

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(Interim) Pastor Roy Minnix

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2023

7:30 p.m.

A Candlelight Worship Service

As We Gather

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David. (Luke 2:4)

Prelude:

Mary Did You Know

Words & Music: Mark Lowry, Buddy Greene © 1991 Word Music

Welcome

Opening Hymn:

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(The three blue candles, the pink candle and the Christ candle are lit.)

P: On this holy night, we light the Christ candle on the Advent wreath as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world. The apostle John writes, "In him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it".

C: Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Fill our lives with Your life and light.

P: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life".

C: Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Help us by Your Spirit to reflect Your light and love in our lives.

Confession and Absolution

P: Let us confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness.

(We now pause for a moment of silent confession.)

C: Almighty God, we live in the light of our Savior, but we are still tempted by the darkness of sin. We follow our selfish desires. We turn from Your Word to listen to the temptations of the world. We fail to love others as we should because we do not let Jesus' light shine through our lives. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sins and turn our hearts and minds to the light of Jesus.

P: God has had mercy on us. By His death and resurrection, Jesus, the Light of the world, has overcome the darkness of sin, death and Satan. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C: Lord, lead us to live as children of light!

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Praise Song: *Manger Throne*

Words & Music: Julie Miller © 1991 Universal Music, Brentwood-Benson

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10–14

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7–16

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18–25

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn: *What Child Is This* 370

Message: How Odd of God.

Praise Song: *Light of the Stable*

Words & Music: Elizabeth Rhymer & Steve Rhymer © 1975 Renewed 2003 Tessa Publishing Co.

Apostles' Creed

Offering

Offertory: *Create in Me* p. 192

Prayers

P: Lord and Savior, through Your birth in Bethlehem, through Your life, death and resurrection, You brought the light of hope to the world. Comfort those who are suffering through illness or grief. According to Your will, bring them healing and hope through the promises of Your Word. Jesus, Light of the world,

C: Shine in us and through us. Teach us according to the wisdom of Your Word and lead us by the Holy Spirit to reflect the light of Your forgiveness and love.

P: Lord and Savior, Word made flesh, You are the Light no darkness can overcome. By Your death and resurrection, You overcame the darkness of sin, death and the devil. You have brought us life and light, now and for all eternity. Jesus, Light of the world,

C: Shine in us and through us. Help us to be bold witnesses for You, so that others will come to trust in You for salvation and live in the light of Your love.

P: Lord and Savior, through Baptism we were created anew as children of light, delivered from the domain of darkness and brought into Your kingdom. Jesus, Light of the world,

C: Shine in us and through us. Lead us to walk in love and to serve others in Your name.

P: Lord and Savior, Light of the world, hear our prayers and accept our praise.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Candle Lighting

P: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life."
(John 8:12)

C: "For you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; therefore walk as children of light."
(Ephesians 5:8)

The light will move out to the entire congregation as the ushers come forward and light their candles from Pastor. Each worshiper will receive and pass on the light. The unlighted candle is tipped to receive the flame. Please remember that your lighted candle remains upright at all times.

Candles are to be extinguished after the Benediction.

Christmas Carol: *Silent Night, Holy Night* 363

Benediction

P: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

C: And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

P: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

C: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

