

The Light Shines in the Darkness

We invite you to join in a time of candlelight to remember that Christ is our light, the one who meets us in the midst of the darkness of our lives. Please remember to keep lighted candles standing straight to avoid wax spills. Unlit candles can be lit by tipping them to receive the candlelight.

Pastor: Jesus Said, "I am the Light of the world: those who follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8

Once you were in darkness but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Eph. 5

"You are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matt. 5

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:1,4,5

CANDLELIGHT CAROL

"Silent Night" 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.

BLESSING

Pastor: May the story of the Christ Child, born to bring endless peace, bring light to your darkness, surround you with joy, and welcome you and all people with the love, mercy and wild hope of Jesus. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

Please carefully extinguish your candle. You are invited to take your candle home as a reminder of the light of Christ that comes to shine in the darkness of each of our lives!

CLOSING CAROL

"Joy to the World" ELW 267

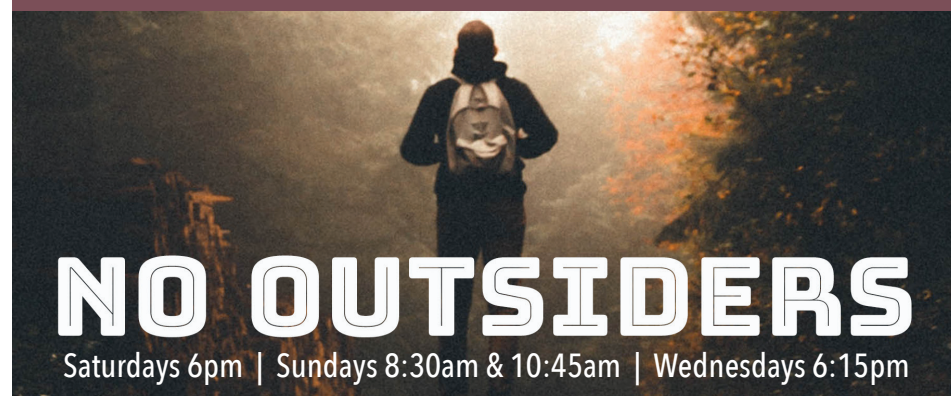
Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

WORSHIP

JOIN US FOR A NEW WORSHIP SERIES BEGINNING JAN 5!



CONNECT

Next Steps Gathering

Interested in getting connected at Calvary? We'd love for you to join us for an informal gathering with others looking to get connected on Sunday, February 10, at 9:30am.

GIVE

Thank you for supporting God's work at Calvary! Ways to give:

- **Offering Baskets:** You can place your offering in the enclosed offering envelope and place it in the basket when it is passed.
- **Text-to-Give:** Text the word "CALVARYALEX" to 77977, then click on the link in the response given.
- **Mobile/Online Giving:** Make a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift using a debit/credit card or checking account at www.calvaryalex.org.



Merry Christmas!

WELCOME

CAROL

"Angels We Have Heard On High" ELW 289

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains

Refrain

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. *Refrain*

OFFERING

Calvary Worship, "Christmas Hallelujah"

The Christmas Story!

Luke 2:1-12

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. 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."

The Christmas Eve worship will be broadcast on Sunday at 10:30am over radio station Z99.3-FM and is sponsored by Meredith Skrove; In memory of the "love of my life."

CAROL

“Away in a Manger” ELW 277

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.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY CONTINUED

Luke 2:13-20

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!” 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.

CAROL

“Away in a Manger” ELW 277

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.

REFLECTION

Pastor Hans Dahl

CHRISTMAS SONG

“He Shall Reign Forevermore”

In the bleak mid-winter, All creation groans, For a world in darkness
Frozen like a stone, Light is breaking, In a stable for a throne

Chorus

(And) He shall reign forevermore forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore
Unto us a Child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore

If I were a wise man, I would travel far, If I were a shepherd
I would do my part, But poor as I am, I will give to Him my heart

Bridge

Here within a manger lies the One, Who made the starry skies
This baby born for sacrifice, Christ the Messiah
Into our hopes into our fears, The Savior of the world appears
The promise of eternal years, Christ the Messiah

God's Meal of Mercy for All People

HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to join in God's meal of mercy for all people! We, at Calvary, simply set the communion table. This is God's meal and all are welcome, regardless of what tradition you celebrate!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

CHRISTMAS CAROL MEDLEY

“Angels From The Realms Of Glory”

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Chorus: Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light. *Chorus*

“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, goodwill to all, From heaven's all gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

“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 darkness shineth, The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years, Are met in thee tonight.

“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.

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

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!

“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.

“What Child Is This”

What child is this who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the king; whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

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:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given! Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing. *Chorus*

“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!”

“Go Tell It On The Mountain”

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.