**St. Mark’s Worship Sunday December 24, 2020**

**Welcome to Christmas Eve at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church!**

**We invite you to have a candle ready for the final blessing and singing of Silent Night.**

**Prelude –** Ode to Joy - Margaret Gaillard, organist

**Welcome and Call to Worship**

**Liturgy of Light**

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given!

**God has brought light into every darkness.**

The promises of God are fulfilled! Wonderful Counselor! Mighty God! Everlasting Father!Prince of Peace!

**We hear, even today, a chorus of angels bringing good news of great joy to all the people.**

We light the Candle of Christ -- witness to the Savior who is Christ the Lord.

**Glory to God in the highest Heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.**

**Advent Candle Song**

Light the Christmas candle, now:

Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow;

Birthday candles for the king,

Let the Alleluias ring!

Candle, Candle, burning bright ,

Shining in the cold winter night;

Candle, Candle, burning bright,

Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

**Sharing of the Peace**

Please share the peace of Christ with anyone in your home, or send a text of peace to someone, or take a moment and pray God’s peace for someone in your life.

**Prayer**

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.**

**Reading:** Isaiah 9:2-7

2The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. 3You 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. 4For 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. 5For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 6For 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. 7His 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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

***O Little Town of Bethlehem Verse 1-4 ELW 279***

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.

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 the 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 out 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!

**Reading:**  Titus 2:11-14

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

***Joy to the World Verse 1-4 ELW 267***

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.

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.

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.

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.

### Gospel: Luke 2:1-7

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

***Away in a Manger Verse 1-3 ELW 283***

Away in a manger, no crib for his 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 you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky

And stay by my cradle till 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.

 **Luke 2:8-14**

8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
14“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

***O, Come All Ye Faithful Verse 1-4 ELW 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:

*Refrain*

Venite adoremus,

Venite adoremus,

Venite adoremus Dominum.

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord!

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*

Sing, choirs of angels,

Sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God

In the highest: *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,

Born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!

Word of the Father,

Now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

### Luke 2: 15-20

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

***Sermon*** *Pastor Karla Halvorson*

***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice Verse 1-3 ELW 288***

Good Christian friends, rejoice

With heart and soul and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say:

Jesus Christ is born today;

Ox and ass before him bow,

And he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today!

Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice

With heart and soul and voice;

Now ye hear of endless bliss:

Jesus Christ was born for this!

He has opened heaven's door,

And we are blest forevermore.

Christ was born for this!

Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice

With heart and soul and voice;

Now ye need not fear the grave;

Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all

To gain the everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save!

Christ was born to save!

**Prayers of Intercession**

Let us Pray:

Lord Jesus Christ you are the light of the world. That light which the darkness can never overcome. You came into our world as a tiny helpless baby. You came to share in your children’s joys and sorrows. You came to break the chains of evil and the power of death. You came to open for us the gates of heaven. Let us behold your light in the faces of all your children. Strengthen our faith so that your light may burn brightly in us every day. Be with those who suffer the darkness of oppression, violence and war. Especially we remember those who are caught up in conflict around the world. Grant us peace, for alone you are the prince of peace. Bless those who are ill and be with our loved ones who are absent from us tonight. Fill every home with your light and every heart with your peace. **Amen.**

**Offering and Response**

St. Mark’s Church, 580 Hilltop Dr. Chula Vista CA 91910

Venmo: @stmarks-churchchulavista

**Offering Song - *Angels We Have Heard on High Verse 1-3 ELW 289***

*A*ngels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,

and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire your heav’nly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria, 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

Gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

**Offering Prayer**

God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Receive our offerings, and nourish us at your table, that your Word may take flesh in our lives; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be**

**done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as**

**we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us**

**from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**(If you have a candle, you may light it now)**

**Blessing**

Deep peace of the manger Messiah to you.

Deep peace of the joyful angels to you.

Deep peace of the watching shepherds to you.

Deep peace of Christ the Light of the World to you.

And the blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Sending Song – Silent Night Verse 1-3 ELW 281***

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.

*(Service concludes in silence)*

**Merry Christmas! Please share your Christmas greetings in the comments below.**