



DECEMBER 24, 2020

CHRISTMAS EVE

FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



Ascension Lutheran Church

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Ogden, UT 84404

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP...

Welcome to all God's guests! A special welcome to guests who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community.

It is at God's invitation, through work of the Holy Spirit, each of us is called to come to a place of **community**, **communion** and **commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshiping community, these differences are not a problem but become celebrations of diversity.

The disciples of Jesus Christ who count themselves as "part of" Ascension Lutheran Church joyfully welcome all who have come to celebrate God's best gift to all of humanity, Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior.

If you would like to know more about what is happening here at Ascension

check out our website

www.ascensionlutheranogden.org

Or on Facebook:

[ascension lutheran church, ogden utah](https://www.facebook.com/ascensionlutheranchurchogdenutah)

Introduction

Christmas Eve is a time of hope, peace, joy, and love.

The promises of Christmas are reflected in scripture in rich and unique ways: Isaiah's promise of light after darkness and Luke's beloved rendition of that first Christmas, filled with angels of hope and signs of God's love.

This service is a time to enter into the promises of Christmas in word and music, in ritual and celebration. Christ is born! Glory to God in the highest!

Welcome to Worship

Finding Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love in the midst of Disruption

P I invite you to take a deep breath.

Imagine that what is above you is a star-lit night.

No matter whether you come to church every Sunday or not at all,
you are part of the constellation of the human galaxy
and you are a part of this family.

There is something about Christmas Eve.

It is hard to describe that "something" that many of us feel and it is different, to be sure, for everyone...especially this year.

The older we are and the more memories we accumulate, the more complex the feeling becomes. Perhaps the tendency for reflection upon one's life and the presence or absence of loved ones on this night is why we love to hear "all is calm, all is bright."

On this night we remember the promise of God—that God would be "Emmanuel," God-with-us forever more.

Breathe in this promise and rest in knowing that Christ has come
tonight
for you.

🎵 SONG - O Come, All Ye Faithful 🎵

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;

O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Prayer

P Holy Child,
we come to your manger on this Christmas Eve, wanting to see.
As you came to us on that first Christmas Eve, come to us now.
Enter our hearts and our worship,
that we might recognize the shining light of your love .
In your loving name we pray

All Amen.

A Reading from Isaiah the 9th chapter ***A Child Will Be Born as the Prince of Peace***

²The people who walk in darkness will see a bright light.
The light will shine on those who live in the land of death's shadow.

⁶A child will be born for us. A son will be given to us.
The government will rest on his shoulders.

He will be named:

Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

⁷His government and peace will have unlimited growth.
He will establish David's throne and kingdom.
He will uphold it with justice and righteousness now and forever.
The LORD of Armies is determined to do this!

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

It's All About the Light

Lighting the Christ Candle

P This Advent season we have embraced the disruption in all our lives this year by reflecting this disruption in our Advent wreath. We chose to use candles we already had on hand, unmatching as they are, to remind us that the simple message of Advent is preparing and welcoming the light of Jesus, with whatever we have and whoever we are, into our hearts and lives.

So today, along with the candle of HOPE, the candle of PEACE, the candle of JOY and the candle of LOVE
we light the CHRIST candle.

We have one thing to say today:

Christ has finally come.

Hope, peace, joy, and love have finally come.

The darkness of Advent has passed, and the light of Christmas invites us into the warm glow of the completed Advent Wreath.

As we light this candle,
we live in the knowing and the affirming that
Christ has come.
Christ is here.
Christ is now.

Let us pray:

Holy God, we thank you for the birth of your Son, Christ Jesus, who demonstrates for us the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. Grant us attentive and inviting spirits to these gifts as we enter the Christmas season.

All Amen.

Reading from St Luke, the 2nd chapter

The Christmas Story

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

There were in the same country shepherds staying in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were much afraid.

"Fear not," the angel said to them. "For I bring you good tidings of a great joy that is coming to all people. For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you: You will find a child wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go into Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

They went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a

manger in a stable. And when they had seen it, they let everyone know throughout the land what they had been told about this child. And all who heard it marveled at the things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary pondered all these things in her heart.

Luke 2:1-20

A Message for All God's Children

Pastor Debra Jimenez

Prayers of the Children

L God, we thank you for this world you have made,
for the sun and flowers and all things beautiful
for each new day, for surprises, laughter, and learning,
and for our lives. In hope let us pray.

All Hear our prayer.

L God bless our brothers and sisters.
Let them grow up strong and healthy.
Keep them safe and out of danger.
Help them know your love.
In love let us pray.

All Hear our prayer.

L God, we ask your blessing this night.
Bless our families. Keep them safe.
Give them your joy deep inside their hearts.
In joy let us pray.

All Hear our prayer.

L God bless all your children who are sick.
Help them get better. Take away their pain. Give them your peace.
In peace let us pray.

All Hear our prayer.

L God, we thank you for all the animals you have made.
Protect all wildlife, like the ones in the mountains that surround us
and the pets we have in our families.
In gratitude let us pray.

All Hear our prayer.

L Thank you God for sending to us your son, Jesus.
Help us to share the good news of Jesus' love with others.

All Thank you God for everything. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

P Make us bold O merciful God to address as our Abba as we pray

**All 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.**

Candle-Lighting—a word of instruction



*The light will be brought to the end of each row,
tip your unlit candle into the flame
of the lighted candle held upright.
Pass the light along your row until every candle is lit.*

Reading from John the 1st chapter The Incarnation

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.

🎵 Song - Silent Night 🎵

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! Shepherd quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'n-ly hosts sing al-le-lu-ia! 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.

Benediction

P May Christ, who by his incarnation
has filled us with grace and truth,
give you peace this Christmas and always.
Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

All Amen.

Extinguish candles

♪ Song - 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.

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

P Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to God's people on earth!
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

All Thanks be to God.

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Advent Wreath Reflections

Adapted from
Candle Liturgies — LiturgyLink.net – a community creating for the relentless return of Sunday

Submitted by Meredith Menius, Ardmore United Methodist Church, Winston-Salem, NC

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