

NEW DORP MORAVIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Live-Streamed 4PM

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Welcome to this Christmas Eve Service. It is, however, not as we expected it to be, or what we would like it to be, but it is what it is. We would like to be at the Church, sitting in our traditional places, singing the traditional songs, seeing the traditional star and holding a traditional candle. But, tonight we celebrate a tradition in a non-traditional way. But when you think about it, that first Christmas was anything but “traditional.” Between the census, the no vacancy at the inn, giving birth in a stable, nothing happened the way it was supposed to happen – or at least as Mary and Joseph were concerned.

On this special night, this Holy Night, for a moment try to put your expectations aside. Don’t worry about what is not going to happen and remember what has already happened – a Child was born unto us, and isn’t that what is most important tonight? Welcome. Peace be with you.

Rev. Duane E. Ullrich

Mr. Dylan Sauerwald

Mr. Andrew Kay

Mr. Jeremi Amagsila

Mrs. Theresa DeWidar

Pastor

Music Director

Youth Music Coordinator & Tech Advisor

Lector

Soloist

WATCHWORD: *“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.”*

John 1:14

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come together this night to celebrate our Savior’s birth.

O come, all ye faithful!

We come together to remember the holy family’s arrival in Bethlehem.

O come, all ye faithful!

We come together to remember the shepherds who came in from the field,

O come, all ye faithful!

We come together to celebrate as faithful Christians have done for centuries.

O come, all ye faithful!

We come together, some in churches, some in homes, some in person, some online, knowing that people around the world are also celebrating the arrival of the newborn King.

O come, all ye faithful! Come and worship!

Worship Christ, the newborn King!

HYMN

MBW #283

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;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

O sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
Glory to God, glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

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!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.

**Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.**

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through our darkness.

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.**

For all who have watched and waited for this night; and for all
who are willing to receive the gift of the Savior born in Bethlehem:

**Grant that we might receive the peace of Christ we have
waited for, and the hope which His arrival brings.**

Tonight we light all the candles on our Advent Wreath. The first candle is the light of hope. The second candle is the light of peace. The third candle is the light of joy. The fourth candle is the light of love. And the final candle, is called the Christ candle. This candle represents the fulfillment of God's promise of a Savior, Who is the Light of the World.

Let us pray:

Thank you God for coming to be with us in the form of Jesus. We rejoice that He lived as one of us, knew our joys and sorrows, our pains and hopes and dreams. As He came to show Your love to us, help us to show Your love to others all the year through. Amen

MBW #299 vss 1,3

**The Word of God a promise told:
A King shall come, let all behold.
The world awaits His presence new,
A Child, a Son, a Savior true.**

**We sing to you, O Child Divine;
we life our songs, our candles shine.
Now be Your Light in us more clear,
Reflecting love both far and near.**

A CHRISTMAS LITANY

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

For He has looked favorably upon His people and redeemed them.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high has broken upon us to give light to those who sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death,

To guide our feet into the way of peace.

For unto us a Child is born,

Unto us a Son is given.

Come, good friends, it is time to celebrate!

It's time to celebrate this newborn Child.

Jesus is born to change our darkness to light;

The light from the stable has become the Light of the World.

The joy of the shepherds still echoes down the years.

Jesus is born to give hope to the lost and the oppressed;

Jesus is born to change our sadness to joy;

**Great God, we behold the gift of the Christ Child once again,
yet we are also mindful of how we have failed to comprehend
the fullness of that gift. The story of this day points us to Your
glory, yet we struggle daily to join in the angel's song.**

**We are distracted and confused, so focused on things that
matter little, that we have overlooked the Good News of great
joy. Yet that joy cannot deny that He was born for a purpose.**

**So, tell us again that a Savior is born. Tell us again that because
of Him, we are forgiven. Tell us again that life can be abundant**

in faith and hope and love, not because of who we are, or what we've done, but because of what You have given to us in Christ Jesus. Amen.

ANTHEM "O Holy Night"

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 9:2b, 6-7 Page 706

HYMN MBW #286

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth. Good will to all,
from heav'n's all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Titus 2:11-14 Page 232

HYMN MBW #301

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus! I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

A CHRISTMAS STORY –

ANTHEM "Christmas Is Love"

OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

THE GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:1-14 Page 59

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE –

ANTHEM Choir Anthem

THE MESSAGE OF THE LIGHTED CANDLE

The Candlelight Service

**Please wait to dim your room lights and light your
candles until after singing, “O Little Town of Bethlehem.”**

MBW #295

Hark! The herald angels sing: “Glory to the newborn King!”
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all you nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th’ angelic host proclaim: “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing: “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heav’n born Prince of Peace, Hail the Son of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing: “Glory to the newborn King!”

Go, Tell It On the Mountain, over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.
Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born,
And brought us God’s salvation, that blessed Christmas morn!
Go, Tell It On the Mountain, over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

MBW #282

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.

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;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Immanuel,

(dim lights and light your candle(s))

MBW #295

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, 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.

HYMN: "Morning Star" MBW #281
(*Note: Soloists are the in italic print/ Congregation is in bold print.*)

Morning Star, O cheering sight!

Ere thou cam'st, how dark earth's night!

Morning Star, O cheering sight!

Ere thou cam'st, how dark earth's night!

Jesus mine, In me shine.

In me shine, Jesus mine.

Fill my heart with light divine.

Morning Star, thy glory bright

far excels the sun's clear light.

Morning Star, thy glory bright

far excels the sun's clear light.

Jesus be, Constantly

Constantly, Jesus be

more than thousand suns to me.

Thy glad beams, thou Morning Star,

cheer the nations near and far.

Thy glad beams, thou Morning Star,

cheer the nations near and far.

Thee we own, Lord alone.

Lord alone, Thee we own,

our dear Savior, God's dear Son

*Morning Star, my soul's true light,
tarry not, dispel my night.*

**Morning Star, my soul's true light,
tarry not, dispel my night.**

Jesus mine, In me shine.

In me shine, Jesus mine;

fill my heart with light divine.

(We will lift our candles for the last stanza of this hymn, carefully lift your candle to show your desire to receive and share the light of Christ.)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

MBW #294

Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDECTION

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

For He has looked favorably upon His people and redeemed them.
The dayspring from on High has visited us, to give light to those who
sit in darkness,

And to guide our feet into the way of peace!

Rejoice in God our Savior, for the Mighty One has done great things for us! And holy is God's
name! In him was life, the life was the light of humanity. The light shines in the darkness,

And the darkness has not overcome it.

Children of the Light, long after these candles have been extinguished,
the Light of Christ will be with you. And as you go from this place:

May the Light of Christ shine before you to guide you,
may it shine around you to protect you,
may it shine within you to inspire you,
and may it shine above you to bless you,
granting you Christ's Hope, Peace, Joy and Love,
In the Name of Jesus, the Newborn King.

Amen.

THE CANDLES ARE EXTINGUISHED

POSTLUDE



Merry Christmas!

Participants in this service:

Adult Choir:

Carol Heins	Cara Kay
Libby Neri	Ellie Wan
Heather Gaw	Marla DiForte
Frank Taverna	Andrew Kay
Duane Ullrich	

Youth Choir & Morning Star singers:

Tech Crew

Andrew Kay

