

Atonement Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Candlelight

December 24, 2024

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Serving in Worship Today

Pastor ..... Holly Feather (she/her/hers)
Assisting Minister ..... Todd Feather
Reader. ..... Lucy Taylor and Mike Meyer
Choir Director ..... Gwen Freeman
Pianist ..... Youlee Duray
Altar Guild/Counters ..... Barb Wildrick and Mary Wudel

Remote Worship Access

Use this link to join the service on a computer, tablet, or smart phone: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81385481240. You may have to wait for the host to admit you to the service.

To call in for sound only, the telephone number is (669) 900 6833. When you are prompted to enter a Meeting ID, the number is 813 8548 1240. If you are asked for a passcode (you may not be), it is 750450.

Those worshiping remotely are invited to share in communion. Please have a small portion of bread and wine/juice ready before the service.

If you have a prayer request, please enter it in the “chat” feature and we will include it during today’s Prayers of the People.

Welcome!

Whether you are worshipping in-person or remotely,
we're glad you have joined us.

Atonement is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and is also a Reconciled in Christ (RIC) congregation. This means that we are an inclusive congregation that welcomes and encourages all people, regardless of race, language, previous denominational affiliation, gender identity, or sexual orientation to worship with us so that we may enjoy all the spiritual gifts that God gives to all God's people.

At Atonement, we embrace the Richard Feynman quote that has been so popular on social media: "*I would rather have questions that can't be answered than answers that can't be questioned.*" Questions are welcome here, even the questions we can't answer, even if you're questioning your faith (don't we all sometime?). Whatever your questions, we would love to walk with you so we can learn from each other.

This bulletin contains all the music and responses you will need for today's service. If you are not familiar with the liturgical form of worship, please let the spirit of the service carry you along.

- Congregational responses are in **bold face type**.
- At various times during the service, you will be invited to **stand**. Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer to worship in this way.

We will celebrate **Holy Communion** this evening. You do not need to be a member, or even a Lutheran, to participate. Everyone is welcome at God's table. If this meal is meaningful to you, please come. If you are not able to come forward, we will bring communion to you. Simply let an usher know.

If you need to contact Pastor Holly, her cell number is (530) 613-9018, or you may email her at pr.holly@gmail.com. The "**ALC Guest**" wifi password is ALC9242!

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

We honor Messiah with Christ candle's flame,
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim,
O come all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
As Christ comes among us, to bring us new light.

The Christmas Proclamation

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed humankind in his own image; long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah;

Thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;

While the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and the Redeemer of all, the Only Begotten One, desiring to sanctify the world by living and loving among us, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—now in our own times is the nativity of Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

Gathering Song *(Please stand in body or spirit.)*
.....**O Come, All Ye Faithful** (ELW 283, vs. 1-3)

♫ O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain
♫ O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O 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 Greeting/Prayer of the Day
For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.
In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
May the grace and truth of Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

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 Savior and Friend.
Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, sermon, and song.

First Reading .....**Isaiah 9:2ff**
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.

[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. [7]His 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.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn.....O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279, vs. 1-3)

♫,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 wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

Continued next page

♫ 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

Second Reading..... **Titus 2:11-14**
The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, [12]training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, [13]while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

[14]He 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.

Word of God, word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem..... A Cradle Waits (Shafferman)

First Gospel Reading .....**Luke 2:1-7**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. [2]This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. [3]All went to their own towns to be registered. [4]Joseph 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. [5]He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. [6]While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. [7]And 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.

Hymn .....What Child is This (ELW 296, vs. 1 & 3)

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!

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!

Second Gospel Reading.....**Luke 2:8-20**

The continuation of the Good News

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over
their flock by night. [9]Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the
glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. [10]But the angel
said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great
joy for all the people: [11]to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord. [12]This will be a sign for you: you will find a child
wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." [13]And 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!"

[15]When 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." [16]So they went with haste and
found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. [17]When they saw
this, they made known what had been told them about this child; [18]and all
who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. [19]But Mary
treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. [20]The 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

Hymn..... Go Tell It on the Mountain (ELW 290)

Refrain

♫ Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

♫ While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Refrain

♫ The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain

♫ Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

Prayers of the People *(be seated)*
Each petition will end: God of grace,
Please respond: **Receive our prayer**.

Greeting of Peace

The passing of the peace was already part of worship in the early church. During the peace, we act on our belief that we are reconciled to one another through our faith in Christ. We greet one another with a handshake or a bow with palms pressed together. As we seek to build a community of consent, please be sensitive to the other person's desired level of physical contact.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Gathering of the Offering *(be seated)*

Offering Anthem ..... Baby in a Manger (Nolan)

Offering Prayer *(Please stand in body or spirit.)*
Let Us Pray together,
God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from you0r bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.

We Gather at God's Table

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 God thanks and praise.**

The angel told the shepherds: "You will find the baby all wrapped up and lying in a manger." In a manger, a feed box for animals, full of oats and hay, a place for cows and oxen to eat and be filled!

Christmas is full of surprises: The Lord of this vast universe became small for us and lay as a frail infant in a manger at Bethlehem. And how marvelously we have been fed and nourished by that infant Jesus, fed and filled with the love that God has for us in Jesus Christ. All his days and nights were moments of sharing with us the deep mystery of the love God has for every creature great and small.

And then in the last night of his life our Lord Jesus took bread and wine, the common food of every day, and blessed them. He broke the bread and said that through it he will come to us and feed our hearts: “Take and eat: this is my Body which is given for you.”

And he took the cup and gave it to them and to us, promising that this cup binds us to him and to one another forever: “Take and drink: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all.”

The Son of God on the first Christmas was content to lie in a poor manger. And He still comes, even here today, in bread and wine, to fill our lives.
Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

Please feel free to offer this prayer in whatever language or translation speaks most deeply to your heart.

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

Communion Blessing *(Please stand in body or spirit.)*
The body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

Post Communion Prayer
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.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

The Incarnation Gospel John 1:1-14
The pastor will light a candle from the Christ candle and pass this light to the ushers, who will light the candle of the person nearest the aisle. Tip your unlit candle to light it from the person next to you. (Never tip a lit candle!)

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

♫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.

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

♫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!

And 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.

♫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.

The Benediction
May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

God bless you and keep you, ☩ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.
Amen.

(*Please extinguish all candles*)

Sending Song *(stand)*..... **Joy to the World** (ELW 267, vs. 1, 2 & 4)

♫Joy to the world! the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every 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.

♫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.

Dismissal
Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude ..... Youlee Duray

We will continue our Christmas celebration
December 29th and January 5th.

Please join us at 10:00 am for worship filled
with many traditional carols and songs of the season.



This
Christmas
end a quarrel.
Seek out a forgotten
friend. Dismiss suspicion,
and replace it with trust.
Write a love letter. Share some
Treasure. Give a soft answer. Keep
a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge.
Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you
were wrong. Try to understand. Examine your
demands on others. Think first of someone else.
Be kind; be gentle. Appreciate. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Express your gratitude. Gladden the heart of a child. Welcome a stranger. Take pleasure in the beauty and the
wonder of Earth.
Speak your love.
Speak it again.
Speak it yet
Once again.



The Altar Guild wishes to thank the following people who donated and dedicated the beautiful Poinsettias that grace Atonement's sanctuary this 2024 Christmas Season!

Julie Backman	All Members of Atonement
	All Family Members
Barb Wildrick	In Memory of sons, Larry and Eddie
	In Memory of Our Parents
Joyce McColgan	In Memory of Mona Vosper
Pam Kirk	To the Glory of God
Donna Philp	In Memory of My Parents and Brothers
Linda Cancio	In Memory of My Parents and Grandparents
	In Memory of Karen Marie Nelson
	In Memory of Vince, John and Harry
Phyllis Ransom	To the Glory of God
Todd and Holly Feather	In Memory of Gus & Rachael Forsman
	In Memory of Jack Feather
Mary Wudel	In Memory of Ron Wudel
Sharon Willaims	In Memory of My Mom
Lucy Taylor	In Honor of Loved Ones
Jack and Gwen Freeman	In Memory of Family of who have passed
Jim Weber	To the Glory of God
Johanne Smith	To the Glory of God

~Please take your Poinsettias home with you after this evening's service.