Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) Myrt & Chuck's Boy Music

"Christmas Affirmation of Faith" written by Nathan Nettleton, 1999, incorporating some lines from "Midwife of our lives" by Kathy Galloway published in Kathy Galloway (ed.) *The Pattern of Our Days*, Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 1996, p.138. Posted on Nettleton's [Laughingbird.net](http://Laughingbird.net) website.



## THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION John 1:1-14

*The minister lights a large candle from the Paschal candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks.*

*The candles are lighted with the ushers and congregation saying to each other as the candles are lighted, "**Behold the light of the world**" as we hear the Gospel of John read.*

*Please tip only the unlit candle to receive the light.*

*For families with young children, we ask that adults hold the candle with your child.*

## PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Glory to God in the highest,

**and peace to God's people on earth.**

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

**Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

**Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.**

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

**Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.**

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

**Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.**

## HYMN OF LIGHT "Silent Night, Holy 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! 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!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light**

**Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,**

**Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

## PRAYER OF LIGHT & THANKSGIVING

Most gracious God,

**We give thanks that you have heard the cries of us, your children, lost in darkness.**

We joyously celebrate the birth of your Son who you sent to us to be our light and show us your way to life.

**Remember your people this night and always.**

Let the brilliance of your loving grace dispel the gloom and bleakness of our lives.

**And let the glow of your gospel glisten strongly in us so that we may be your light to the world. In the name of your Son, our Savior and Light, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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Worship questions or conversations  
contact: Peder Gulleson at  
[peder@goodshepherdbismarck.com](mailto:peder@goodshepherdbismarck.com)  
or 255-1001.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

*Please extinguish your candles carefully.  
Remember that the light of Christ is with you always.*

*"Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to  
your Father in heaven."  
(Matthew 5:16)*

## Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## BENEDICTION

May the Lord God,  
who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light,  
grant you the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
and the peace of the Christ Child.  
In the name of Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## SENDING CAROL "Joy to the World!"

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God**

## POSTLUDE

**There will be NO  
Worship on  
Wednesday,  
Dec. 27th**



*We are glad that you have spent part of Christmas Eve with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We are thankful you have come. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to worship often with us. Membership information is available online at [www.GoodShepherdBismarck.com](http://www.GoodShepherdBismarck.com) or by contacting the church office at 255-1001.*

*The Holy Child whose birth we celebrate grows to be the Good Shepherd of us all. It is in His life that we see most clearly the love God has for children of every age, every color, every place, every time. Have a blessed Christmas.*

## Thank You!

A special thank you goes out to everyone who helped make this year's Angel Tree successful. Good Shepherd's 2017 Angel Tree was blessed with the opportunity to share the Shepherd's love to 399 individuals in our community. The following local ministries and agencies participated in the Angel Tree: Pride, Inc.; Manchester House; Abused Adult Resource Center; Youthworks; Dacotah Foundation; Burleigh County Social Services; Will-Moore School; and Charles Hall



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# Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24, 2017  
10:00 p.m.

*A Child is Born*

## Welcome to Christmas Eve Worship!

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

**Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church  
Worship Schedule**

**Saturday**

5 p.m. Heritage

**Sunday**

8:30 a.m. Festival

9:45 a.m. Celebrate!

11 a.m. Celebrate!

6 p.m. The Well

**Wednesday**

6:30 p.m.

**Worship Notes**

*Thank you for spending  
this time in worship!*

Prior to worship you may find it helpful to bookmark the scripture readings in your pew Bible.

Large Print Bibles and bulletins are available from the ushers. If it is uncomfortable for you to stand during the service, please feel free to remain seated.

Children are always welcome to be part of worship, and the nursery is available if necessary.

Please take The Other Page home with you, check out [www.GoodShepherdBismarck.com](http://www.GoodShepherdBismarck.com), or download the GSLC APP – it is available for iPhone and Android Smartphones

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# Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## PRELUDE

CAROL “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the king of angels:**

**Chorus: Oh, come, let us adore him (x3)  
Christ the Lord**

**The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Chorus***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest: *Chorus***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv’n!**

**Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Chorus***

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful” Text: attr. John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

## WORDS OF WELCOME

### CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ’s glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

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**

**only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the**

**Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CAROL “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

**Refrain Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev’rywhere;**

**Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain***

### CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

# Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:2-7

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain* Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Titus 2:11-14

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL "Your Little Ones, Dear Lord"

Your little ones, dear Lord, are we, and come your lowly bed to see;  
Enlighten ev'ry soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.

With songs we hasten you to greet, and kiss the ground before your feet.  
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night that gave you birth, our soul's delight.

## THIRD SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-7

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL "Away in a Manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.

I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

## FOURTH SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-20

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

## CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE

**Thank You for your  
ministry today!**

### **Sermon**

Pastor Craig  
Schweitzer

### **Anthem**

Taylor and Sydney  
Helgeson

### **Organist / Pianist**

Karen Petersen

### **Interpreter**

### **for the Deaf**

Cori Quist  
Available by request

*"Sharing the  
Shepherd's Love  
With All of God's  
Children"*



**CAROL OF RESPONSE "The First Noel"**

The first Noel the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain:* Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

And by the light of that same star  
Three Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

This star drew near to the northwest,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full rev'rently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*  
Text: English traditional

**CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God,  
the creator and giver of life,  
who brought all creation to birth,  
who mothers us and fathers us,  
protecting, nurturing,  
and cherishing us.

We believe in Jesus Christ:  
God born among us as a fragile baby,  
embodying both love and the need for love,  
and calling us to rest in God  
as trustingly as a tiny child.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
breathed into us at our birth,  
always drawing us on to be born again,  
encouraging, exhorting, comforting,  
nourishing our growth  
and inspiring our living.

We believe in the reconciliation  
of the world to God, through Christ.  
Hunted at birth  
and humiliated at death,  
Christ entered our fearful darkness  
so that we might enter his glorious light  
and share the life of his resurrection.

And we believe that each new child  
is a glimpse of the face of God,  
a sign of the life to come,  
and a call to live in peace  
and celebrate living together.  
Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Amen.



# Thanksgiving

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

God with us:

**You came as a baby to a manger.  
You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.  
You come again in bread and wine.**

Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

**And then, through these gifts,  
help us to bless the lives of others  
in the strength of your holy name.  
Amen.**

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING AND ANTHEM

*Our offering is a significant act of worship, and we now worship God through our giving. God's mission through Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is completely dependent upon your financial stewardship and generous giving.*

## PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Most gracious God,

**We give thanks that you have heard the cries of us, your children, lost in darkness.**

We joyously celebrate the birth of your Son who you sent to us to be our light and show us your way to life.

**Remember your people this night and always.**

Let the brilliance of your loving grace dispel the gloom and bleakness of our lives.

**And let the glow of your gospel glisten strongly in us so that we may be your light to the world. In the name of your Son, our Savior and Light, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

### CAROL "What Child is This"

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent word is pleading  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!**

**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!**

"What Child Is This" Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

"Christmas Affirmation of Faith" written by Nathan Nettleton, 1999, incorporating some lines from "Midwife of our lives" by Kathy Galloway published in Kathy Galloway (ed.) *The Pattern of Our Days*, Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 1996, p.138. Posted on Nettleton's [Laughingbird.net](http://Laughingbird.net) website.



**CAROL** “In the Bleak Midwinter”

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long  
ago.**

**Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heav'n and earth shall flee  
away when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God almighty, Jesus  
Christ.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a  
lamb  
if I were a wise man I would do my part; yet what I can give him, give my  
heart.**

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

**CAROL** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

***Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain***

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain***

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

**THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION** John 1:1-14

*The minister lights a large candle from an Paschal candle, which symbolizes Christ, the  
Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks.*

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**HYMN OF LIGHT** “Silent Night, Holy 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! 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!**

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For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
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who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light,  
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the eagerness of the shepherds,  
and the peace of the Christ Child.  
In the name of Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.  
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**There will be NO  
Worship on  
Wednesday,  
Dec. 27th**



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**POSTLUDE**

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