

# Christmas Eve

## 2020



*'Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes,  
he comes to judge the earth. (Psalm 96)*

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
170 Flinders Street, Adelaide

**HYMN: O come, all ye faithful**

- 1 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!***

- 2 God of God,  
Light of light,  
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;  
Very God  
Begotten, not created:**

***Refrain***

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:**

***Refrain***

*John Francis Wade  
Tr. Frederick Oakeley, (1852)  
Public Domain*

**OPENING RESPONSES**

Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy  
for all the people:

**To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the  
Messiah, the Lord.**

This will be a sign for you:

**You will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a  
manger.**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
**Amen.**

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**HYMN OF PRAISE: Hark! the herald angels sing**

**1 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 the angelic host proclaim:  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King.*

**2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail, the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel!**

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King.*

**3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail, the sun 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.*

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
Rev George Whitefield (1714-1770),  
Martin Madan (1726-1790) and others  
Public Domain*

**GREETING**

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

## **PRAYER**

O God, since you have made this most holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light: grant that as we have known on earth the mysteries of that Light, we may also come to the fullness of his joys in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 9: 2-7**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **HYMN: Once in royal David's city**

- 1** Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed;  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2** He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.
- 3.** And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above;  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He has gone.
- 4** Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see Him; but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high:  
Where like stars His children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

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**SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN: O thou holiest, O thou happiest**

- 1 O thou holiest, O thou happiest,  
Grace-bestowing Christmastide!  
Christ in a manger  
Saves from all danger:  
O rejoice, ye Christians far and wide!
- 2 O thou holiest, O thou happiest,  
Peace-proclaiming Christmastide!  
Christ's light is beaming,  
Mankind redeeming:  
O rejoice, ye Christians far and wide!
- 3 O thou holiest, O thou happiest,  
Life-imparting Christmastide!  
Angels from glory  
Chant the great story:  
O rejoice, ye Christians far and wide!

*O du frohliche, o du selige  
Johannes Daniel Falk (1768-1826)  
Tr. A.T. Hanser, 1917, alt.  
Public Domain*

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN: While shepherds watched their flocks by night**

- 1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.
- 2 'Fear not', said he, (for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind);  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.
- 3 'To you in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord  
And this shall be the sign:

- 4 'The heavenly babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands  
And in a manger laid.'
- 5 Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song:
- 6 'All glory be to God on high,  
And to the earth be peace;  
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease.'

*Nahum Tate (1652-1715)  
Public Domain*

## MESSAGE

### HYMN: Silent night

- 1 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.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glory streams from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing: Hallelujah!  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born.
- 3 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.

*Josef Mohr (1792-1848)  
Public Domain*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Lord, help us to take the angel's message to heart,  
And to realise that the birth of Jesus our Saviour is good news for us and  
for all people. Lead us to give glory to you by a life of joyful service to you  
and to other people.

**Amen.**

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## **PRAYERS**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

The Christ is born for us!

**God's Son is given for us!**

May joy and peace come to you as you celebrate the birth of Christ.

The blessing of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be and remain with you, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **HYMN: Joy to the World (Trad. Melody)**

- 1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her king;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing.**
- 2 Joy to the world! the saviour reigns:  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3 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.**
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love.**

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)  
Public Domain*

**Organ Postlude**

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*Thank you for joining us in worship tonight.*

***Christmas services should be booked at:  
<https://calendly.com/bethlehemadelaide>***

***Regular services on Sunday December 27 are at  
9am, 11am and 7pm***

*New Years Eve service  
7.00pm at St Stephens (Wakefield Street)*

*New Years Day service  
9.30am at Bethlehem*

***Have a Happy New Year***

***Have a blessed Christmas***