

# Christmas Eve December 24, 2022

## Gifts of Christmas



### Lighting of the Advent Candles Frieda Family

Rejoice, for God is with us.

**In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.**

Now there is reason for hope, peace, joy, and love to find a home in the human heart.

**God is truly with us. We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God!**

### Opening Prayer Ken Reinhardt

Gracious God, it is with a spirit of thanksgiving that we gather as Your people. We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth. In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy night. Jesus, you are the Light of the world; bring your light into the darkness of our world. You, Jesus, are the light of mankind. Come and bring your light into the darkness of our hearts. Grant that we, both those who have known the mystery of that Light on earth and those who are earnestly seeking him, may come to a deeper understanding and a faithful desire to follow after him. Amen.

### The Gift of Light John 1: 1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things

were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 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.

### Hymn of Praise Joy to the World

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!*

*Let earth receive her King;*

*Let every heart prepare him room,*

*And heaven and nature sing,*

*And heaven and nature sing,*

*And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.*

*Joy the word, 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.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,*

*Nor thorns infest the ground;*

*He comes to make his blessings flow*

*Far as the curse is found,*

*Far as the curse is found,*

*Far as, far as, the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,*

*And makes the nations prove*

*The glories of his righteousness,*

*And wonders of his love, and wonders of his*

*love, and wonders, wonders, of his love.*

## The Gift of Trust

Luke 1:26-29

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

### Hymn of Praise *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

*Of the Father's love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he; of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, Evermore and evermore.*

*O ye heights of heaven, adore him, Angel hosts, his praises sing; Powers, dominions, bow before him, And extol our God and King; Let no tongue on earth be silent, Every voice in concert ring, Evermore and evermore.*

*Christ, to thee with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost to thee, Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, And unwearied praises be; Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory, Evermore and evermore.*

## The Gift of Obedience Matthew 1:18 – 25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

### Praise Song: *What a Beautiful Name/O Come Let Us Adore Him*

*You were the Word at the beginning, One with God, The Lord Most High  
Your hidden glory in creation, Now revealed in You, our Christ.*

*What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus Christ, my King.  
What a beautiful Name it is. Nothing compares to this. What a beautiful Name it is, The Name of Jesus.*

*You didn't want heaven without us, so Jesus, You brought heaven down. My sin was great, Your love was greater. What could separate us now?*

*What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful name it is, the name of Jesus Christ my King.  
What a wonderful Name it is. Nothing compares to this. What a wonderful name it is, the Name of Jesus.*

*O come let us adore Him. O come let us adore Him. O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. We'll give You all the glory. We'll give You all the glory. We'll give You all the glory, Christ the Lord.*

*You have no rival. You have no equal. Now and forever God you reign. Yours is the Kingdom. Yours is the glory. Yours is the Name above all names.*

*What a powerful Name it is. What a powerful Name it is. The Name of Jesus Christ my King. What a powerful Name it is. Nothing can stand against. What a powerful Name it is. The Name of Jesus. What a powerful Name it is the Name of Jesus*

**Gift of Relationship                      Luke 2:1-7**

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

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. 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 guest room available for them.

**Hymn    What Child Is This**

*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?*

*Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

*Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.*

*Refrain*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.*

*Refrain*

**The Gift of Belief    Luke 2:8-15**

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

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

**Hark the Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven**

*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 Angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark the herald Angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King*

*Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace  
Hail the Son of Righteousness  
Light and life to all He brings  
Risen with healing in His wings*

*Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark the herald Angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King*

*King of heaven come down  
King of heaven come now  
Let Your glory reign  
Shining like the day  
King of heaven come  
King of heaven rise up  
Who can stand against us?  
You are strong to save  
In Your mighty name  
King of heaven come*

*Christ by highest heav'n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a virgin's womb*

*Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King*

*The newborn King!  
King of heaven come down  
King of heaven come now  
Let Your glory reign  
Shining like the day*

*King of heaven come  
King of heaven rise up  
Who can stand against us?  
You are strong to save  
In Your mighty name  
King of heaven come*

*King of heaven come  
King of heaven come  
King of heaven come  
King of heaven come*

*King of heaven come down  
King of heaven come now  
Let Your glory reign  
Shining like the day  
King of heaven come*

## Luke 2:16-20

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

## Here I Am to Worship/Away in a Manger

*Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness.  
Opened my eyes, let me see. Beauty that made this  
heart adore you. Hope of a life spent with you.*

*Here I am to worship. Here I am to bow down. Here  
I am to say that you're my God. You're altogether  
lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.*

*King of all days, Oh so highly exalted. Glorious in  
heaven above. Humbly you came to the earth you  
created. All for love's sake became poor.*

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head,  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep in the hay.*

*Here I am to worship. Here I am to bow down. Here  
I am to say that you're my God. You're altogether  
lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.  
(Repeat 2 more times)*

## The Gift of Interpretation

Matthew 2:1-6

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

**Hymn**      **O Little Town of Bethlehem**  
**Soloist, Evelyn Huggins**  
**Flutist, Caitlyn Martin**

*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.*

*For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of  
wondering love. O morning stars together, proclaim  
the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King, and  
peace to all on earth!*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We  
hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

**The Gift of Protection**      **Matthew 2:7-12**

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

**Explanation of Gifts**      **Pastor Polly Standing**

**Our Gifts in Response**

**Offering**

**Offertory Music**      **Away in a Manger**  
**Kimberly Perez, Reese Rawson and**  
**Children**

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet  
head. The stars in the sky looked down  
where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep  
on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from  
the sky and stay by my cradle til morning  
is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to  
stay close by me forever, and love me, I  
pray; Bless all the dear children in thy  
tender care, and fit us for heaven to live  
with thee there.*

**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and  
praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to  
You, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven  
and earth.

You created light out of darkness and  
brought forth life on the earth. You  
formed us in Your image and breathed  
into us the breath of life. When we  
turned away, and our love failed, Your  
love remained steadfast. You delivered  
us from captivity, made covenant to be  
our sovereign God, and spoke to us  
through Your prophets. You loved the  
world so much You gave Your only Son  
Jesus Christ to be our Savior.

As the angels sang glory to You in the  
highest and peace to Your people on  
earth, so with Your people on earth and  
all the company of heaven we praise  
Your name and join their unending  
hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are You, and blessed in Your Son Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected.

As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection You gave birth to Your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

As Your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago, so on the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us, gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By Your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through Your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in Your holy church, all honor and glory is Yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the power, and the glory, and the Kingdom forever. Amen.**

### **Communion and Distribution of Candles**

**Sara & Wayne Huggins  
Christan & Kevin Rawson**

### **Prayer After Communion**

**We give You thanks, most gracious God for allowing us to share in this feast as Your family and to be fed with the bread of heaven; give us grace that we all may grow in love, glorifying you in all things, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



## Silent Night and Candle Lighting

Guitarists: Andy Harris and Andy Reed

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,  
heavenly 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 thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus  
Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend  
thy light; with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to  
our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the  
Savior is born!

## Closing Prayer and Dismissal with Blessing Ken Reinhardt

Let us pray: (A brief silence)

O Christ, your wonderful birth is meaningless  
unless we are born again. Your death is  
meaningless unless we die to sin. Your  
resurrection is meaningless if you only have been  
raised. Bring us now to such love for you that  
we may enjoy you forever. For all things in the  
heavens and on earth are yours eternally. Amen.

Go in peace and joy to love and serve the Lord.  
**We are sent in the name of the Christ Child.**  
Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

*Wishing you a*



*Joyful*

*Merry AND* 

*Blessed*

*Christmas*

*Christ is Born*

