

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

23 South Prospect Street, Verona, N.J. 07044 † Phone: 973-239-0577

REV. ADAM KUDER, PASTOR

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2020

7:30 p.m.

Candlelight Worship Service

As We Gather

Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Luke 2:12

Prelude

Welcome

Invocation and Call to Worship

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

All: To us a child is born.

Pastor: To us a Son is given.

All: And the government will be on his shoulders,

Pastor: and He will be called

All: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Pastor: For unto you is born today in the city of David

All: A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

Please turn off all cell phones.

CCLI# 1304541

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: As we light the Christ Candle, the fifth candle in our Advent wreath, we remember that God has been faithful and He has fulfilled His promise of a Savior. In Christ, He brought the Light of the World to us and to all peoples.

All: Father God, we pray that You would accept our thanks and praise for calling us out of the darkness of sin into Your marvelous light. May the good news of what Jesus has done shine in our lives so that other people might be drawn to Your manger and there behold in faith Your salvation, who is Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn: *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;
Oh, come let us adore Him, Oh, come let us adore Him,
Oh, come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.
Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation.
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest. Oh, come
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning.
O Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! Oh, come ...

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: On this holy night, merciful Father, hear our confession, for frequently we hesitate to take Your Son.

All: Instead we take the forbidden fruit, like Adam and Eve, and hide behind the bushes.

Pastor: We take advantage of others, while mouthing pious words.

All: We take Your blessings for granted, living with thankless hearts.

Pastor: We take vengeance upon those who hurt us, promising retaliation.

All: We take life into our own hands, ignoring Your holy will.

Pastor: We take refuge and satisfaction in sin, spurning Your commandments.

All: We take hold of our possessions, refusing to let them go.

Pastor: We take part in sinful conversations, oblivious as to how they break Your heart.

All: Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

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

Pastor: Luke writes in tonight's gospel lesson, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). Jesus Your Savior took Your place in the manger and upon the cross. As the Christ and Lord, Jesus took all of your sin, shame and brokenness. I announce to you the complete and full pardon of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. For unto you is born today in the city of David,

All: a Savior, who is Christ the Lord! Amen.

Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

*Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy*

*And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.*

*Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
Shall we see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Then like stars His children
crowned
All in white, His praise will sound!*

Prayer of the Day

All: **Almighty God, You gave Your only Son to take our human nature upon himself and to be born of a virgin. Grant that we may rejoice in this Christmas gift - "For unto You is born today in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. Amen.**

Celebrating the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Praise Song: *Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)*

Words & Music: Chris Tomlin & Ed Cash © 2009 Six Steps Music

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Christmas Creed

All: I believe in God, the Almighty Creator of all, who loved the world so much that He sent His only Son to be our Savior; I believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord, the Word become flesh when the fullness of time had come, who was born as

the Babe of Bethlehem as the fulfillment of prophecy, and who suffered and died on the cross that I might live through eternity. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of the life our Savior has won for us, and who keeps us strong in our faith and life in Christ. Amen.

Hymn:

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*O Little Town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy darkness shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O, morning stars together, proclaim the royal birth
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessing of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Immanuel!*

Message

Offering

Praise Song:

Isn't He

Words & Music: John Wimber © 1980 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing

Prayers

Each petition ends with the following response:

Pastor: Light of the world,

All: Hear our prayer, and shine on our darkness.

Lord's Prayer

Candle Lighting

As we light our candles, we remember and worship our Savior, Jesus Christ, God's light of love. "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you" (Isaiah 60:1). "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'" (John 8:12). "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth" (Ephesians 5:8-9). "In the same way, let your light shine before people, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

As the lights are dimmed, we invite you to turn on your LED tea candles.

(Candles are to be turned off after the Christmas Collect.)

Christmas Carol: *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; heavenly 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 Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.***

Christmas Collect

All: Almighty God, You made this holy night shine with the brightness of Your Son's light. Grant that we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and on 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.

PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CANDLE.

Benediction

Pastor: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the faithfulness of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi and the light of the Christ Child. And may the Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit shine on you now and forevermore! Amen.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn: *Joy to the World* 387

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

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

*No more let sin and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, 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, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.*

Postlude

THOSE WHO SERVE US:

Altar Guild: Anne Daly

Contemporary Music Director/Organist: Ruth Bolger

Live Stream Producer: Jon Yarger

Projectionist: Christopher Bolger

Reader: Bill Keltner

Violinist: Steve Sizer

Poinsettias may be taken home after the service on Christmas Day.

