



SILENT  
NIGHT

HOLY  
NIGHT

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## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastors	Kristen Capel, Steven Delzer
Organist	Julie Urban
Instrumentalists	Kim Bretheim, cello; Carl Christopherson, French horn; Laurie Stegner, violin
Vocalists	Kim Bretheim, Sue Danielson Bretheim, Izzy Burmaster, Johan Christopherson, Amelia Coyle, Carolyn Deters, Linnea Eckman, Lisa Hannon, Lee Mosher, Cindy Nelson, Jim Nelson, Tim Wicker, Greg Winter, Kristin Denison Young
Child/Youth Readers	Blake B., Isaac E., Linnea E., Lucas E., Cecelia K., Iris K., Kennedy K., Mackinley K., Presley K., Malaika L., Maisie M., Michael M., Julia M., Austin N., Jaden N., Thomas N., Molly R., Sam R., Lyla V., Nadia V.
Recording/Editing	Dana Lonn, Greg Winter, Maren Nelson

**In our prayers this week:** The Kaemmerer/Carillo family, on the death of Carol Kaemmerer's father, Tony Carillo; Barbara Anderson, Casey Austad, Linda Austad, Rich Gronner, Jennifer Harris, and Dee Levine; Mission Partners: Trinity and St. Peder's Lutheran churches, CES (Community Emergency Service), and Wapo Bible Camp

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**Join us each Sunday at 10 a.m. for worship  
Find us online on Facebook and YouTube**

**[www.nokomisheights.org](http://www.nokomisheights.org)**

# NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

## CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2020

4:00 P.M.

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### GATHERING

#### PRELUDE

“What Child Is This”

McMichael

*We thank our children for reminding us of our favorite things about Christmas,  
as you will see throughout this worship service.*

#### WELCOME

#### READING

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

L: 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.

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

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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### HYMN 277

“Away in a Manger”

**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.**

**GREETING**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**PRAYER**

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

**C: Amen**

**HYMN 270** (st. 1, 3)

**"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 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!"**

**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 CHRISTMAS GOSPEL**

Luke 2:1-20

**HYMN 276**

**"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"**

**Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.**

**Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.**

**Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!**

## SERMON

HYMN 282 (st. 1, 3-4)

**“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”**

**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.**

**And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow;  
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!**

**For lo! The days are hast’ning on, by prophets 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 all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: When the world was dark  
and the city was quiet,  
You came.

You crept in beside us.

And no one knew.  
Only the few who dared to believe  
that God might do something different.

Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?

Will you come into the darkness of tonight’s world?  
Not the friendly darkness  
as when sleep rescues us from tiredness,  
but the fearful darkness,  
in which people have stopped believing  
that the war will end  
or that food will come  
or that a government will change  
or that the church cares?

Will you come into that darkness  
and do something different  
to save your people from death and despair?

Will you come into the quietness of our cities and towns;  
Not the friendly quietness  
as when lovers hold hands,  
but the fearful silence when  
    the phone has not rung,  
    the letter has not come,  
    the friendly voice no longer speaks,  
    the doctor's face says it all?

Will you come into that darkness,  
and do something different,  
not to distract, but to embrace your people?  
And will you come into the dark corners  
and the quiet places of our lives?

We ask this not because we are guilt-ridden  
or want to be,  
but because the fullness our lives long for  
depends on us being as open and vulnerable to you  
as you were to us,  
when you came,  
wearing no more than diapers,  
and trusting human hands  
to hold their maker.

Will you come into our lives,  
if we open them to you  
and do something different?

When the world was dark  
and the city was quiet  
You came.

You crept in beside us.

Do the same this Christmas, Lord,  
do the same this Christmas.

**C: Amen**

#### **SHARING THE PEACE**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## MEAL

OFFERING

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Shepperd

### OFFERING PRAYER

L: Holy God,

**C: your beauty shines forth from the manger  
and your love flows from the cross.**

**As you gather us around these signs  
of your love come among us,  
warn us to extend your care  
among the hungry and all in need.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

COMMUNION MEDITATION

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

McMichael

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: We give you thanks, gracious God,  
that you have once again fed us from your very self  
with the body and blood of Christ.  
Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise  
to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen**

**READING****John 1:1-14**

L: 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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 281****"Silent 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, 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.**



## SENDING

### CHRISTMAS BLESSING

L: The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord's face shine on with grace and mercy;  
the Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.  
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### SENDING

L: Go in peace. Share the love of Jesus.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*Moment of silence*

**POSTLUDE**

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Miller

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**NOKOMIS  
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