

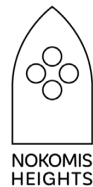
CHRISTMAS EVE

LOVE
shows up



5300 10th Avenue South • Minneapolis, MN 55417
612-825-6846 • nokomisheights.org

a congregation of the Evangelical Church in America



Nokomis Heights is a Reconciling In Christ (RIC) Congregation. We believe the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally, without regard to cultural or ethnic background; race; sexual orientation; gender identity; physical or mental abilities; socio-economic, marital, or family status; gender; or age. We welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, their partners and their families into full participation in the life and ministry of this congregation.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastors	Kristen Capel, Steven Delzer
Organist	Julie Urban
Choir Director	Sara Birkeland
Instrumentalists	Kim Bretheim, cello; Laura Bretheim, violin, Emma Lofthus, viola; Laura Morris, trumpet
Vocalists	Kim Bretheim, Sue Danielson Bretheim, Izzy Burmaster, Kris Capel, Johan Christopherson, Lia Coyle, Patrick Day, Carolyn Deters, Linnea Eckman, Lisa Hannon, Lee Mosher, Jan Myers, Cindy Nelson, Jim Nelson, Tim Wicker, Greg Winter, Kristin Denison Young
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, Cindy Nelson, Greg Winter, Holly Welch

In our prayers this week: Casey Austad, Linda Austad, Jerry Casterton, Ben Delzer, Rich Gronner, Jennifer Harris, Dee Levine, Charlie Olson, Dick Pelinka, Blanca Raniolo's sister Nelly, and Eric and Piper Roome

In-person worship in the Sanctuary, Sundays, at 10:00 am.

Adult Forum in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am,
Sunday School in the Nokomis Room at 9:00 am.

Masks are required.

Online worship premieres at 10:00 am every Sunday.

Find us online on Facebook and YouTube!

www.nokomisheights.org

NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2021

GATHERING

PRELUDE "What Child Is This" McMichael

WELCOME

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

READER: 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 Counselor, 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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

OPENING HYMN 267 (st. 1, 2, 4) "Joy to the World"

**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, and 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.**

**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.**

GREETING

LEADER: Today Christ is born: Alleluia, Alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**ALL: 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**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Kristen Capel

ANTHEM

"Christmas Lullaby"

Stone

WORD

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

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

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.**

READERS: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

HYMN 300

“The First Noel”

**The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

READERS: 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.”

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN 289

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

**Angels 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.

SERMON

Pastor Kristen Capel

HYMN 292

“Love Has Come”



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Introduction

LEADER: Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space,
let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence

LEADER: Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek love, hope, and new life.
Merciful God,

ALL: Receive our prayer.

LEADER: Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy.
Merciful God,

ALL: Receive our prayer.

LEADER: Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult.
Merciful God,

ALL: Receive our prayer.

LEADER: Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Bring your love especially close to those seeking refuge from war, famine, cold nights, lonely hearts, hungry bodies. Fill humanity with your love that all people will find safety.
Merciful God,

ALL: Receive our prayer.

LEADER: Love declares to a world in pandemic that the time for healing has come. Send your spirit, moving people to make small sacrifices to protect one another. Surround the most vulnerable with needed resources. Give strength, compassion, and wisdom to weary healthcare workers. Comfort those who have lost loved ones to COVID.
Merciful God,

ALL: Receive our prayer.

LEADER: Love shows up, celebrating the diversity of all people. Banish the corruption of racism, and all the ways we separate people from one another. Be with all of those who have been wounded by the church, especially LGBTQIA+ people, that all might know they are loved and celebrated as your good creation.
Merciful God,

ALL: Receive our prayer.

Conclusion

LEADER: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior

ALL: Amen

SHARING THE PEACE

LEADER: The peace of Christ be with you always.

ALL: **And also with you.**

MEAL

OFFERING

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Afdahl

OFFERING PRAYER

LEADER: Gracious and loving God,

ALL: **At the birth of Jesus,
Mary brought a willing heart;
the angels brought the gift of song;
the shepherds brought the gift of joy;
the magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh;
We bring gifts of time, love, and treasure
given with joy and gratitude
for the best gift of all:
Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD’S PRAYER

ALL: 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

COMMUNION MEDITATION

“Away in a Manger”

McMichael

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

LEADER: Most High God, you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

ALL: Amen

READING

John 1:1-14

LEADER: 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.

ALL: 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

BENEDICTION

SENDING

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“Love Has Come”

Roberts

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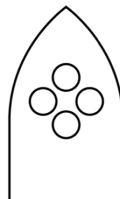
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**NOKOMIS
HEIGHTS**

Place of Worship, Space for Questions.

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