

# Christmas

## Eve

### The Nativity of Jesus



December 24, 2020  
4:00 p.m.

University Lutheran Church of Hope is a welcoming, Christian community of faith centered on God's grace and called to demonstrate God's love for the world. University Lutheran Church of Hope is a Reconciling in Christ congregation and a sanctuary congregation with a commitment to racial equity.

## Welcome. Peace be with you.

**Welcome** to all who are joining us virtually. In this time of social distancing and COVID-19 pandemic response, we are grateful for the opportunity to gather in spirit.

**Children are welcome** in worship. Kids, grab your SPARK Story Bibles and set up your craft tables!

In our service today, we will share **Holy Communion**. If you'd like to participate, please have bread and wine or juice available.

**We welcome your feedback** as we experiment with livestreaming worship! What works or doesn't work? What should we try? Our contact info is on the back page of this bulletin.

During today's service, **use the comments section** on YouTube or chat section on Zoom for prayer requests. We will engage these live during the Prayers of the People.

### Today's Worship Leaders:

Pastor Jen Nagel (presiding minister); Ann Beane (assisting minister); Eric Ringham, Viva Whitney (lectors); Zach Busch, Hope Choir, Juna Evans, Seneca Brooks, The Tetlie Family, many others (music); Matt Fry, Nick Tangen (tech facilitators)

## GATHERING

*We gather for worship on the land of our Creator, the traditional home of the Dakota people, and a land over which the Anishinabe people and others also moved. They gathered and ate food, rested, died and gave birth, and prayed here, and many still do.*

+ Indicates the assembly should rise in body or spirit  
Assembly parts are marked in **bold**.

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who was in the beginning,

who makes a dwelling among us,  
who covers us with justice and mercy.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of goodness and lovingkindness,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
and our neighbors.**

**We have turned away from your invitation to new life.  
We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.  
In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,  
those we know and those known only to you,  
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!  
God forgives us all our sins,  
not through our own work,  
but through † Jesus Christ.  
Rejoice with the angels in this amazing gift of grace.  
**Amen.**

## HYMN

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

**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!**

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*

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

## GREETING

The grace of the Christ Child, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

# WORD

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Nick Tangen

## CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem, stanza 1

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 dark streets shineth the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

## PROPHECY DIALOGUE

based on Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader 1: The people who walked in the deep of night have seen the dawn;  
those who lived in the valley of shadow are now crowned with radiance.

Reader 2: You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when feasting in celebration.

Reader 1: For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Reader 2: For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

Reader 1: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

Reader 2: authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named

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

Reader 1: This authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

Reader 2: God will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.

All:           **The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.**

## CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem, stanza 4

**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;  
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

## GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went

Por aquellos días Augusto César decretó que se levantara un censo en todo el Imperio romano. (Este primer censo se efectuó cuando Cirenio gobernaba en Siria). Así que iban todos a

to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

inscribirse, cada cual a su propio pueblo. También José, que era descendiente del rey David, subió de Nazaret, ciudad de Galilea, a Judea. Fue a Belén, la Ciudad de David, para inscribirse junto con María su esposa. Ella se encontraba encinta y, mientras estaban allí, se le cumplió el tiempo. Así que dio a luz a su hijo primogénito. Lo envolvió en pañales y lo acostó en un pesebre, porque no había lugar para ellos en la posada.

## CAROL

Away in a Manger, stanza 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 look down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”

En esa misma región había unos pastores que pasaban la noche en el campo, turnándose para cuidar sus rebaños. Sucedió que un ángel del Señor se les apareció. La gloria del Señor los envolvió en su luz, y se llenaron de temor. Pero el ángel les dijo: «No tengan miedo. Miren que les traigo buenas noticias que serán motivo de mucha alegría para todo el pueblo. Hoy les ha nacido en la Ciudad de David un Salvador, que es Cristo el Señor. Esto les servirá de señal: Encontrarán a un niño envuelto en pañales y acostado en un pesebre». De repente apareció una multitud de ángeles del cielo, que alababan a Dios y decían: «Gloria a Dios en las alturas, y en la tierra paz a los que gozan de su buena voluntad».

## CAROL

Away in a Manger, stanza 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.**

When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Quando los ángeles se fueron al cielo, los pastores se dijeron unos a otros: «Vamos a Belén, a ver esto que ha pasado y que el Señor nos ha dado a conocer». Así que fueron de prisa y encontraron a María y a José, y al niño que estaba acostado en el pesebre. Cuando vieron al niño, contaron lo que les habían dicho acerca de él, y cuantos lo oyeron se asombraron de lo que los pastores decían. María, por su parte, guardaba todas estas cosas en su corazón y meditaba acerca de ellas. Los pastores regresaron glorificando y alabando a Dios por lo que habían visto y oído, pues todo sucedió tal como se les había dicho.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

El Evangelio del Señor.  
**Alabanza a ti, oh Cristo!**

**SERMON**

Pastor Jen Nagel

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

Born at Last

1. Born at last in - to these wait - ing arms. Born at last to mend our break - ing hearts.  
 2. Love at last to clear - ly light our way. Love at last, a bea - con to the lost.  
 3. Peace at last as pure as fall - ing snow. Peace at last, as sure as shin - ing stars.  
 4. Free at last to o - pen up our hearts. Free at last to see and speak the truth.

Born at last to bring us heav-en's love. Last time  
 Love at last that binds us all as one. Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a, glo - ri-a! Glo - ri-a!  
 Peace at last, bright as the ris - ing sun.  
 Free at last, now let us all re - joice:

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Sung response:*

*(to the tune of the last line of “In the Bleak Midwinter”)*

**Gracious God, in mercy**

**hear our prayer.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.      La paz de Cristo sea siempre con ustedes.

**And also with you.**

**Y también contigo.**

*All are invited to share the peace of Christ in whatever way is comfortable, using these or similar words “Peace be with you” or “La paz del Señor”*

# MEAL

## CAROL

In the Bleak Midwinter, stanza 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.**

## OFFERING WORDS

*Thank you for your continued generosity.  
Offerings can be sent electronically or by mail.  
Information on the last page of the bulletin.*

## OFFERTORY CAROL

In the Bleak Midwinter, stanza 3

**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and abundant gifts of grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to our God.**

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

It is indeed right...join their unending hymn:

*(to the tune "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing")*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and God of might,  
Heav'n and earth bedecked with glory, radiant with the Son's warm light.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, Christ is coming now to save us.  
Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God in heav'n and earth adored!  
Sing hosanna to our Lord, God in heav'n and earth adored!**

## **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Creator, Our Mother, Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Creador nuestro, Madre nuestra, Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre. Venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y libranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder y tuya es la gloria, ahora y siempre. Amén**

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

*We believe that Jesus Christ is present in Holy Communion with gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. All who hunger for the presence of Christ in their life are invited to partake. By our participation in this meal, we are strengthened in faith and in life. All are welcome to commune.*

*If you are sitting with others, when sharing the bread with someone, say to them: "This is the body of Christ, given for you." When sharing the wine or grape juice, say, "This is the blood of Christ, shed for you." If you aren't with others, today, hear the voice of the pastor naming these promises of grace and life for you. If you'd prefer a blessing, hear these promises: "You are a beloved child of God. May God strengthen you with grace through Christ for all we face today."*

### **MUSIC DURING COMMUNION**

#### **What Child Is This**

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!

Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

### **Angels We Have Heard on High**

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.

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

## TABLE BLESSING

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Emmanuel, **God with us, you grace us with life and breath, and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming in hope and love. Amen.**

# SENDING

## INTRODUCTION

## LITANY

from John 1

In the beginning was the Word,  
**and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**  
He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him,  
**and without him not one thing came into being.**  
What has come into being in him was life,  
**and the life was the light of all people.**  
The light shines in the darkness,  
**and the darkness did not overcome it.**  
The Word became flesh and lived among us,  
**full of grace and truth.**

## CANDLELIGHT HYMN

### Silent 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,  
heav'nly 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 your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

## BLESSING

Grace from God's own heart,  
peace from the ☩ Child in the manger,  
and strength from the Spirit of life  
be blessing for you today and forever.

**Amen.**

## HYMN

Joy to the World

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 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.

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.

## DISMISSAL

Christ is born! Share this good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

**Staff at University Lutheran  
Church of Hope**

**Lead Pastor**

Rev. Jen Nagel (Pronouns: she/her)  
jenn@ulch.org

**Pastor for Care and Nurture**

Rev. Barbara Johnson (she/her)  
barbaraj@ulch.org

**Minister of Worship & Music**

Zach Busch (he/him)  
zachb@ulch.org

**Church Administrator**

Nathan Obrestad (he/him)  
nathano@ulch.org

**Financial Administrator**

Kari Olson (she/her)  
kario@ulch.org

**Minister of Faith in Community**

Nicholas Tangen (he/him)  
nickt@ulch.org

**Child Care and Sunday  
Opener/Closer**

Gus Gustafson (they/them)

**Custodian**

Geremew Beshah (he/him)

**Lutheran Campus Pastor**

Kate Reuer Welton (she/her)  
kate@umnlutheran.org

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"Born at Last" and Sanctus text by Zach Busch

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**University Lutheran Church of Hope**

601 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414-1437  
612.331.5988

[www.ulch.org](http://www.ulch.org)

Office hours: 9am to 2pm weekdays