



**NORTHDAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
TAMPA, FL  
DECEMBER 24, 2019**

# Northdale Lutheran Church and School

15709 MAPLEDALE BLVD

TAMPA, FL 33624

WWW.NORTHDALELUTHERAN.ORG

813-961-9195

*"WE GROW IN GOD'S WORD SO THAT WE CAN GO WITH GOD'S WORD"*

## CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S 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 have 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"

(THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO JOIN IN SINGING VERSES 1-3 WHILE THE CHILDREN PROCESS IN. THE NLS CHILDREN WILL SING VERSE 4 BY THEMSELVES.)



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.

Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711–86; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.  
Tune: ADESTE FIDELES (Irregular) John F. Wade, c. 1711–86, alt.

PLEASE STAND



## INVITATION TO WORSHIP

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

C: **Amen.**

M: Unto us the Christ is born:

C: **Oh, come, let us worship him.**

M: Let us worship with our children as they tell the story of his birth:

C: **O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise.**

M: Let us worship with the angels, and sing praise to the Lord who came to save us:

C: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.**

M: Let us worship with the shepherds and tell every person about the Child, our Savior.

C: **Christ the Lord, our Savior, everlasting God and Mary's Son, we praise you forever.**

M: "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

C: **And that is what we are!"**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: O gracious Holy Spirit, enrich us as we hear the story of our Savior's birth. Open our hearts to hear and believe the story we know so well. Move us to share the Good News of the Christmas story with all people everywhere. Hear our prayer, O Lord, for Jesus' sake, who humbled himself to become like us.

C: **Amen (spoken)**

BE SEATED



## READING AND PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup>Whoever 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. (John 3:16-18)

## HYMN: "OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN" (CW 35, vs. 1)



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten  
Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is  
Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the  
end - ing he, Of the things that are, that  
have been, And that fu - ture years shall  
see Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

## **PART 1: GOD’S LOVE FROM CREATION**

**Narration: Grace Mosakowski**

**Song: VPK: “*God is so Good*”**

**Narration: Aryssa Kingsborough**

**Recitation: VPK**

**Narration: Aryssa Kingsborough**

**Recitation: VPK**

**Narration: Aryssa Kingsborough**

**Recitation: K-2**

**Recitation: 3-4**

**Recitation: K-2**

**Narration: Antonio Goytia**

**Recitation: 3-4**

**Narration: Antonio Goytia**

**Recitation: 5-6**

**Pastor, Children and Congregation: “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”**

## HYMN: CWS #707, "PEACE CAME TO EARTH

THE NLS CHILDREN WILL SING VERSES 1-2. THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO JOIN IN VERSES 3-4.



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.*

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 © 1984 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Tune: PEACE CAME TO EARTH (10 10 10 88) Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952 © 2000 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP),  
a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## PART 2: GOD’S LOVE WHEN HUMANS SINNED

Narration: Najji Bhadja

Recitation: 7-8

Narration: Addyson Brinton

Narration: Graham Emerson

Narration: Jack Hill

Narration: Brianna Amezquita

Recitation: 7-8

Narration: Elise Schwartz

Recitation: 7-8

Narration: Grace Mosakowski

Narration: Micah Vannieuwenhoven

*Please Stand*

Congregation: “Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’ So the LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.’” (Genesis 3:13)

Congregation and Children: “‘And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.’” (Genesis 3:15)

Pastor, Children, and Congregation: “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

*Be Seated*



## PART 3: GOD’S LOVE IN HIS FAITHFULNESS

CHILDREN’S SONG (K-8): “HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING” (VS. 2-3)

Narration: Carolyn Mattes





**Recitation: K-2**

**Narration: Hannah Zabel**

**Pastor, Children, and Congregation: “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”**

## **PART 4: GOD’S LOVE IN BETHELEHEM**

**HYMN: “OF THE FATHER’S LOVE BEGOTTEN” (CW 35, vs. 2)**

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten  
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed

Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is  
When the vir - gin, full of grace, By the

Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the  
Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior

end - ing he, Of the things that are, that  
of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -

have deem - been, And that fu - ture years shall  
er, First re - vealed his sa - cred

see Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
face Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

**Narration: Vincent DeCicco**

**Recitation: 3-4**



**CHILDREN'S SONG** *"ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY"*

**Narration: Micah Vannieuwenhoven**

**Recitation: 5-6**

**Pastor, Children, and Congregation:** "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

**CHILDREN'S SONG** *"ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"*

## **PART 5: GOD'S LOVE TO ALL**

**Narration: Aryssa Kingsborough and Carolyn Mattes**

**Recitation: 3-4**

**Congregation:** "It is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring." (Romans 9:8)

**Narration: Kaylee Japak**

**Recitation: 5-6**

**Narration: Kaylee Japak**

**Recitation: 7-8**

**Pastor, Children, and Congregation:** "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

# CONGREGATIONAL HYMN "OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN" (vs. 4-5)

4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him,  
5 Christ, to you, with God the Fa - ther,

An - gel hosts his prais - es sing, Pow'rs, do -  
And the Spir - it cease - less - ly Hymn and

min - ions bow be - fore him And ex - tol our  
chant and high thanks - giv - ing And un - end - ing

God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert  
min - ion And e - ter - nal vic - to -

ring Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ry Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, st. 1-4, alt.; Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, st. 5, alt.

Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM (87 87 877) Plainsong melody, 13th century.



## OFFERING:

*Please sign the Friendship Register in each of the pews 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: O 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 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 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 this 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. Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Sung to the 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.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848, abr.; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85.  
 Tune: STILLE NACHT (Irregular) Franz X. Gruber, 1787–1863, alt.

## 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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: ANTIOCH (CM with Repeat) George F. Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.



*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.



*Copies of today's sermon and last week's sermon can be found on the table in the narthex on the way out of church. You can also find them on our website at **[www.northdalelutheran.org](http://www.northdalelutheran.org)**. In addition, all of our services are live streamed & can be viewed through the live streaming link located on our church website. We also e-mail out daily devotions. If you would like to receive these daily devotions, please e-mail Pastor Vann at **[pastor@northdalelutheran.org](mailto:pastor@northdalelutheran.org)** and let him know. You can also become a friend on Facebook.*

## **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: Mike Laurin and Brian Busch

Acolyte: Micah Vannieuwenhoven

Elder: David Mosakowski

