

Christmas Eve

Sunday, Dec. 24th, 2017 - 5:00 pm

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)

Assisting This Evening:

Gospel Reader: Adam Henkelman

Drama:

- Mika Malina
- Erica Fricker
- MacKenzie Campbell

Faith Choir

Bass guitar – Gavin Thulien

Piano/Organ/Choir Director: David Santry

Church Secretary: Debra Boyd-Chisholm

Thank you to all who decorated our worship space
to make it beautiful for the Christmas services.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

PRELUDE: *Before the Marvel of this Night*, presented by the Faith Choir.
(words: Jaroslav J. Vajda, music: Carl Schalk, arrangement: J. Richard Dixon)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy.

To us is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

Let us go now to Bethlehem.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

We light the Paschal candle to symbolize Christ's presence and God's promise fulfilled.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all on whom his favour rests.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

CAROL: *O Come All Ye Faithful* (ELW 283)

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PSALM CAROL: *Joy to the World* (ELW 267)

GOSPEL: Dramatic reading based on Luke 2:1-20

CAROL: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (ELW 279)

DRAMA PRESENTATION: The Gift of Giving

SHARING OF THE PEACE

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERING CAROL: *What Child is This?* (ELW 281)

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CAROL OF THE DAY: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (ELW 270)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray,

God of glory, by your grace
A child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests on his shoulders,
and in his name, we pray.

Wonderful Counsellor,

**we pray for wisdom for the world's leaders,
that they may use their power to lift burdens
and break the bonds of oppression.**

Mighty God,
**we pray for the church of Jesus Christ our Lord,
that you will multiply and increase our joy
as we share in the harvest you have gathered.**

Everlasting Father,
**we pray for families, friends and loved ones,
that those who now walk in deep darkness
may see the great light of your saving love.**

Prince of Peace,
**we pray for an end to violence and warfare,
that your authority may continue to grow
until there is endless peace in every land.**

Lord of hosts, establish your holy realm
**With justice and righteousness,
From this time on and forevermore. Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 208)

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Mary, Did You Know?* presented by the Faith Choir.
(words: Mark Lowry, music: Buddy Greene, arrangement: Jack Schrader)

CAROL: *Silent Night, Holy Night!* (ELW 281)

BLESSING

May 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. Almighty God, the Father, the Son, † and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING CAROL: *Go Tell it on the Mountain* (ELW 290)

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to God's people on earth!

As Heralds of God's peace, go forth in joy to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.