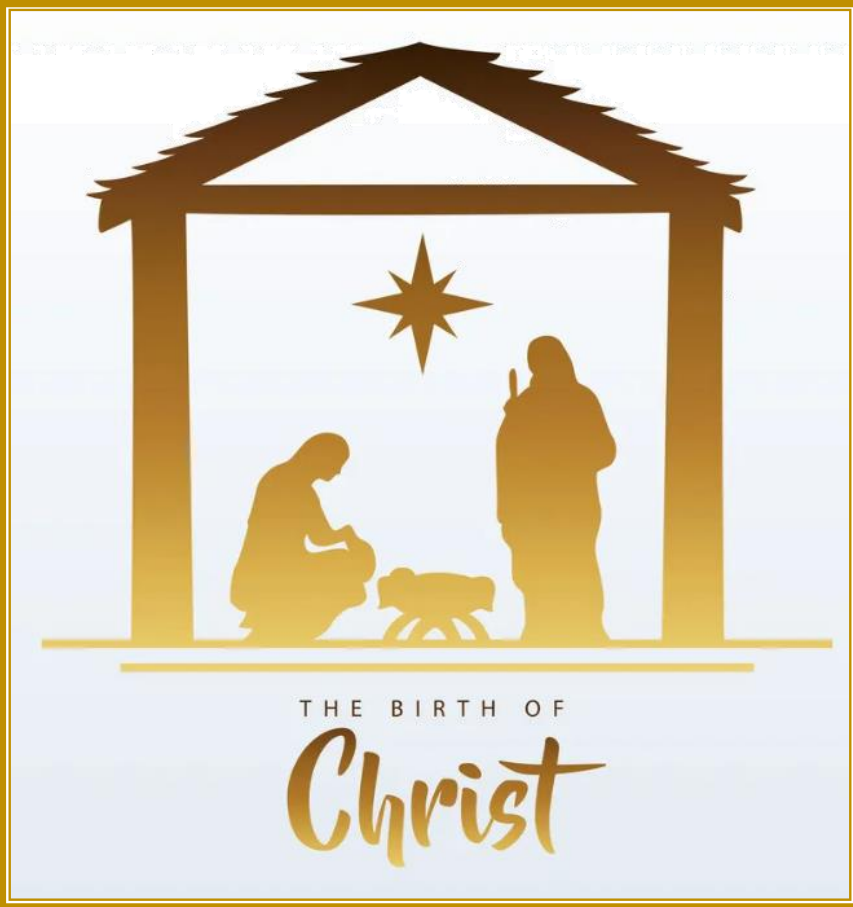




CHRISTMAS EVE  
*Candlelight*  
SERVICE



THE BIRTH OF  
*Christ*

# A SERVICE OF LIGHT

WELCOME

CHRISTMAS EVE DEVOTION

HYMN

CW21 BLUE #353 (1-2) 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!*

## EXHORTATION AND PRAYER

M: Beloved in Christ: In this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us, the Christ-child, lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall, and into the birth and glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child. Let us hear how peace was lost, and how peace is restored.

But first, let us pray, for this is good and right.

Heavenly Father, we pray for ourselves and all people who worship you and your Son this blessed Christmas morn. By your holy Word, lead us to say with the angels,

**C: Glory to God in the highest!**

M: We pray for your blessing upon the people of our city, our state, our nation, and our world.

**C: Glory to God in the highest!**

M: We pray for the poor and helpless, the cold and hungry, the sick and sad, that you would give them the joy of your salvation and the comfort of your presence.

**C: Glory to God in the highest!**

M: We pray for unbelievers and enemies of the Church, that through your Law and Gospel you would lead them to recognize your Son as their only hope for eternal life.

**C: Glory to God in the highest!**

M: Finally, we remember before you all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light and beauty than we, that multitude which no one can number, who died in faith, and now praise you in your heavenly temple. We confess that we are united with them and with one another.

**C: Glory to God in the highest!**

**HYMN**

**CW21 BLUE #346 (1,3) ANGEL'S 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.*

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

# THE PROPHECY OF LIGHT TO COME

## Introduction

- M: Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
- C: **See, darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness is over the peoples.**
- M: But the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.
- C: **Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**  
(Isaiah 60:1-3)
- M: I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near. (Numbers 24:17a)
- C: **A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel.**  
(Numbers 24:17b)
- M: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. (Isaiah 9:2a)
- C: **On those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.** (Isaiah 9:2b)
- M: The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine upon us. (Psalm 118:27)
- C: **For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom forever.** (Isaiah 9:6)

HYMN

CW21 BLUE #327 (1,4) OH, COME, OH, COME, EMMANUEL

*Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

*Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

# THE LIGHT DRAWS NEAR

## Introduction

M: Praise be to God. He has come and redeemed His people. (Luke 1:68)

**C: The rising sun will come to us from heaven.** (Luke.1:78)

M: He will guide our feet into the path of peace. (Luke.1:79)

**C: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** (John 1:1)

M: In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1: 4-5)

**C: There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.** (John 1:6-8)

M: The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. (John 1:9)

**C: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.** (John 1:14)

HYMN

CW21 BLUE #333 (1,3) O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

*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.*

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.*

# THE LIGHT APPEARS IN FLESH

## Introduction

M: “In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

C: **So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.**

M: While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:1-7)

## HYMN

CW21 #354 (1-2) OH, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

*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.*

*Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,*

*Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,*

*Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,*

*Only begotten Son of God the Father.*

*Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,*

*Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

# THE LIGHT IS ANNOUNCED BY ANGELS

## Introduction

M: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

C: **“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”**

M: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

C: **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”**

M: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

C: **“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”**

M: So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. (Luke 2:8-16)

## HYMN

CW21 #350 (1,3) HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS

*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 th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Hail, the heav'nly 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 us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

# THE LIGHT IS HERE WITH US

## **Silent Night Interlude: Isaiah 9:6**

*At this time the ushers will come forward to pass out the candles. The Christ Candle in the middle of the Advent Wreath will act as our source of light. As the ushers proceed down the center aisle, tip your unlit candle towards the lighted one and pass the flame to your neighbor, keeping your lighted candle held vertically at all times.*

*No offering will be taken during the service this evening so as to not diminish the focus on our Heavenly Father's supreme Gift to us. An offering plate is found in the narthex where you may leave a gift in response to God's gift of Himself.*

**HYMN CW21 BLUE #337 GERMAN VS.1; ENGLISH 1-3 STILLE NACHT/SILENT NIGHT**

### **1.) Stille nacht! Heilige nacht!**

**Alles schläft, einsam wacht,  
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in Himmlischer Ruh!  
Schlaf in Himmlischer Ruh!**

### **1.) 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.**

### **2.) Silent night! Holy night!**

**Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia,  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

### **3.) Silent night! Holy night!**

**Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**