

**NORTHDAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
TAMPA, FL
DECEMBER 24, 2019
6:30 P.M. CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

Northdale Lutheran Church and School

15709 MAPLEDALE BLVD

TAMPA, FL 33624

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“WE GROW IN GOD’S WORD SO THAT WE CAN GO WITH GOD’S WORD”

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Welcome to Northdale Lutheran! We are so glad you are joining us to proclaim what God has done and to sing his praises. Here the Lord also comes to us and strengthens us with his mighty Word. Take a moment to meet and greet those around you! Also:

- ❖ Restrooms are in the entrance and through the nursery hallway.
- ❖ Help us be more welcoming by signing the guest registers in each row.
- ❖ To help keep the sanctuary as a quiet place of worship and meditation and for your convenience, a Quiet Room is available for the whole service for young children in the back of the sanctuary. Please make use of this room if your child becomes loud in worship. ***Please do not leave children unattended in the Quiet Room. We ask that at least one adult be present while children are in this room.***
- ❖ Everything you need for worship will be printed in the worship folder.

WORSHIP THEME

Christmas is not about a sentimental, warm, and fuzzy kind of love—although these ways that we show love to each other, especially in families, are certainly important. But the heart of Christmas is about God’s redeeming love—God’s rescue plan for a humanity alienated from him despite all claims of reform, goodness, or morality. The life, death, and resurrection of his Son has solved the problem. By trusting what Jesus has done for us, heaven awaits us and we live life this side of heaven in loyal thanks for rescue.

CALL TO WORSHIP

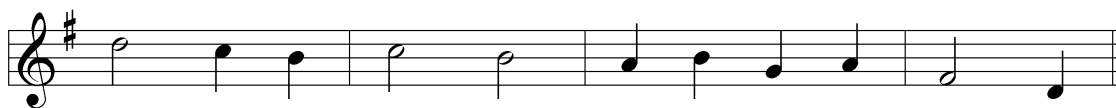
OPENING HYMN: CW #55, "OH, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,
2 God from true God, and Light from 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, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.
On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est.
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

Refrain



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

PLEASE STAND

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

DIALOGUE OF PRAISE

M: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

C: **O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the Heavens.**

M: Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to him who alone does great wonders, who by his understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made the great lights – the sun, to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night.

C: **Great is the Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.**

M: But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us, so that he will not hear. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but it is far away.

C: **For our offenses are many in his sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our sins.**

M: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

C: **From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

M: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

C: **Let the name of the Lord be praised forever and ever. Alleluia!**

M: O loving God, you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. May the words of Scripture we hear tonight remind us again that the old story is ever so new. May the carols we sing tonight reveal to us again the mystery of his birth. May the candles we see tonight symbolize for us your Son as the Light of the world. May all who have known that Light on earth come to the full measure of its joys in heaven.

C: **Help us, O Lord, in our worship this night. Amen.**

SONG OF RESPONSE

M: In the peace of God, let us sing praise to the Lord!

C: *Sing CW #63, "Angels We Have Heard on High"*



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



o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re -
strains pro - long? What the glad - some ti - dings
an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on bend - ed

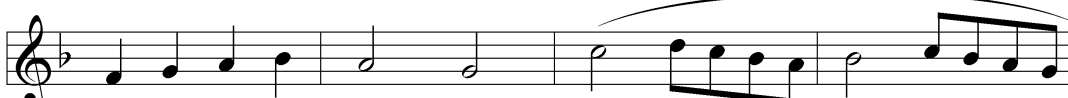


ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a



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



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen (spoken)

BE SEATED

THE WORD OF GOD



THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 9:2-7

Isaiah shares beautiful words of comfort for God's people. The darkness of sin will be scattered and the light of salvation will dawn. We celebrate tonight that God accomplished this in Jesus our Savior.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

³You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called

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



7Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.
 He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
 establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness
 from that time on and forever.
 The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.



HYMN: CW #50, "ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY"



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en
 3 But our eyes at last shall see him
 4 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble



Stood a low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a
 Who is God and Lord of all, And his
 Through his own re - deem - ing love, For that
 With the ox - en stand - ing by Shall we



moth - er laid her ba - by In a man - ger
 shel - ter was a sta - ble, And his cra - dle
 child, so dear and gen - tle, Is our Lord in
 see him, but in heav - en, Set at God's right



for his bed; Mar - y was that moth - er mild,
 was a stall; With the poor and mean and low - ly
 heav'n a - bove, And he leads his chil - dren on
 hand on high. Then like stars his chil - dren crowned,



Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 To the place where he is gone.
 All in white, his praise will sound.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-95, abr., alt.
 Tune: IRBY (87 87 77) Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-76.

THE SECOND LESSON: TITUS 2:11-14

In the Christ-child, God revealed his grace to all people and changed our eternal destiny.

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

HYMN: CWS #707, “PEACE CAME TO EARTH”



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night
2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,
4 How else could I have known you, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light And
The in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt The
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, In
How else could I have loved you, O my God! How



God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might— Who could but
wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but
bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain— Who could but
else could I em - brace you, O my God! Who could but



gasp: Im - man - u - el! Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
sigh: Im - man - u - el! Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
see: Im - man - u - el! Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
pray: Im - man - u - el! Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

The picturesque language of this Jaroslav Vajda hymn vividly illustrates the weighty significance of God becoming man in Christ.

PLEASE STAND

THE GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 2:1-20

The Savior has come and his light shines brightly in the darkness.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

BE SEATED

HYMN: CW #61, "HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -
 3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of



new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,
 last - ing Lord, Late in time be - hold him come,
 Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you
 Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
 Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 God-head see, Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
 glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus,
 Born to raise us from the earth, Born to

Refrain



born in Beth - le - hem!"
 our Im - man - u - el! Hark! The her - ald
 give us sec - ond birth.



an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

SERMON TEXT: JOHN 3:16-18

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

SERMON THEME:

God Loves You!



OFFERING

Please sign the Friendship Register in each of the rows and pass it to those sitting next to you.

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34) The members of Northdale Lutheran joyfully give our offerings to the LORD in response to His Word and in thanks for the many ways he has blessed us. We have joined together as a congregation to use these offerings to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world through the work of our Synod. Your gifts moved by the Holy Spirit out love for God and his blessings are welcome.

Online giving is now set up and available through our membership software entitled Breeze. You can give through Breeze two ways: 1) You can give by texting "Give" to (813) 652-0408. 2). You can go to <https://northdale.breezechms.com/give/online>. You can certainly ask if you have any questions.

PLEASE STAND

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

M: Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.

C: **On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.**

M: You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.

C: **Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.**

M: You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard tonight.

C: **May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.**

M: You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

C: **For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord.**

M: Hear us, O Lord, as we join to sing the prayer our Redeemer taught us to pray:



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Tune: Away in a Manger

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver your children most dear.**

**For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign.
And your is the power; all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**



BE SEATED

THE CANDLELIGHTING CEREMONY

(The minister will light his candle from the Christ candle. He will give light to the ushers, who in turn will give light to the first worshiper in each pew, who will then pass it on to the others. Please do not tip the lighted candle, but always hold it upright when giving light to another.)

(After all the candles have been lit, we join in the responsive reading.)

M: “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

C: **Jesus is the Light of the World. Whoever follows him will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.**

M: Jesus came into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in him will stay in darkness.

C: **The true light that gives light to every man has come into the world.**

M: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.(John 14:27)"

C: "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world! (John 16:33)"

HYMN: CW #60 "SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT!"



1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is
2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds
3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of



calm, all is bright, Round yon vir - gin
quake at the sight. Glo - ries stream from
God, love's pure light Ra - diant beams from



moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so
heav - en a - far; Heav'n - ly hosts sing,
thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re -



ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
Al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is
deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

PRAYER

M: When all was still and it was midnight, your eternal Word, O Lord, descended from the almighty throne to dwell among us. May we receive him in the peace of forgiven hearts and proclaim your gracious good will to all people on earth for you are the God with us, Emanuel, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

M: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen. (Spoken)**

(THE CANDLES MAY BE BLOWN OUT AS THE LIGHTS ARE TURNED ON FOR THE CLOSING HYMN.)



CLOSING HYMN, CW #62 "JOY TO THE WORLD"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And



earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry
 all their songs em - ploy, While fields and
 thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
 makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries



heart pre - pare him room And heav'n and
 floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the
 make his bless - ings flow Far as the
 of his right - eous - ness And won - ders



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



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

God's blessings as you leave his house of worship tonight, rejoicing in what a great and awesome Savior we have in Jesus Christ. May the peace which he alone can bring between God and man guard and keep you throughout this season and the whole year through. Christ is born! Merry Christmas!

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

For over two thousand years the Christian world has marked the passing of time from the year of Jesus birth. Recognizing his coming into the world as the central event in the story of humankind, Christians count the years before his birth as B.C. (Before Christ) and the years after his birth as A.D. (Anno Domini, the Year of our Lord.)

An event so important wasn't just celebrated for a day or two. Early Christians would celebrate Christmas for twelve days. (You are perhaps familiar with the song The Twelve Days of Christmas). Our celebration of Christ's birth will follow that ancient pattern. Here are other opportunities to worship in this Christmas season:

Wednesday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.—The Festival of the Nativity—In a celebratory service, we gather on Christmas day to celebrate Christ's birth with a service of lessons and carols.

Sunday, December 29 at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.—We gather to thank God for the year that has gone by and to ask for his blessings on the year before us. We give praise to God that in all things we know that he cares for us.

Please join us for any or all of these worship opportunities!



Called Staff

Pastor Charlie Vannieuwenhoven: 813-787-4854

Principal Dane Mattes: 920-588-7599

Aimee Hardman: 813-464-5113

Christopher Haring: 517-202-7283

Joanne Mattes: 920-588-7596

Bethany Schwartz: 920-222-9279

Amy Vannieuwenhoven: 813-787-5025

Serving Today

Music: Dane Mattes

Ushers: Dave and Barb Hartwig

Elder: David Mosakowski





WELS

Christ's Love, Our Calling.