



NORTHDALE LUTHERAN CHURCH TAMPA, FL DECEMBER 24, 2019

## **Northdale Lutheran Church and School**

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"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.

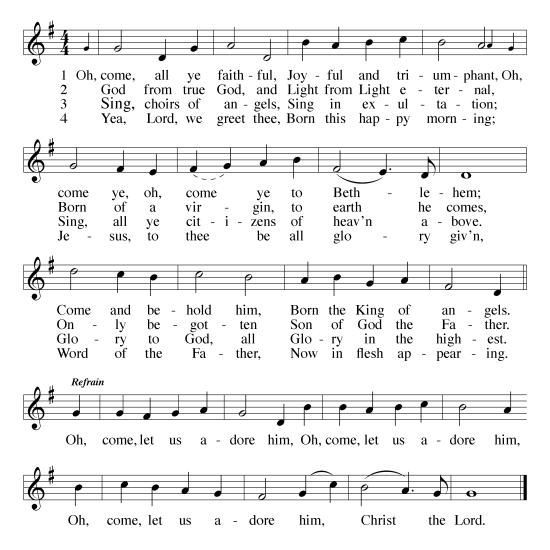
#### **WORSHIP THEME**

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.)



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



#### 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)

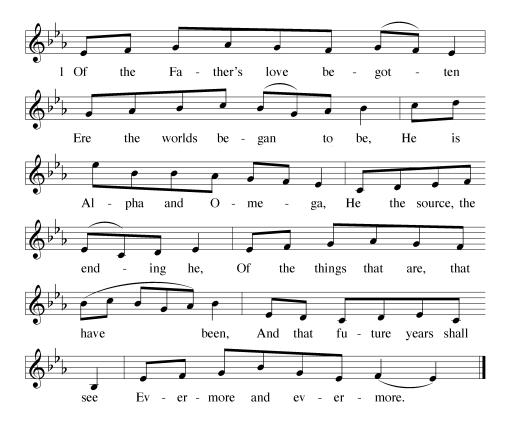
BE SEATED



#### 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)



## 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

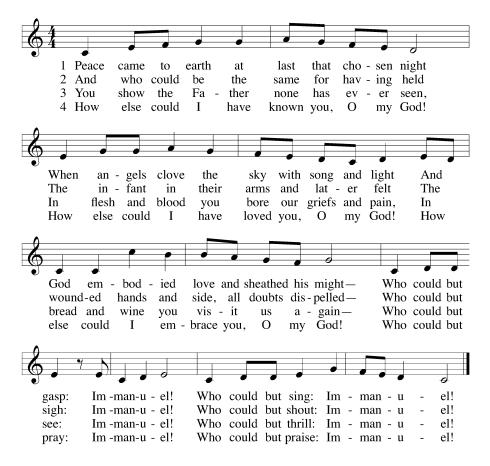
**Narration: Antonio Goytia** 

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.



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)



**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)



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

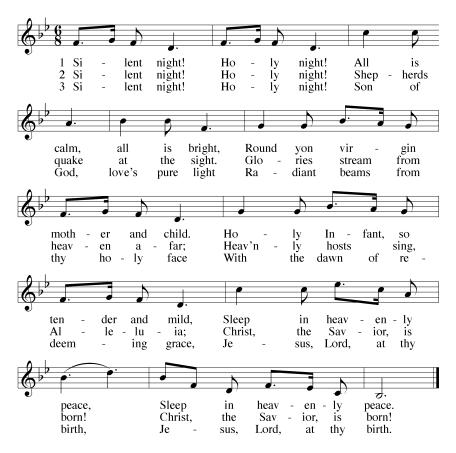
(The minister will light his candle from the Christ candle. He will give light to the ushers, who in turn will give light to the first worshiper in each pew, who will then pass it on to the others. Please do not tip the lighted candle, but always hold it upright when giving light to another.)

(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!"



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"**



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. 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 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

