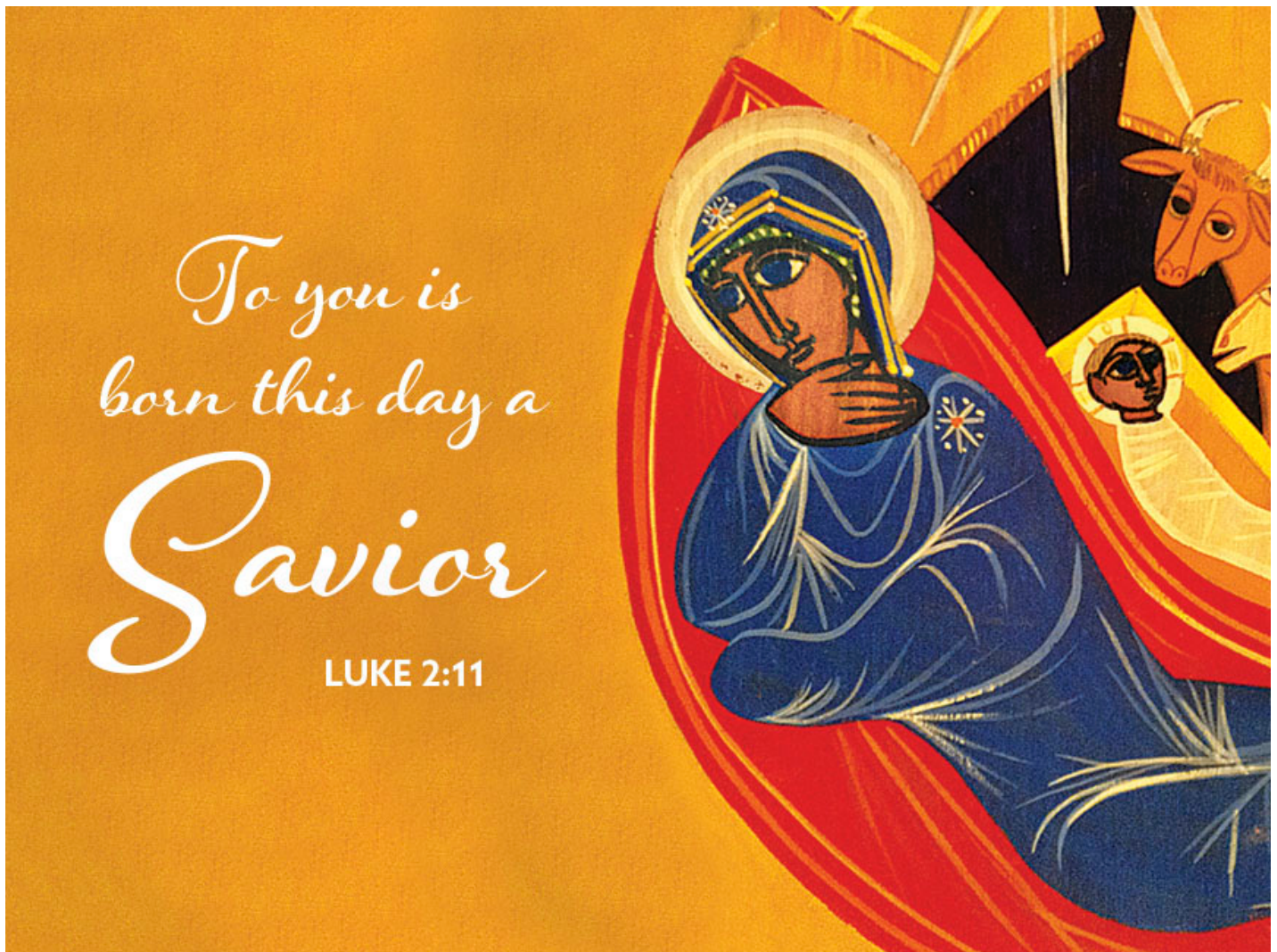


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tuesday, December 24th, 2024



Christmas Eve 10:30 pm

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Prelude: Camarada Brass Quintet

I Wonder as I Wander

Appalachian Carol
Arr. Todd Marchand

I Saw Three Ships

Traditional Irish Carol
Arr. David Marlatt

Sing We Now

Traditional French Carol
Arr. Bernard Walker

GO, tell It on The Mountain

African-American Carol
Arr. Gary Slechta

The Holly and the Ivy

Traditional English Carol
Arr. David Marlatt

A Jazzy Christmas Tree

Traditional German Carol
Arr. Todd Marchand

Fum, Fum, Fum

Traditional Spanish Carol
Arr. William Ryder

Infant Holy

Traditional Polish Carol
Arr. Chris Hall

CAMARADA BRASS QUINTET

Jeff Huston-Trumpet I

Chris Hall-Trumpet II

Phil Tryon-French Horn

Matt Stemple-Trombone

Jonathon Stuck-Tuba

CANDLE LIGHTING

We have watched; we have waited
in hope. *Light the first candle.*

for peace. *Light the second candle.*

in joy! *Light the third candle.*

with love. *Light the fourth candle.*

Now our redemption draws near! *The Christ candle (the center white candle) is lit.*

ENTRANCE HYMN *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful* ELW 283

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him born the king of angels:

Refrain

Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, 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*

CHRISTMAS DIALOG

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

C **He is the Light no darkness can overcome.**

P At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

C **With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."**

P In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

C **With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.**

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

Anthem:

Night of Silence
Chancel Choir

John Ferguson (b. 1941)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2–7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when
dividing plunder.

⁴For 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.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to
renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are
self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the
manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who
gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself
a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SOLO

Some Children See Him Wilha Hutson & Alfred Burt
Veronica Kreemer, mezzo- soprano

Some children see Him lily white, the baby Jesus born this night. Some children see Him lily white, with tresses soft and fair.

Some children see Him bronzed and brown, The Lord of heav'n to earth come down. Some children see Him bronzed and brown, with dark and heavy hair.

Some children see Him almond-eyed, this Savior whom we kneel beside. some children see Him almond-eyed, with skin of yellow hue.

*Some children see Him dark as they, sweet Mary's Son to whom we pray. Some children see Him dark as they,
and, ah! they love Him, too!*

The children in each different place will see the baby Jesus' face like theirs, but bright with heavenly grace, and filled with holy light. O lay aside each earthly thing and with thy heart as offering, come worship now the infant King. 'Tis love that's born tonight!

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1–14 [15–20]

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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

SERMON

Rev Mark Kreemer

HYMN:

What Child Is This?

ELW 296

- 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!

- 2 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!

- 3 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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

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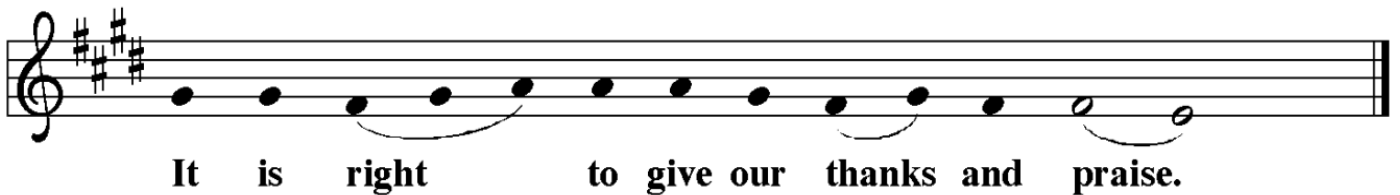
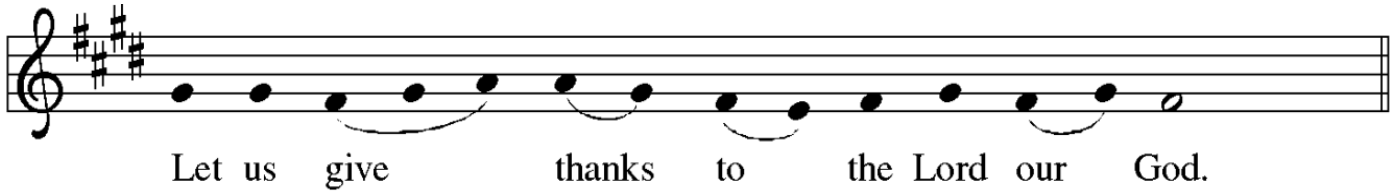
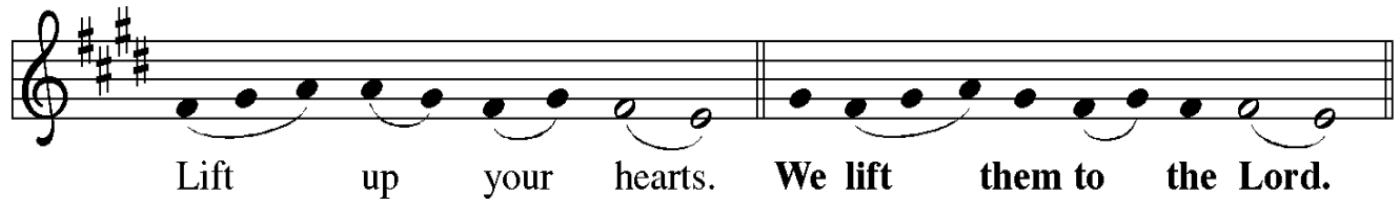
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

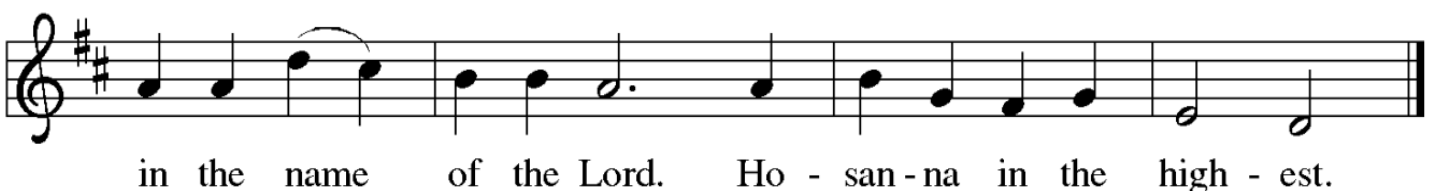
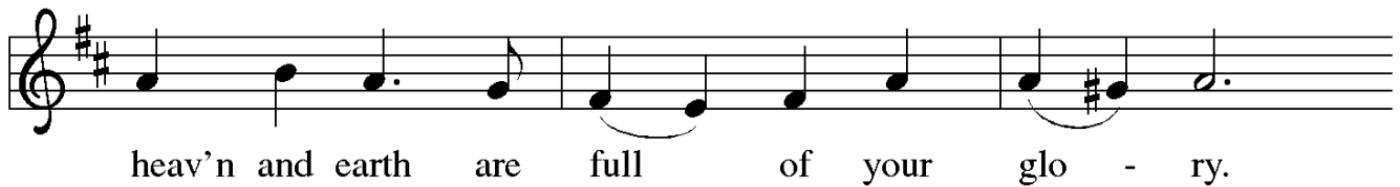
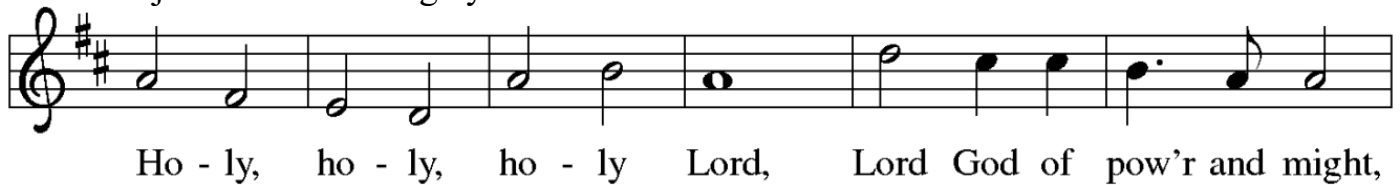
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places.... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to 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

LORD'S PRAYER

**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

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

COMMUNION SONG *Angels We Have Heard on High* **ELW 289**

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.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain

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

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his
grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. **Amen.**

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

On this Christmas Eve we remember God's promise to our world: Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come. Listen to the words of Isaiah the prophet:

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death a light has dawned. You have increased their joy and given them gladness; they rejoice in your presence as those who rejoice at harvest, as warriors exult when dividing spoil. (Isaiah 9:1-2)

Let us pray

O God, rejoicing, we remember the promise of your Son. As the light from this candle, may the blessing of Christ come upon us, brightening our way and guiding us by his truth. May Christ our Savior bring life into the darkness of our world, and to us, as we wait for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

SOLO

O Holy Night
Megan Meyer, soprano

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

CONGREGATIONAL SONG *Silent Night, Holy Night!* ELW 281

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

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,

offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! Refrain

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. Refrain

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Flourish on Joy to the World
Camarada Brass & Dr. Haake

Robert Hobby (b. 1962)

In our prayers today we will remember

Amy Williams, Phyllis Wilson, Jackie Whitman, Jessie Shaffer, Mark King, Rick Theiss, Jim Loveday, Rosemary Stephen, Ariane Roberts, Shane Reed, Chrissy Sturtz, Donnie Whitman, Mary Martin.

The Peace Light

The Peace Light, symbolic of the Light of Christ especially evident at Christmas, promotes peace, harmony, and unity among all people of the world—every race, ethnicity, and creed. For several decades, the Scouts and others around the world have actively promoted global peace and harmony through sharing the Peace Light.

The Peace Light from Bethlehem campaign was originally organized in 1986 by ORF, the Austrian Broadcasting Company, as part of a large charitable relief mission Light into Darkness, for children in need in Austria and abroad.

For more than 1,000 years, oil lamps have continuously burned at the grotto at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Each year, safety permitting, a child from Upper Austria travels as a pilgrim to obtain the flame. During the Third Week of Advent, a Service of Dedication is held in Vienna, Austria, to share the Light with Scouting delegations from across Europe. Scouts return to their own countries and with a message of peace, share the Light with churches, hospitals, retirement homes, and places of public, cultural and political importance—to anyone who appreciates the significance of the gift.

"The Light of Friendship & Peace" was first introduced to the United States in 2000. It was flown from Oslo with a brief stopover in London before landing in Bartlesville, OK, at the headquarters of Phillips Petroleum Co., the sponsors of the flight. The Peace Light quickly spread to six states in America's heartland.

Following the tragic events of 9/11, Austrian and United Kingdom Peace Light organizers privately brought the Light to Phillips Petroleum in Maine. Met by Boy and Girl Scouts, the Light was taken to New York City, where it was delivered to mortuary workers at "Ground Zero" with a message of peace and hope. Soon after, an Austrian Delegation also delivered the Peace Light to New York City, where it was formally presented to the Rector of Saint Patrick's Cathedral as a gift and message of love for all in the United States.

It is the light from that flame, lit more than a thousand years ago in Bethlehem, that illuminates our church this evening. If you would like to take this flame home with you this evening to share with your family on Christmas day, candles are available in the Chapel.

Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister

Rev. Mark Kreemer

Director of Music

Dr. Abigail Haake

Assisting Minister

7 pm Karl Kalk
10:30 pm Scott Larson

Lector

Sydney Johnson

Greeters

7 pm Karl Kalk
10:30 Brady & Morgan Rupp

Communion Assistant

7 pm Barb Palmer and Gary Collard
10:30 pm Jackie Pritchard and Shane Jackson

Sacristan

Kathryn Myers

Soundboard

Jim Johnson

Video/Live-Stream

John Stanko

