

**Saturday December 24, 2022**

**Christmas Eve**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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**Pastor James Muske**

**320-583-5796**

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-279-0097

Kathy Berland RN ANP 218-838-6181

Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or

Darlene Christensen 320-279-0097

Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

***MISSION STATEMENT***

*We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH*

*we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS*

*we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.*

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**

**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

# CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Saturday, December 24, 2022

3:30pm & 5:00pm

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYER & CARE LIST:

**CHRISTMAS DAY** worship in person or live stream on YouTube at 9:00am.  
Potluck dinner to follow.

**DIGITAL SIGN APPRECIATION PLAQUE** is displayed in the Fellowship Hall for the winter.

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## HYMN: #257 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (Vs. 1, 5, 6, 7)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.  
**We long for a light to guide us.**

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy.  
**We long for God's joy in our lives.**

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
**We long to be relieved of all that we carry.**

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; he is named Wonderful  
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
**He is named Emmanuel: God with us.**  
**In this tiny baby, this vulnerable child,**  
**we find our light, our joy, our comfort.**  
**Joy to the World! The Lord is come!**

~ written by Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor at First Church Congregational in Rochester, NH.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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 Son, Jesus Christ our**

**Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

**HYMN: #279            “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

**FIRST READING: Titus 2:11-14**

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is

who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God. Word of Life  
**Thanks be to God**

## **PSALM Psalm 96**

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

<sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

(Please stand for the Gospel)

**Gospel: Luke 2:1-20**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. <sup>2</sup> This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. <sup>3</sup> Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. <sup>4</sup> Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. <sup>5</sup> He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom. <sup>8</sup> Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. <sup>9</sup> The Lord's angel stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were absolutely terrified. <sup>10</sup> The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. <sup>11</sup> Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." <sup>15</sup> When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." <sup>16</sup> They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. <sup>18</sup> Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these words, pondering in her heart what they might mean. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

Word of God. Word of Life  
**Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL RESPONSE:**      **"Joy to the World" (vs. 1)**

**#267 ELW**

1      Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
        Let earth receive her king;  
        let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
        and heav'n and nature sing,  
        and heav'n and nature sing,  
        and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

## SERMON

**HYMN Of The DAY:       “Joy to the World” (vs. 2-4)**

**#267 ELW**

- 2     Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
      Let all their songs employ,  
      while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
      repeat the sounding joy,  
      repeat the sounding joy,  
      repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3     No more let sin and sorrow grow  
      nor thorns infest the ground;  
      he comes to make his blessings flow  
      far as the curse is found,  
      far as the curse is found,  
      far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4     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.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ’s coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

*A brief silence.*

Your infinite love is born to us this night. With choirs of angels the church proclaims the good news. Send us out as messengers of the hope that has come to all people. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You are pleased to dwell with your creatures and the whole earth sings for joy. Renew the splendor of creation from the smallest cell to the widest galaxies.

Guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your authority is over the nations. Break the rod of oppression in every land and free all people from fear. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where there is suffering, and healing where there is disease (*regions in crisis may be named*).

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Protect infants and children, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain (*especially*). Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your lovingkindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those among us, or known to us, who are experiencing distress of body or mind, missing loved ones, or grieving (*especially*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You welcome those who have died into the joyous light of glory. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place who have praised you with lives of faith and humility. Inspire us by their example to love you by serving others. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate*

**OFFERING MUSIC:**

***“O Holy Night”***

***Sherry Whipple***

**OFFERING** - *Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray.







“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all - gra - cious king.”  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - ’ring wing,  
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o’er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Pastor: “Arise, shine; for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you...and nations shall come to your Light. Jesus said, ‘I am the Light of the World; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life.’ “You are the light of the world...let your Light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

(Pastor then gives light to the ushers; they in turn give light to the first worshipper in each pew, who passes it on. The lighted candle is never tilted but is always held upright when giving light to another. Please extinguish your candle when you see the Pastor extinguish his.)

## HYMN #281

### "*Silent Night*"



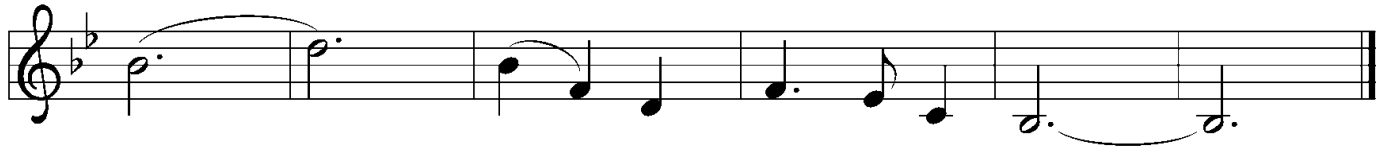
	<i>Stil - le</i>	<i>Nacht,</i>	<i>hei - li - ge</i>	<i>Nacht!</i>	<i>Al - les</i>	<i>schläft,</i>
1	Si - lent	night,	ho - ly	night!	All	is calm,
2	Si - lent	night,	ho - ly	night!	Shep - herds	quake
3	Si - lent	night,	ho - ly	night!	Son	of God,



	<i>ein - sam</i>	<i>wacht</i>	<i>nur</i>	<i>das</i>	<i>trau - te,</i>	<i>hoch - hei - li - ge</i>	<i>Paar.</i>
	all	is	round	yon	vir - gin	moth - er	and child.
	at	the	glo - ries	stream	from	heav - en	a - far,
	love’s	pure	light	ra - dient	beams	from	your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n-ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

## BLESSING

The Word has become flesh and dwelt among us. Let Christ's light shine in the darkest corner of your life. Let Christ's love shine in the darkest corners of our world. God is with us. Alleluia.

**Amen.**

## HYMN #290 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

## **DISMISSAL**

Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*It has been great having you join us for worship!  
Please come again.*

## **SERVING THIS NIGHT**

Greeters: 3:30pm – Gary & Brenda Sjerven  
5:00pm – Chuck & Elsa Carlson  
Ushers: 3:30pm – Barry & Donna Ansell  
5:00pm – Lee & Barb Forrester

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 am 64

Online: 18



## POINSETTIA Donations



<u>Name</u>	<u>In Memory/Honor of</u>
Carol Bakken	Loved Ones
Char & Roy Berg	Family
Judie Birk	Family
Chuck & Elsa Carlson	Family
Teri Carlson	Les Tillman
Lee & Barb Forrester	Family
Skip Hansen	Lynn
Dennis Hennessy & Julie Swaggert	Family
Del & Dianne Jones	Jack Spetz
Darrell Kelly	Mom, Dad, Uncle, Brother
Wayne & Janice Olson	Family
Sam & Sue Samuelson	Family
Jenny Schuett	Family
Gary & Brenda Sjerven	Families
Patti Smith	George Smith
Paula Spetz	Jack & Jennifer
Dick & Sue Stebbins	Loved Ones
Dave & Joanne Stueven	Family
Sylvia Tapelt	Family
Bev Wedig	Al, Jen & Travis
Winnie Zahradka	Randy

*Thank you to those who have made donations for the beautiful flowers to decorate our sanctuary!*