



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving

Christmas Eve

4pm Worship

December 24, 2021

This worship is being livestreamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.

There is great joy in gathering with one another to lift up praise and thanksgiving to God. Measures have been put in place to provide a safe environment for us to gather in church to worship.

NOTE: *Bold text indicates worshippers' response, and *' means please stand as able*

PRELUDE "O Holy Night" Sung by Keith Lee Performed by Michelle Young

WELCOME & MINISTRY MESSAGES

CHRISTMAS EVE 12/24/21: Jesus Christ the gift *All 5 candles are lit*

Reader: Christ, the Savior is born. All around the world people are celebrating Jesus' birthday! Throughout the earth, people are singing songs, praising God at church and at home. Many are tasting terrific treats of all kinds, and practicing time held traditions that communicate the joy of this Good News.

People: Dear Jesus, during the Season of Advent we have been recounting the Bible stories that tell the world about you. With all believers, we celebrate your coming into the world to be Emmanuel, God with us. And while we do not know the exact day and time when you will return, we wait with open hearts and lives ready to welcome you; all the while telling others about you.

Reader: A favorite way to celebrate Christmas is by sharing gifts with one another. This year we want to make time to remember how each and every gift we give or receive is a reminder of the greatest gift God ever gave the world...Jesus, the Christ, our Savior.

People: Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift of YOU this Christmas, and every day! Your gift means that a place in heaven is prepared for all who believe in you.

Please bless all the children of the world as we joyfully celebrate your birth! By

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Join in singing the 1st & 2nd verse of "*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*" (Green #55)

<p>1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!</p>	<p>2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!</p>
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Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

GATHERING

* P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

* CONFESSION Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth. **Amen.** In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace. *Silence is kept for reflection.* Holy God, **in the presence of one another, we confess our sin to you. For those times when we've failed to believe your Good News is for us; when we've forgotten your command to love you and love others; when we were quick to anger, but slow to forgive. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.**

FORGIVENESS I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. ✚ In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace. **Amen.**

* The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY 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 Lord. Amen.**

GROWING

A PROMISED KING ENTERS THE WORLD A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 9. *Tonight we celebrate the fulfillment of this prophecy of God.*

*²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You 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. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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. This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

* HYMN, #67 *Away in a Manger*

1 **Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.**

"Away in the Manger" was reprinted with permission under One License #A-724679. All rights reserved.

Text: North American, anonymous, 19th cent.

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

*P: THE HOLY GOSPEL according to Luke the 2nd chapter **Glory to you, O Lord** Read by Gordy Sessions

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And 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!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. The Gospel of the Lord **All: Praise to you O Christ.**

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Pastor Mary Eide

GIVING

*THE APOSTLES' CREED (*professed together*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

**Or, He descended to the dead.*

NOTE: Giving to support God's ministry at Shepherd of the Hill can be mailed in (Mailing address: 207 University St., Elk Mound, WI 54739— OR - go to GIVE tab on our website (www.sothem.org) to make a one time or reoccurring donation.

* OFFERING PRAYERS Gracious God, **your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

* PRAYERS (*Merciful God. Receive our prayer.*)

* 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.**

* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

* 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

HOLY COMMUNION (*Ushers will begin in the back of the sanctuary, directing you to the front of the sanctuary. Children not receiving communion may be brought forward for a blessing. Please let the ushers know if you would like communion brought to you.*)

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

[Carefully light the candles you've received as we sing] **"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! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar; Heavenly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

[*Candles are extinguished.*] Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

* ANNOUNCEMENTS/BLESSING The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, ✝ through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

* #39 CLOSING HYMN *Joy to the World*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,**

**Let earth receive her king;
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,**

**and makes the nations prove
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

BELLS AND DISMISSAL Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Michelle Young

NEXT WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday: NO Sunday School
10:00 am - Lessons and Carols Worship
11:00 am - Fellowship
Monday 7:00 pm - AA meeting
Tuesday: 4-6 pm - Food Pantry
Wednesday NO Confirmation Class
Friday: NO Food Pantry
Saturday **Happy New Year**
Next Sunday: 8:45am - NO Sunday School
10:00 am - "*New Year. Same God.*" Sunday worship w/communion

INTENT FORMS for 2022 giving can still be dropped off at the church or mailed in throughout the rest of the year.

MARK JANUARY 30th on your calendars for our ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, which will be held in the sanctuary after a shortened service. More information to come

GRIEF SHARE Beginning January 11, 2022, we will be starting a thirteen-week grief support group meeting on Tuesdays of every week at 7:00 PM via ZOOM. This program consists of video seminars featuring leading grief recovery experts, group discussions about the weekly video content, and a personal workbook with study exercises that reinforce the weekly session topics.

Because this is by ZOOM, we are not limited by geographics of the attendees. If there is someone you know outside our community who you feel could benefit from this program, please encourage them to contact us. Call Denise at Trinity United Methodist Church Elk Mound at (715) 879-5596 to register and purchase your workbook for \$15.00. Workbooks are available at Trinity Elk Mound or Hudson UMC Hudson. Those outside the community will have to order their workbook from Grief Share but register first. We will furnish that information at the time of registration.

MANY THANKS to everyone who have supported the youth and adults attending the 2022 National Youth Gathering, by purchasing the Christmas Sleighs.

Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church 207 University Street, Elk Mound, WI 54739
Office Phone: 715-879-5115 Email: sothlc@sothem.org Website www.sothem.org
Find us on Facebook, too!
Pastor Mary Eide (H) 715-309-4065 meide@luthersem.edu Custodian, Terry Stamm 715-379-3728
Sunday School Coordinators: Chris Miller at chrisbenelli.miller@gmail.com or Jaime Folczyk mjfolczyk@yahoo.com
Financial Secretary: Barb Vadnais barbvadnais1@gmail.com

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