

**OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
CANBY, MN
CHRISTMAS EVE – 2021**



* *Please stand as you are able*

Prelude

SPECIAL MUSIC "Angels Shouting" *Sonshine*

RINGING OF THE BELL

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

DeLon Clarksean

* CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

C: Amen.

P: In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

[Silence is kept for reflection.]

P: Holy God,

C: we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. † In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

C: Amen.

*HYMN

"Away In a Manger"

#277 ELW

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE-LIGHTING LITANY

P: Immanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and open our eyes to the wonder of this night, that we might catch a glimpse of your glory in the simplicity of these moments.

C: May your Light shine!

P: Immanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and soften our hearts to the message of this hour, that we might turn toward you, and have the way prepared in us for your coming.

C: May your Light shine!

P: Immanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and open our minds to truly listen to all who speak and sing this evening, that we might hear your voice cry out from many lips.

C: May your Light shine!

P: Immanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and fill our spirits with the courage to admit when we are lost and the insight to recognize that we have been found.

C: May your Light shine!

P: Immanuel, God-with-us, with eyes open, hearts softened, minds listening, and spirits full, we rejoice that you interrupt what we have in mind in order to bring into being something more than we dare imagine.

C: May your Light shine! Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"What a Glorious Night"

Sonshine

CHILDREN'S SERMON

BUILDING OF THE CRECHE

*GREETING/SHARING OF THE PEACE

*GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God,

C: 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, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

* HYMN

"O Come All Ye Faithful" (sing v1, say prayer, sing v3,4)

#283 ELW

WELCOME AND COMMENTS ON THE DAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

PSALM 96

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

CANDLES TURNED ON & SANCTUARY LIGHTS ARE EXTINGUISHED

* THE HOLY GOSPEL (*by candlelight*)

Luke 2:1-20

* HYMN

"Silent Night, Holy Night" (All Verses)

#281 ELW

CANDLES TURNED OFF & SANCTUARY LIGHTS ARE TURNED ON AGAIN

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Noel"

Sonshine

* THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

SPECIAL MUSIC

"A Christmas Alleluia" (sing, pray, sing)

Sonshine

OFFERING (Your Christmas Offering will be received by the Ushers as you come to receive the Lord's Supper.)

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Gracious God,

C: your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** OUR LORD'S PRAYER (we will sing as a congregation)**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Sacrament will be received this evening at four stations. The Ushers will assist you in forming continuous lines via the outside aisles where you will be served at the station nearest you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Adore Him"

Sonshine

CHRISTMAS CAROLS: Hymn #'s – 300 "The First Noel (v.1,2,4); 289 "Angels We Have Heard on High (v.1,2,3); 296 "What Child Is This?" (v.1,3); 270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (v. 1,3)

*** POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

*** BENEDICTION**

P: May you grow still enough to hear
the small noises earth makes in preparing for the long sleep of winter,
so that you yourself may grow calm and grounded deep within.

May you grow still enough to hear
the trickling of water seeping into the ground,
so that your soul may be softened and healed, guided in its flow.

May you grow still enough to hear
the splintering of starlight in the winter sky
so that you may stand in awe of God's creation.

May you grow still enough to hear
the stir of a single snowflake in the air
so that your inner silence may turn into hushed expectation.

May the peace of God's grace and love rest upon and within you
as you go out into this Holy Night.

C: Amen.

*** DISMISSAL**

P: So now together, we go out into God's great creation, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, ever present in our hearts, let's change some lives.

C: We will! Alleluia!

*** CLOSING HYMN** "Joy To the World" (All verses)

#267 ELW

Postlude

Special Music – Karen Olsen

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"Thank You" to the Sonshine Worship Leaders, Karen Olsen (Organist) the Our Saviour's Board of Deacons, the Altar Guild, the Ushers, Acolytes & Communion Assistants, Linda Kockelman (Digital Projection) and the many Worship Assistants who made our Christmas Eve Celebration a joyous event!

Poinsettia in front of church is given in memory of **Wendell, Joan & Darrell Wicks**. From Jody & Bruce Saum and Dori Wicks & Family.

****Welcome! We are grateful for the spirit that prompted you to worship with us today and hope you find a meaningful experience in your time with us. We thank you for the prayers you brought and for the witness you made to the world by being in the Lord's house on the Lord's Day. We invite you to worship with us again; our church family will always welcome you!***

To the parents of our young children, may we suggest:

- Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear.
- Sing hymns loudly, pray, and voice the responses with enthusiasm. Children learn behavior by copying you. If you are fired up about God, they will be too!
- Remember that the way we welcome children in Church directly affects the way they respond the Church, to God, to Christ, to one another. Let them know that they are at home in the Church.

- Teach children some of the basic prayers, being able to join in with the prayers help them feel they are contributing too. Attend worship often, children like and need routines where they can participate.
- Children are invited to participate in communion, where they learn that God loves them.

To Members of the congregation: A smile of encouragement is always welcome to parents with small, active children. The presence of children is a gift to the church! They give us a future filled with hope!

***A Blessed and Merry Christmas
to All!***