

Bethany Lutheran Church
151 Tremont St. Port Orchard, WA

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT

December 24, 2018

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship tonight! In our service we gather before our almighty and saving God to offer Him our worship and praise. We also assemble to hear God's holy and powerful Word and celebrate His life-giving Sacraments. Through these means, God strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with Him.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED

To participate in this service, just follow along in this service folder. Lutheran worship is specifically designed to include the participation of the assembly. We are not here to be an audience, we are here to speak and sing the Word of God to each other.

Parts marked P are spoken by the pastor, and parts marked C are spoken by the congregation. Congregational parts are also printed in bold. It looks like this:

P Spoken by the pastor

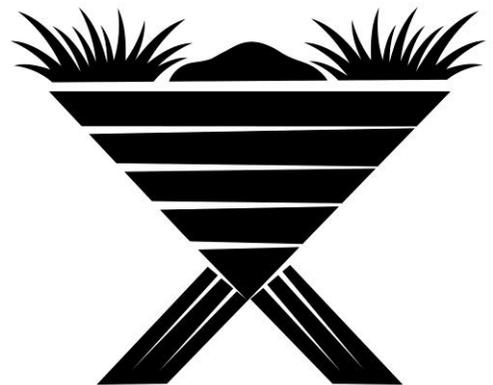
C Spoken by the congregation.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TONIGHT

Pastor	Tony Pittenger
Organist 7pm	Mrs. Barb Mantey
Organist 11pm	Mrs. Roberta Highfill
Ushers	Team 3 [Crider]
Greeters	Pittenger family

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WHEN THE FULLNESS OF TIME HAD COME



—as told by St. Luke and St. Matthew

P: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. [Galatians 4:4-5]

Opening Hymn TLH 88:1

*This night a wondrous revelation
Makes known to me God's love and grace;
The Child that merits adoration
Brings light to our benighted race;
And though a thousand suns did shine,
Still brighter were that Light divine.*

Prayer

Pastor: Dear Heavenly Father, we gather tonight to praise You.

Congr: We praise You for promises kept.

P: We praise You for our redemption.

C: We praise You for sending Your Son Jesus.

P: Dear Lord Jesus, we gather late at night to praise You.

C: We praise You for humbling Yourself.

P: You were not too proud to be born as one of us.

C: You were not too proud to be born in a stable.

P: You were not too proud to take on all our weaknesses and infirmities and take them with You to Your cross.

C: We praise You for what You have done for us.

P: Dear Holy Spirit, Comforter, Lord and Giver of Life, we gather tonight to praise You.

C: We gather in the darkness to praise You for the light of faith.

P: With this light which only You can give, we now know of our Savior Jesus Christ.

C: Send Your blessing to us as we pause from the food and presents at our homes, bless us as we turn to Your Word to hear the Christmas story.

P: Bless us as we sing the praises of God.

C: Bless us Father, Son †, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

P: The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. [Genesis 3:14]

C: I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." [Genesis 3:15]

Hymn: TLH 91:8

*Bruise for me the Serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cleave to Thee in faith,
Safely kept through life and death,*

P: Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [Genesis 12:1-2]

C: I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." [Genesis 12:3]

P: [Exodus 20:18-19] Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."

C: Just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, "Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die." And the LORD said to me, "They are right in what they have spoken." [Deuteronomy 18:16-17]

P: As soon as Solomon had finished building the house of the LORD and the king's house and all that Solomon desired to build, the LORD appeared to Solomon a second time, as He had appeared to him at Gibeon. And the LORD said to him, "I have heard your prayer and your plea, which you have made before Me. I have consecrated this house that you have built, by putting My name there forever. My eyes and My heart will be there for all time. [1 Kings 9:1-3]

C: And as for you, if you will walk before Me, as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you, and keeping My statutes and My rules, then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.' [1 Kings 9:4-5]

Hymn - TLH 87:1

*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.*

P: But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. [Isaiah 9:1-2]

C: For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. [Isaiah 9:6-7]

P: Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." [Isaiah 7:10-12]

C: And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. [Isaiah 7:13-14]

P: Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek. [Micah 5:1]

C: But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. [Micah 5:2]

P: Therefore He shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of His brothers shall return to the people of Israel. [Micah 5:3]

Hymn-TLH 103:2

*At Bethlehem, in David's town,
As Micah did of old make known;
'Tis Jesus Christ, your Lord and King,
Who doth to all salvation bring.*

P: ²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and

bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her. [Luke 1:26–38] (ESV)

Women’s Choir—We Light the Candles One by One

(At this time the lights will be dimmed and the light of the candles passed from one to the other.)

C: And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. ² (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) ⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. [Luke 2:1-7]

Hymn - TLH 647:1-2

*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 wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God, the King, And peace to men on earth.*

C: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. [Luke 2:8-14]

Hymn - TLH 94:1

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

C: And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

[Luke 2:15-20]

Hymn - TLH 646:1-2

*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!*

Closing Prayer

P: O Father, on this Holy Night we thank You for the mystery of all mysteries, the wonder of all wonders; the miracle of the incarnation. Your Son became poor and lowly in order to raise us to divine glory and in order to give us eternal life. We pray that amid the gifts, the bright lights, the family time of our celebrations that we would remember with reverent awe the gift You gave at Christmas. Grant that we never stop marveling and that we never stop thanking You as a Father—a Father who gave His Son to die so that we might live. We thank You, in His name. AMEN.

P: ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come,

C: God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. [Galatians 4:4-5]

Closing Hymn - TLH 99:1 & 3

*Now are the days fulfilled, God's Son is manifested
Now His great majesty In human flesh is vested.
Behold the mighty God, by whom all wrath is stilled,
The woman's promised Seed – now are the days fulfilled.*

*Now are the days fulfilled, the child of God rejoices;
No bondage of the Law, No curses that it voices,
Can fill our hearts with fear; on Christ our hope we build.
Behold the Prince of Peace – Now are the days fulfilled.*

Benediction

P: Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. ⁶
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his
shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace. (Luke 2:10, Isaiah 9:6)

Poinsettias adorning our sanctuary are provided to the glory of God by Bethany
members. Special dedications:

<u>By:</u>	<u>In loving memory of/honor of:</u>
Sam & Penny Bell	thanks for blessings
Dave Dahlke	a blessed Christmas to all
Conrad & Candy Plyler	Pastor Pittenger & family
Rick & Roberta Highfill	mom Lorraine Highfill; parents Hilda & Paul Tonder
Norm & Dorothy Reinhardt	to the glory to God and for the blessings of Christmas
Doug & Kathy Seals	parents Morgan & Wanda Seals, George & MerrieLou Stoeckmann
Isaac & Amy Sharrett	celebration of Christmas
Singleton Family	Franklin Faulkner
Holly Spears	Jesus Christ our Lord & Savior

Information on our advent candles and the Chrismons on our tree is printed on
green/lavender paper and available on the back counter under the mailboxes.

Our Celebration Continues:

Christmas Day Festival Worship, 10 am
First Sunday after Christmas 12/30, 8:15 & 11am
(no Sunday School)
New Year's Eve 12/31, regular Monday Worship at 7pm

