

The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord
24 December

First United Lutheran Church

3481 Campus Loop Road
Kennesaw, GA 30144
(770)427-0325
office@fulc.org

Reverend Randy Jones - Pastor

Dr. Kat Folk - Vicar

Dr. Ben Wadsworth - Music Director and Organist

We are happy that you have decided to celebrate the coming of the Christ child with us this evening, and we pray that your worship experience is fulfilling as you contemplate the truth of the meaning of this festival. May the coming of the Christ child into our midst renew within us the truth of the meaning of our own lives as we carry him into the world for all to see.

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Prelude

“Noel” by Louis Claude Daquin

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra-grance ten-der with sweet-ness fills the
4 O Sav-ior, child of Mar-y, who felt our hu-man

sprung! Of Jes-se's lin-eage com-ing as
mind; with Mar-y we be-hold it, the
air, dis-pels with glo-rious splen-dor the
woe; O Sav-ior, king of glo-ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir-gin moth-er kind. To show God's love a-right, she
dark-ness ev-'ry-where. True man, yet ver-y God, from
dost our weak-ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win-ter, when half-spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav-ior, when half-spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us and light-ens ev-'ry load.
the bright courts of heav-en and in-to end-less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth,
1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4
Music: Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

The lights are extinguished to symbolize the beginning of time when there was nothing.

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The Proclamation of the Birth

The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ is taken from the ancient martyrology. The announcement is understood as the announcement of the incarnation within human history rather than a literal counting of years.

P On the twenty-fifth day of December,
unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth
and then formed man and woman in his own image.

Several thousand years after the flood,
when God made the rainbow shine forth
as a sign of the covenant.

Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges;
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation
of the city of Rome;

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
the whole world being at peace,
Jesus Christ, the eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,
being conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and nine months having passed since his conception,
was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

We stand

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4;
tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: attr. John Francis Wade

ADESTE FIDELES
Irregular

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The lights are brought up to full illumination.

The Greeting

V Good news of great joy, light and life, grace and peace be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

The Prayer of the Day

V The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

V 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.**

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

"Oh Holy Night" Sung by Nathan Green

The Epistle Reading

Titus 2:11-14

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Alleluia

We stand

Celtic Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

The Holy Gospel

St. Luke 2:1-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.

C **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

We sit

The Sermon

Rev. Randy Jones

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun-tains in re-ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain
 Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. "Crown of Jesus," 1862
 Tune: French carol

GLORIA
 77 77 and refrain

The Creed

V As God's people gathered around the manger, gazing at the Christ child, we profess our faith.

C We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.
 We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father.
 Through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven;
 by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the Church

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

We share a sign of peace in the fashion of the Church of South India. The person receiving the peace will place their hands over the hands of the person offering the peace. The pastor will share the peace with the assisting minister with the words “The peace of Christ be with you.” The pastor and assisting minister will then go down the center aisle and offer the peace to the person at the end of each pew and then that person will pass it on to the next person and so on.

We sit.

Anthem

“Christmas Canon” by Transiberian Orchestra

The Offering

We stand as the offering is brought to the altar.

The Offertory Prayer

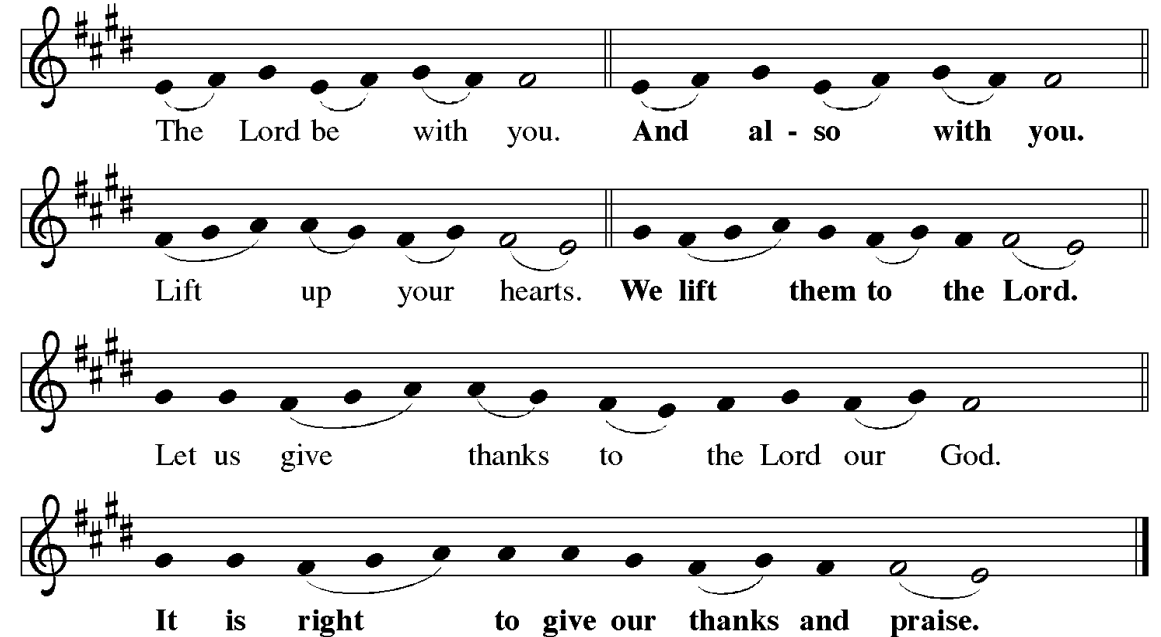
V Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came through the blessed Virgin Mary, to bring the riches of your grace. Bless the gifts we offer this day, and let them be a blessing for others. With the flowers and trees of the field, with all the earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE ALTAR

The Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Proper Preface

The proper preface is offered by the presiding minister.

The Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797-1828, adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
Adapt. © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Eucharistic Prayer

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.

We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that were not in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, born of the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is the fulfillment of all your promises.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, which is being given up for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is being shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

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

Therefore, O God, with this bread and this cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his birth from the Blessed Virgin and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life, his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. We remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit upon this bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with all the saints who have gone before us and now stand before your throne in glory, and we give thanks for the ceaseless petitions of your Son our great high priest whose glorious return we await. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Our Father

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, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Presentation of Our Lord

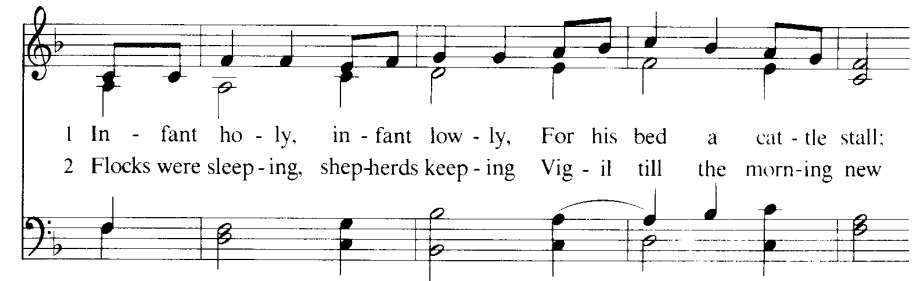
P Behold the true bread from heaven.

C **He is our light and our life.**

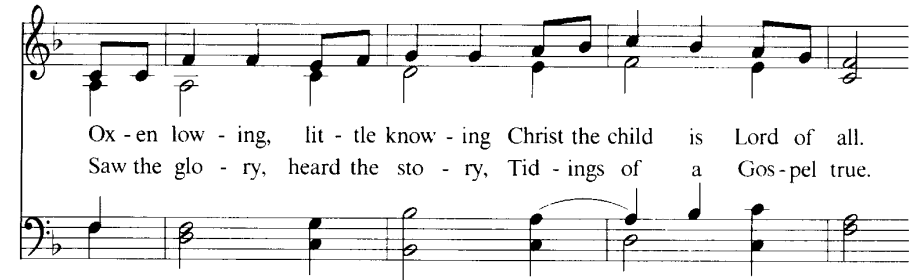
We sit

CHRIST BIDS YOU WELCOME TO THIS HOLY MEAL! *We receive communion at the communion rail. Small children and infants who commune should be assisted by their parents. Those unable to partake of wine or wheaten bread are assured that the Church affirms our Lord's presence in, with, and under the form of each element alone. After you have communed, please return to your seat for prayer.*

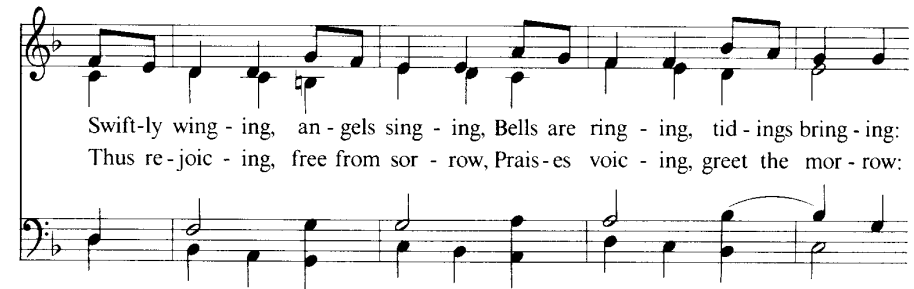
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, For his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

That Boy-Child of Mary

Refrain F C

That boy-child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble,

F C⁷ F

a man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.

F Gm C Am Dm

1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?
 2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,
 3 How can he save us, how can he help us,
 4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,

Gm C⁷ F *Refrain*

What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?
 God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.
 born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?
 makes him our broth - er in Beth - le - hem.

5 One with the Father, he is our Savior,
 heaven-sent helper in Bethlehem.

Refrain

6 Gladly we praise him, love and adore him,
 give ourselves to him in Bethlehem.

Refrain

The Post Communion Prayer

V O Lord our God, with blessed Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence, and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Giving of Light

Light is taken from the Christ candle on the Advent Wreath and given for the lighting of our candles. Always tip only the unlit candle as each successive candle is lit.

P In the beginning was the Word,
 and the Word was with God,
 and the Word was God.

C He was in the beginning with God.

P All things came into being through him,
 and without him not one thing came into being.

**C What has come into being in him was life,
 and the life is the light of all people.**

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

**C The true light, which enlightens everyone,
 is in the world.**

P He lives among us, and we have seen his glory,

C the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The lights are dimmed in the nave as we sing.

Silent Night, Holy Night!

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round you
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,
stream from heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts ... sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
beams from your ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at your birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885
Tune: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

STILLE NACHT
irregular

The Benediction

P May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.

The blessing of Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you.

C Amen.

We sing the final hymn.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night, Be -
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When, lo, a - bove the earth Rang
 3 Down in a lone - ly man-ger The hum - ble Christ was born; And

Refrain

hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
 out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

© Text: Negro spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1871-1925, stanzas, alt.
 Tune: Negro spiritual

The Dismissal

V Go in peace. Our Lord Jesus the Christ is with you.
 C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"In Dulci Jubilo" by J.S. Bach

