



And the WORD

became flesh

and lived among us.

John 1:14

**Christmas Eve
5:00 p.m.
December 24, 2020**

**Memorial Lutheran Church
Nevada, Iowa**

Prelude: “Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head” arr. Cathy Moglebust
Handbell Solo: Jeanie Ferneau

Christmas Proclamation

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth
and then formed man and woman in his own image;
long after the great flood,
when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;
twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt
and Miriam danced in freedom;
eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king,
in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,
being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth
in the womb of his mother—
now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

Entrance Hymn “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

***Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him Born the king of angels:***

Refrain

***Oh, come let us adore him, Oh, come let us adore him.
Oh, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***

***Sing, choirs of angels, sing with exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, in the highest:***

Refrain

***Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:***

Refrain

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise: “Angels We Have Heard on High“

Verses by choir; Refrain by all.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; 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**

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "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 Savior, 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." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Blessing of the Crèche

A Let us pray.

O Lord our God,
with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds,
and the animals in the stable,
we gather around your Son, born for us.

Bless us with your holy presence
and inspire us to help those
who have no place to dwell.

Be with us that we may share Christ's love
with all the world,
for he is our light and salvation.

Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever.

C Amen

Sermon Pastor Duane Miller

Hymn "O Holy Night"

Solo: Audra Poterucha

Prayers

P Glory to God in the highest,

C and peace to God's people on earth.

P Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

P Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor.

You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

**C Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings
of great joy to all people.**

P Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us
even to the end of the age.

**C Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry,
lonely, or homeless.**

P Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

P Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us
as the Word made flesh.

**C Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament
that we may bear your light to all the world.**

Lord's Prayer

**C 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.

The Gospel of the Incarnation:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night!"

***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.***

***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!***

***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.***

Blessing

P May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Postlude "In Dulci Jubilo" – arr. Crisafulli

Flute: Christine Heintz