

First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

Christmas Day Worship, December 25, 2020

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent/Christmas Wreath

Welcome

Carol "All My Heart Again Rejoices" #273

1. All my heart again rejoices as I hear,
far and near, sweetest angel voices;
"Christ is born," their choirs are singing,
till the air ev'rywhere now with joy is ringing.
2. Jesus' voice from lowly manger softly thus
calls to us; "You are safe from danger;
come and see; from all that grieves you
you are freed; all you need I will surely give you."
3. Come, then, let us hasten yonder; here let all,
great and small, kneel in awe and wonder;
love him who with love is yearning; hail the star
that from far bright with hope is burning.
4. You, dear Lord, I'll ever cherish;
though my breath fail in death,
I will never perish; by your side in light eternal
I shall be endlessly filled with joy supernal.

Music: Johann G. Ebeling. Text: Paul Gerhardt. *Public Domain.*

Opening Prayer

Reading Titus 3:4-7

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Carol "In the Bleak Midwinter" #294

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wiseman I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

Music: Gustav Holst. Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti. *Public Domain.*

Gospel Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Story *“The Handmaid of the Lord”*

Silence for Reflection

Carol *“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”* #295

1. Of the Father’s love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.
3. This is he whom seers in old time
chanted of with one accord;
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long expected;
let creation praise its Lord
evermore and evermore.
5. Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory
evermore and evermore.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, Music: 13th Century. Public Domain

Silence for Reflection

Prayer

Benediction

Carol *“Light Dawns on a Weary World”* #726

1. Light dawns on a weary world
when eye begin to see all people’s dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world;
the promised day of justice comes.
The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

2. Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes.
The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

3. Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes.
The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle. Music: William P Rowan. © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc. Used with permission under One License #A-710041

Go in Peace, Christ is Born! **Thanks be to God.**

Thank you to those that purchased a poinsettia plant to decorate our sanctuary this Christmas. Plants can be picked up anytime after Christmas Day. Any remaining plants will be disposed of after January 6.

In loving memory of Art & Verna Hawkinson given by their family.

In loving memory of Alexandra Rose Curfman given by Grandma Pam.

In loving memory of our parents given by Ward & Carol Voorhees.

In honor of all those with Covid19 given by Cheryl Higgins.

In honor of our daughters and their families given by Ward & Carol Voorhees.



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