

Christmas Eve

2020



Concordia Lutheran Church

Conover, North Carolina

Poinsettias in the Sanctuary are given...

In memory of...

by...

Don Bogert.....	Lisa, Hunter & Dalton
Don Bogert.....	Rick & Mary Anne Wike, Lisa, Hunter & Dalton Bogert
Catherine Bolick.....	Opal Bolick & Family
Smitty Bolick.....	Opal Bolick & Family
Charles & Chloe Brady.....	Doug Brady
Robert & Cora Belle Carpenter.....	Rick & Mary Anne Wike
Dr. Harvey Christensen.....	Pree, Scott, Kelly & Kim
Joann Forte.....	Mike & Lesa Spake
Troy Goodin, Nancy & Wes Hass.....	Pree Christensen
Carolyn Vaughn Isenhower.....	Stine & family
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Isenhower.....	Stine Isenhower
Brian Long.....	Jane Long
Gladys Moser.....	Pat & family
Tom Moser.....	Pat, Julie, Ginger & Matthew
Wilfred & Merle Sigmon.....	Gina, Greg, Betsy, Jason & Shan
Darlene Spake.....	Mike & Lesa Spake
Jack & Phyllis Spake.....	Mike & Lesa Spake
David N. Smith, husband, father, and grandpa.....	Sandy, Shelley, Bryson, Faith, Ashley & Keith
Grady & Fannie Wike.....	Rick & Mary Anne Wike

In Honor of...

by...

To the Glory of God.....	The Blackmons
Rick & Mary Anne Wike.....	Kelly, Peggy, Lisa, Keith, Hunter & Dalton



Christ-Mass Eucharist with Candlelight

December 24, 2020

6PM, 8PM, 10PM

PRELUDE

“Ding! Dong! Merrily on High”.....Traditional French Carol, arr. Howard Helvey

“Fum, Fum, Fum”.....Traditional Catalan Carol, arr. Mark Hayes

✠ Gathering ✠

We stand.

INVOCATION & RESPONSIVE DIALOGUE

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Blessed is He who comes as King, who comes in the name of the Lord.

C Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will to all.

P For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given,

C And the government will be upon His shoulders.

P His name will be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

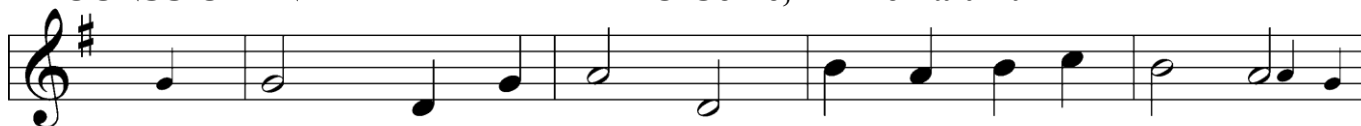
P He comes to establish and uphold righteousness and justice.

C From this time forth and forevermore.



PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P As we prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth and receive Him as He still comes to us today, let us also remember the reason Jesus was born: "He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." He has come to bring peace, yet not always in ways we can see in this world. He has come to bring peace, yet not always in ways we can see in ourselves in our thoughts, words, and actions. He has come to bring peace that is forgiveness of sins and peace with our Father in heaven.

C We confess that we have sinned against God and against one another. We yearn for peace with God and reconciliation with one another, yet we cannot accomplish it ourselves. Forgive us, Lord, and restore our souls, that our lives reflect not our sin, but the joy of the birth of Your only Son into the world.

P Jesus is Emmanuel, which means “God with us.” What we are powerless to do, He has done for us. His name is Jesus, the name that means He has “come to save us from our sins.” Know the peace He has come to bring; live it with others and share it with all. As an ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

SALUTATION & PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have come to know the Light of Your love on earth, we may join with the shepherds and make it known to all what we have seen and heard; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

We sit.

MUSICAL OFFERING “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”.....Traditional Spiritual, arr. Mark Hayes

✠ Word ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

Isaiah 9:2-7

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONS

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 2nd chapter.

C Glory to You O Lord.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and 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 among those with whom he is pleased!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.



HYMN OF THE DAY

"Angels We Have Heard on High"



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav' - n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

We sit.

SERMON

"Raise Your Expectation"

Rev. Michael A. Geml

We stand.

CHRISTMAS CREED.....*the second article and Luther's explanation*

P What is the second article of the Creed?

C And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P What does this mean?

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

To each petition the assembly responds:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

✠ Sacrament ✠

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalms 136

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Holy God, holy Lord, You have made the night to shine with the greatness of the one true Light and given to us Your only Son in flesh to be our Savior. Open our hearts and minds that we receive Him whom You have sent and live in Him by faith. Grant that we reflect the brightness of His appearing and live as witnesses to His saving glory, doing the good You desire and avoiding the evil You forbid. Give to us Your Holy Spirit, that nothing prevents our worthy communion this night of His holy body and precious blood. Help us to show forth our faith in lives of repentance, seeking that which is good and right and true in accordance with Your Word and promise. To You, Father, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, praise and worship, now and to the end of the ages.

C Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your birth to be among us, Your life, death and resurrection. As we celebrate Your coming, we now await Your final coming to reign over all. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 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

We sit.

DISTRIBUTION

We stand.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Incarnate Lord, may the gift of Your body and blood strengthen us, enable us to serve You who became flesh to serve us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, now and forevermore.

C Amen.

THE CANDLE LIGHTING

The Pastor, taking a large candle, lights it from a candle on the Advent Wreath, symbolizing Christ, the Light of the World. Then the Pastor says:

P Arise, shine; for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you... And nations shall come to your Light. Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World; whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." "You are the light of the world... Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven."

*The Pastor gives light to the ushers, they in turn give light to the first worshipper in each pew, who passes it on.
(tip only the unlighted candle)*

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN

"Silent Night, Holy 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!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!

Raise candle: **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.



✠ Sending ✠

BENEDICTION

P Help us, Lord Jesus, to carry this light into the world in our words and in our actions.

C May we, who have celebrated the birth of Jesus our Light and our Hope, be signs of light and hope to those around us.

P As the light of these little candles lightens this darkness, make us ablaze with the light of life, Christ himself, so that others may know the true Light.

C Hear us, O Lord, as the brilliance of the Light of Christ opens our hearts, and hands and voices to serve with great joy.

P Christmas peace and joy through Christ, His only-begotten Son, be yours. The blessing of God almighty—Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit—be and abide with you forever.

C Amen.

Please extinguish your candles.

Following the recessional, you may place your candles and holders in the boxes at the exits.

CLOSING HYMN

“Joy to the World”

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1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

POSTLUDE

“Hallelujah Chorus”

G. F. Handel

