



O Little Town of Bethlehem

Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2023 5:00 pm

New Hope Lutheran Church
3125 5th Ave S. Great Falls, MT (406) 315-1203 www.newhopegf.org
Rev. Tammy Bull, Pastor

Our mission is to share our faith in Christ by serving all with respectful compassion.

GATHERING

Carols: Jennifer Smith, violin; Valerie Winfield, viola

arr. C. McMichael

Welcome

Prelude: *Duetto*

J. S. Bach

The grace and peace of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, be with you all.

And also with you.

Opening Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ELW #283

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. 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)
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God... in... the... highest: (refrain)
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be... glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: (refrain)

L: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that we here on earth 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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

L: Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Love Has Come

ELW #292

1. Love has come – a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.
2. Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.
3. Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

L: Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Go Tell It on the Mountain (refrain only)
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

ELW #290

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-7

L: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW #276

1. Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:8-14

Hymn: Angels from the Realms of Glory

ELW #275

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
REFRAIN: Come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ the new-born king.
2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. (refrain)
3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star. (refrain)
4. All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One. (refrain)

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:15-20

Hymn: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW #288

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ was born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
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 blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Children's Message

Christmas Meditation

Rev. Tammy Bull

Hymn: Holy Child within the Manger

WOW #638

1. Holy Child within the manger, long ago yet ever near;
Come as friend to ev'ry stranger, come as hope for ev'ry fear.
As you lived to heal the broken, greet the outcast, free the bound,
As you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.
2. Once again we tell the story – how your love for us was shown,
When the image of your glory wore an image like our own.
Come, enlighten with your wisdom, come and fill us with your grace.
May the fire of your compassion kindle ev'ry land and race.
3. Holy Child within the manger, lead us ever in your way,
So we see in ev'ry stranger how you come to us today.
In our lives and in our living give us strength to live as you,
That our hearts might be forgiving and our spirits strong and true.

Prayers of the People

(each petition ends: Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**)

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

The sign of Peace is not the same as saying "hello" to those sitting near us in worship. The Peace of Christ, rather, is a sign of the forgiveness and love that we receive in Holy Communion. Our hope is to share that with each other in this community.

MEAL

Offering: *In response to God's goodness, Christians return to God their time, ability, money, and their whole lives in service to God. All are invited to share in this act of thankfulness and worship.*

Offertory: *Wondrous Tidings*

Carl Simone

Offering Response: What Child Is This? (v. 3 only)

ELW #296

3. 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!

Offertory Prayer: **C: God with us, you came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right.....and join their unending hymn:

Angels We Have Heard on High (v. 1 only)

ELW #289

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo; Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo.

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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to the Table

All are welcome at Jesus' table. He gives of himself in the bread and wine, and invites us to receive it for the forgiveness of sin. Please form two lines in the aisle as you come forward. White grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available for those who desire them. If you need Communion brought to you, please tell an usher. Children and adults who would like a blessing instead of receiving Communion, please indicate this by crossing your hands over your heart.

P: Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let every heart receive your Savior!

Lamb of God

ELW p. 154

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW #279

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

L: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you, comfort you, and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

C: We give you thanks, O God, that on this day you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Lighting of the Candles *(as the lights are dimmed, you are welcome to use the candle app on your smart phone, or one of the battery-powered candles provided)*

Hymn: "Silent Night"

ELW # 281

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;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!"
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. 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

L: May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.
C: Amen.

L: May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength. **C: Amen.**

L: May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.
C: Amen.

L: The blessing of almighty God: the Father, the +Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **C: Amen.**

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, 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,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders, of his love.

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you! **C: Thanks be to God!**

Postlude: *Christmas Cheer*

Michael Shea

We are grateful for your presence with us this holy night!

We hope you'll join us again on Sunday, December 31st for worship at 10:00 am.

A special word of thanks to our worship team:

James Rickley, organ/keyboard; Jennifer Smith, violin; Valerie Winfield, viola;
Victoria Bull, cantor; Ron Coons, Allan & Jodie Tooley, Barbara Ovitt, Neil White,
Bruce Bull, Glen & Leanna Coulter.

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