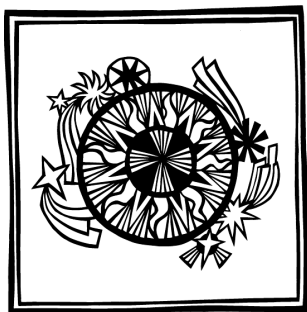




Grace and truth came
through Jesus Christ

JOHN 1:17



FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

500 West Le Claire Road Eldridge, Iowa
Pastor Carrie Lewis La Plante Pastor Heather Geest

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Saturday, January 2, and Sunday, January 3, 2021

Prelude

Welcome

Gathering Song

Love Has Come

ELW #292

Dialogue

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

P Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

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

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

Opening Prayer

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lessons & Carols

~FIRST LESSON—A Light in the Darkness ~ **Isaiah 9:2-7**

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

³ You 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.

⁴ 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.

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

⁶ For 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.

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

Hymn *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

~SECOND LESSON—The Place of Bethlehem Foretold ~ **Micah 5:2-5a**

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.
If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight installed as rulers.

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

~THIRD LESSON—The Promise of God's Son~ **Luke 1:26-35, 38**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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 ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

~FOURTH LESSON—Jesus is Born!~ **Luke 2:1-7**

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.

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

Hymn *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

~FIFTH LESSON—The Good News is Declared to the Shepherds~ **Luke 2:8-20**

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.

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

Hymn *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

~SIXTH LESSON—Jesus is Dedicated at the Temple~ **Luke 2:21-38**

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

Hymn *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

~SEVENTH LESSON—The Coming of the Wise Men~ **Matthew 2:1-12**

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

Special Music *The First Noel*

Neal Becker

~EIGHTH LESSON—The Slaying of the Innocents~ **Matthew 2:13-18**

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

Hymn *Your Little Ones, Dear Lord*

~NINTH LESSON—The Word Became Flesh~ **John 1:1-14**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the

beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Glory to God in highest heaven,
who unto us the Son has given.

Hymn *He Came Down*

Meditation

Responsive Prayer

P Glory to God in the highest,

C **and peace to God's people on earth.**

P Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C **Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

P Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C **Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

P Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

C **Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen.**

Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Share a sign of God's peace with those who are with you, or send a message of peace via text, email or phone to those you love.

Special Music **"God Rest You Merry Gentlemen"**

Neal Becker

Offering

We give thanks to God for the gifts that God provides, and for the gifts that you share with the church.

Offerings to the church in these days may be sent through the mail, through automatic withdraw, or through the Tithe.ly app on our website.

The communion table is set.

Offering Prayer

P Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts that we may use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue, Preface and Holy, Holy, Holy

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P 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.

C Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

Invitation to Communion

P The Word is revealed in a manger, and in bread and wine. Come meet Christ in this meal.

Prayer after Communion

P We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

Blessing

P Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.

C Amen.

Dismissal

P Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

 Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.		
Cindy Staebel	Don Stoltenberg	Sherri Westemeier
Arnie Lindaman	Pat Hoffman	Craig
Carol Judge	June Dierks	Gary
Michelle Weltzin-	Betty Leeman	Lois
Trainor	Ann Kuehl	Bob
Ron McFate	Jensen Spencer	Algean
Sue Oetzman	Michael Schafer	Carolynn
Phyllis Hamann	Karen Muetzel	John
Kristina Gehrls	Peyton Langebartles	