

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

80 Third Street
Albion, PA 16401



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Michael S. Taylor

Pianist: Mrs. Susan Taylor

Candlelight Carol Service

Meditations on the Promise of the Messiah



Welcome to our Guests and Visitors!
The congregation of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is pleased and honored to have you worship with us tonight. If you do not have a regular place of worship—**Welcome Home!** We would love to have you join our fellowship! Please introduce yourself to Pastor Taylor and sign our guest book before you go. Thank you for coming!

Tonight is Christmas Eve... the “Christ Candle” is lit, the white candle in the center of our Advent wreath, symbolizing the coming of the Christ Child and His purity as the spotless Lamb of God. The birth of Christ fulfills prophecies regarding the Messiah, reminding us to anticipate and long for Christ’s return by being lights in the darkness, proclaiming Christ is Lord! Christ has come! And Christ will come again!

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



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 men,
From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds, The blessed angels sing.

3 For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Pastor: In The Name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

Pastor: Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!

People: Sing to the Lord all the earth.

Pastor: Sing to the Lord! Bless His Name;

People: Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.

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

People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Pastor: For a child has been born to us,
A son is given to us.

**ALL: Today Christ is born;
today salvation has appeared.**

Isaiah 7

Again YAHWEH spoke to Ahaz: “Ask a sign of YAHWEH your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put YAHWEH to the test.” And He said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

CALL HIS NAME

Immanuel

Luke 1

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.



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:

Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!



Matthew 1

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

Titus 3

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful (Cont.)

Highest, most holy,
Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!
 Oh, come, let us adore Him,
 Oh, come, let us adore Him,
 Oh, come, let us adore Him,
 Christ the Lord!

Luke 2

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful (Cont.)

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God...In the highest:

Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!



Sermon Hymn: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1 Infant holy, infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
Noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you;
Christ the babe was born for you.

The Sermon

The Hymn of Response: Away In A Manger

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 on the hay.

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

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.

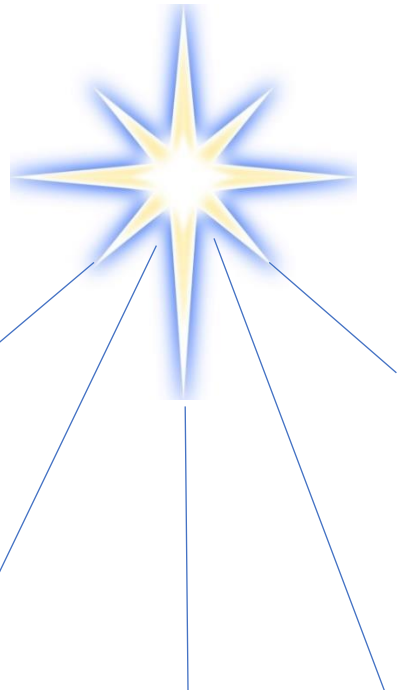
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And take us to heaven, to live with thee there.

The Offering

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye 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!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.



Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun 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 each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

The Candle Lighting (Remember: a lit candle is never tipped!)

Luke 2

And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

John 1

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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.



Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful (Cont.)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning.
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!

Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

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
Heavenly 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 Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy Birth.

Silent night, holy night
Wondrous star, lend thy light
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our king:
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is Born!

Christ
THE SAVIOR
is born

The Lord's

Prayer

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 Closing Prayer

The Blessing
Pastor:

*May the Lord bless you
and keep you
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you
The Lord turn His face towards you
and give you peace*

NUMBERS 6:24-26

People: Amen, Amen, Amen.

The Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 street shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years, are met in Thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God our King,
And peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts,
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel

O Little Town of Bethlehem



We welcome you in the Name of our newborn Savior and King, Jesus Christ. If you have no church home, you are always welcome to worship with us. We cordially invite you to Sunday services at 10:00 a.m.; Wednesday services at 7:00 p.m.

You may call the church office: 814-756-3426

You may email us @ htlcalbn@gmail.com

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Christmas
EVE