



Christmas Eve Family Liturgy
Tuesday, December 24, 2019

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316
www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

PRELUDE

Christmas Carol Medley

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

Please stand if you are able.

Let us pray. 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

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

#283

- 1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

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

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

- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

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.**

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

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

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

CAROL

“Away in a Manger”

#277

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.

BLESSING OF THE CRECHE

O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence, and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever.

Amen

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Please stand if you are able.

CAROL

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

#289 vs. 1 & 3

1 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.

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

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In 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.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CAROL

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

#276

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
- 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand if you are able.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Wonderful counselor, on this holy night your church throughout the world celebrates the Word of God being born among us. Fill your church with a zeal for sharing your love and grace with all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of hosts, the heavens are glad, the earth rejoices, and the trees sing for joy at your coming. Grant us wisdom to care for your creation in ways that benefit all your creatures. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Prince of peace, your grace has appeared and brings salvation to all. Bring healing to people and nations divided by violence. Direct the leaders of the nations, so that rule wisely and honorably for the sake of all your people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Mighty God of mercy, you come to us as a baby. Protect all who are vulnerable or need: those without homes or caregivers, those who grieve, all who are hungry, and all who seek healing in mind, body, or spirit (*especially...*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, we praise you for gathering us tonight to worship in holy splendor. Direct our worship, fellowship, and service, so that our lives and Christian witness may be pleasing to you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Everlasting God, your steadfast love never ends. Thank you for revealing your faithfulness and love to us through the saints of every time and place. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

At the birth of Christ, the angels sang a song of peace and good will.
May the peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

Duet

“O Come, Little Children”

Tom & Gwen Wehr

Please stand if you are able.

OFFERTORY HYMN

“What Child Is This?”

#296 vs. 1

1 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!

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life,
in the beginning, your word brought life into the whole world.
In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary,
to shine in our darkness and make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection, we await his coming again
when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son.

Through Him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your Holy Church, both now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The mystery hidden for ages is revealed to us in this meal.
Come, behold and receive your Savior and King!

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Solo	“O Holy Night”	Maddie Swick
Communion Hymns	“The First Noel”	#300
	“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”	#282

Please stand if you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God of wonder, in this meal we have tasted your goodness, and beheld your presence in the Word made flesh. May the light of Christ shine in all we say and do until we come to the radiant vision of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CANDLE LIGHTING

CAROL “Silent Night, Holy Night” #281

- 1 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.
- 2 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!
- 3 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.

Please keep your candle burning through “Joy to the World.”

BLESSING

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.
May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.
May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.
And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the +Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Filled with the joy of Christ's birth,
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
Thanks be to God!

CAROL "Joy to the World" #267

- 1 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.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 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,
 far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 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.

Please extinguish your candle, and place it in the basket in the narthex.

POSTLUDE "Angels We Have Heard on High" K. Varner

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

Altar poinsettias are presented in memory of the H. Y. Hartman Family.

The Christmas Eve bulletins are presented in memory of our parents, Raymond and Josephine Rohrer and Arthur and Edna Emerich, by Joanne and James Emerich.

SERVING THIS EVENING (5:00 PM)

USHERS: Jerry & Nora Goessel; Maddie & Cole Swick;

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: **Ruth Ann Withers & Kay Weidensaul;**

GREETER: **Crystal Brensinger & Dale Dewald;**

ALTAR GUILD: **Hope Clarke & Madelyn Knecht**

POINSETTIAS (Please take your plant(s) with you after 11:00 PM worship.)

Poinsettias presented in honor of:

Pastor Mike's first Christmas with us, Kurt, and Julianne by Sue Schenck (delivery fee)

Our daughter Heather Lynn by Barry and Dana Jenkins (1 marble)

Bob and Ruth Rarick, Kyle, Charlene, and Norman Knauss, and Clint and Cole Rarick by Gail and Jeff Rarick (3 jingle bell)

My children by Kay Weidensaul (1 white)

Jack Riegel, Beth Post, and Lori Roshannon by Sis Riegel (1 red, 1 marble, 1 jingle bell)

Our children, Jeffry and Amanda, Joel and Cristi, and Lindsay and Kevin,

and our grandchildren, Jayda, Lily, and Jackson, by Jeff and Cindy Ritschel (1 marble, 1 jingle bell)

The Rev. Debra Koch Abbots and Katherine Koch Knight by Gary Koch (1 white, 1 marble)

Mary Steinert by Chris Long (1 red)

Our children, Noel, Jody and Dutch, and our grandchildren, Kelsey, Harrison, and Charleigh, by Darin and Crystal Brensinger (1 marble, 1 jingle bell)

Pastor Diefenderfer by Danielle Richards (1 jingle bell)

My Family, Deborah, Bill and Cindy, Sandra and Scott, and Fern and Rodney,

and my Grandchildren, Tyler, Travis, and Troy Moyer, Jeremy Houser,

and Samantha and Bryan Ludwig, and my Great Grandchildren, Kelti, Braylon,

and Natalie Ludwig by Fern Moyer (2 red)

Fern Moyer, Jeremy and Rebecca, Debbie, Bill and Cindy, and Sandy and Scott

by Rodney and Fern Houser (2 marble and 1 jingle bell)

James P. Withers by Wayne and Ruth Ann Withers (1 red)

Ashley Post and Charles Schoffstall, Tyler Post, Sydney and Ami Riegel, Madyson Riegel,

Nikki, Anastasia, and Scarlet Herring by Jeff and Beth Post (5 marble)

Laura and Nicholas Ingraham, Jordan Post, Elizabeth Riegel, Carl and Barbara Post,

Lori and Jenny Roshannon and Jeff, Carla, Hannah, and Zachary Fisher and Keith Van Nosedall

by Jeff and Beth Post (6 jingle bell)

Jack Riegel and Abbey, and Joe and Deb Post by Jeff and Beth Post (2 red)

Alyssa and Alexander Sklar by Cindy and Greg Sklar (1 red, 1 white)

Tom's brothers, Bobby and Jimmy Wehr, and sister, Evelyn Plechavy,

by Tom and Gwen Wehr (1 jingle bell)

Poinsettias presented in memory of:

Loved ones by The Jenkins family (jingle bell)

Tim and Jan Gerberich and Janet Bensinger by Gail and Jeff Rarick (1 red, 1 white)

My parents, Harvey and Gerturde Beury, by Kay Weidensaul (1 white)

Lawrence Heintzelman by Carl Heintzelman (1 white, 2 marble, 2 jingle bell)

Mike Riegel by Sis Riegel (1 white)

Our parents, Florence and Dick Teets and Elizabeth and Gene Ritschel

by Jeff and Cindy Ritschel (1 white)

Loved ones by Lester and Connie Teter (1 red)

Mavis M. Koch and Irene Walter by Gary Koch (2 red)

Pauline Berger and Elmer Berger by Daniel, Joan, and Erika Guers (1 red, 1 pink, and a donation)

Pauline Berger and Elmer Berger by Lindsay and Alex Findura (1 marble and 1 jingle bell)

My parents, Lester and Betty Potts, by Leslie Guldin (1 marble)

My dear aunt, Ethel Ellex, by Leslie Guldin (1 jingle bell)

Loved ones by Rosalie Wingle (1 red)

Mr. and Mrs. Evan H. Davis and Mildred Goetz by Evan and Pat Davis (2 red)

Family members by Jean Premich (2 jingle bell)

Edward and Elsie Foulk, Sr. and Bill, Gloria, and Billy Biever by Cheryle and Ed Foulk, Jr.

(1 red, 1 pink, 1 marble, 1 jingle bell)

Herbert Steinert and Carl Long by Chris Long (1 marble, 1 jingle bell)

Carl and Shirley Brensinger by Darin and Crystal Brensinger (1 red)

My father, Robert Shaud, and my brother, Eric Shaud, by Crystal Brensinger (1 white, 1 pink)

Francis and Margaret Piacine by Danielle Richards (1 red)

Charles W. Moyer by Rodney and Fern Houser (1 jingle bell)

Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Pitts, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Withers by

Wayne and Ruth Ann Withers (1 pink, 1 jingle bell)

John S. Riegel, Jr. by Jeff and Beth Post (1 white)

Our parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Rohrer and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Emerich,

by Joanne and Jim Emerich (1 red)

Kermit and Cathlene Krammes and H. Claire and Jane Zimmerman

by Robin and Steve Zimmerman (2 marble)

Our Parents, Mike and Mary Petresky and John and Ann Host, and Brother, John Host III,

by Pastor Mike, Sue, and Mikey Petresky (3 red)

Our Parents, Lois and Boris Sklar and Juleen and Larry Herman, by Cindy and Greg Sklar

(1 marble, 1 jingle bell)

Jack Taylor by Skip Taylor (2 jingle bell)