



*You are welcome here!*  
**We are disciples of Jesus, growing  
in Faith, Hope, and Love**

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Worship Times  
Sunday 10:15 am  
Wednesday 7:00 pm

✦

Pastor  
Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal



*December 24, 2022*  
*The Nativity of Our  
Lord*

# Gathering

## ✘ INTRODUCTION

*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

## ✘ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH and CHRISTMAS CANDLE

P Tonight we light all of the Advent candles along with the Christmas candle.

We wait no more; Christ has come. Arise, shine, for your light has come.

**C Oh, come let us adore him!**

P Unto us a Child is born!

**C Oh, come let us adore him!**

P And the authority shall be upon his shoulders.

**C Oh, come let us adore him!**

P And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Almighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**C Oh, come let us adore him!**

P The light of Christ shines in the darkness.

**C And the darkness did not overcome it.**

## ✘ GATHERING HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW#283) vs. 1-3

**1** 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:

**Refrain:** O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

**2** The highest, most holy,  
light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father  
now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

**3** Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest: **Refrain**

## ✘ GREETING and OPENING PRAYER

A The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

A May the light of peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Word

### ✘ FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

✘ **SERVICE CAROL** (*you may remain seated*)—

**It Came upon the Midnight Clear (ELW#282) verse 1 and verse 4.**

1. 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 heaven’s all gracious king.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

4. For lo! The days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Shall come the time foretold,  
When piece shall over all the earth  
It's ancient splendors fling,  
And all the earth give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

✘ **RESPONSIVE READING – Luke 1:46b-55**

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

✘ **SERVICE CAROL** (*you may remain seated*) -

**Sung to the melody of “Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella”**

Blessed is Mary the mother of Jesus,  
Blessed is Mary the servant of God.  
See her cradle her child in the manger,  
Knowing that she by God was chosen.  
Peace - hope - faith and good will forever!  
Joy - love - brought by our newborn king.

## ✠ **SECOND LESSON – 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.

L The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able, for the reading of the Gospel.*

## ✠ **GOSPEL – Luke 2:1-14**

A The Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the second chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

*(Please remain standing as you are able for the Gospel Acclamation Hymn)*

## ✘ ACCLAMATION HYMN

### Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW#289) verses 1 and 3

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

GLO-----RI-A, in excelsis Deo.

GLO-----RI-A, in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

GLO-----RI-A, in excelsis Deo.

GLO-----RI-A, in excelsis Deo.

## ✘ GOSPEL – Luke 2:15-20

P <sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(The congregation may all be seated)*

## ✘ SERMON

### ✘ HYMN OF THE DAY – Go Tell It on the Mountain (ELW#290)

*(please stand as you are able)*

**Refrain:** Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. **Refrain**

2. The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

## ✠ APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 105)

P With the whole Church, let us confess our faith:

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## ✠ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A 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.*

A 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.**

A 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,  
**C hear our prayer.**

A 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. God of grace,  
**C hear our prayer.**

A 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. Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace,  
**C hear our prayer.**

A 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. God of grace,  
**C hear our prayer.**

A 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,

**C hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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

**C Amen.**

## ✘ **PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

## ✘ **OFFERING**

*You may be seated during the offering.*

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, here and around the world.*

*After the offering is gathered, the gifts are brought forward.*

*At that time, please stand as you are able.*

## ✘ **OFFERING PRAYER**

A God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

**C Amen.**

# Meal

## ✘ **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

✘ **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (ELW#270) vs. 1**

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 angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

✘ **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...  
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P With this bread and cup...  
We look with hope for his coming.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit...  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P All praise and glory are yours...  
one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

✘ **LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

✘ **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

## ✠ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

### ✠ COMMUNION HYMN – Of the Father’s Love Begotten (ELW#295)

1. Of the Father’s love begotten ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore.

2. Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world’s redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,  
Evermore and evermore.

3. This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;  
Now he shines, the long expected; let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.

4. Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;  
Powers, dominions bow before him and extol our God and King;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

## ✠ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life.  
As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace.  
Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

## ✠ BLESSING

P God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send  
peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

C Amen.

## ✘ LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### Silent Night (ELW #281)

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing allelujah!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. 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.

## ✘ ANNOUNCEMENTS *(please be seated)*

### ✘SENDING HYMN – Joy to the World! (ELW#267)

*(please stand as you are able)*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!<br/>Let earth receive her king;<br/>let ev'ry heart prepare him room<br/>and heav'n and nature sing,<br/>and heav'n and nature sing,<br/>and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.</p> <p>2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!<br/>Let all their songs employ,<br/>while fields and floods,<br/>rocks, hills, and plains<br/>repeat the sounding joy,<br/>repeat the sounding joy,<br/>repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> | <p>3 No more let sin and sorrow grow<br/>nor thorns infest the ground;<br/>he comes to make his blessings flow<br/>far as the curse is found,<br/>far as the curse is found,<br/>far as, far as the curse is found.</p> <p>4 He rules the world with truth and grace<br/>and makes the nations prove<br/>the glories of his righteousness<br/>and wonders of his love,<br/>and wonders of his love,<br/>and wonders, wonders of his love.</p> |
|--|---|

## ✘ DISMISSAL

P Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## ✠ **SERVING TODAY**

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal
Music Director:	John Zacharias
Assisting Minister:	Mel Hammer
Lay Readers:	Jeff Adix, Hattie Hammer, Jerry Kersten
Communion Cup Holder:	Maleah Zapata
Usher:	Adix Family
Videographer:	Steve Curry
Altar Care:	Cindy Dolezal

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