

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

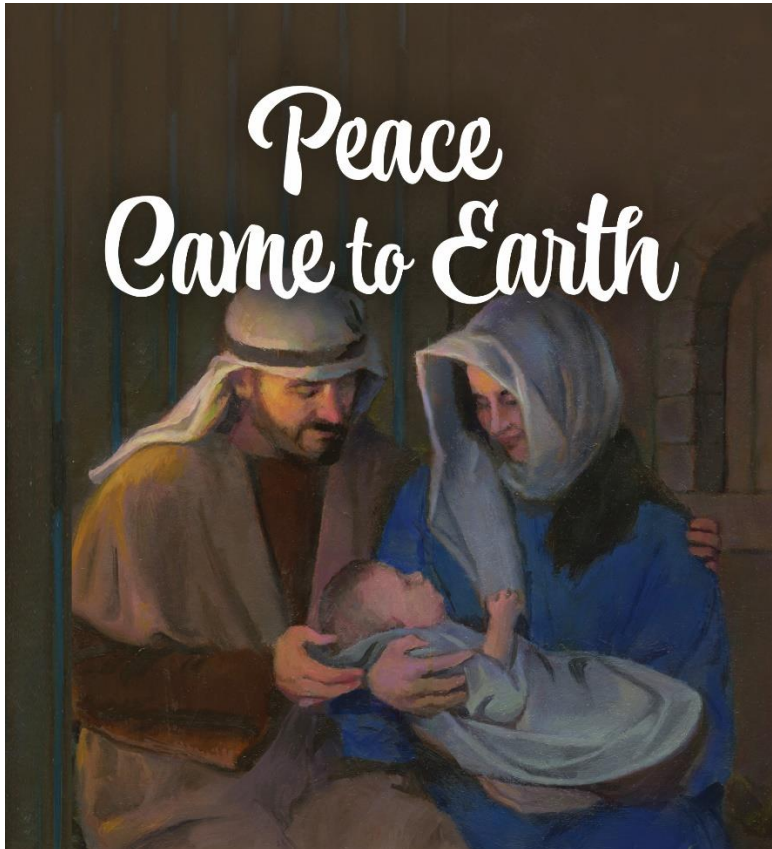
Missouri Synod

Children's Christmas Service

December 17, 2023

10:30 am

livestreamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)



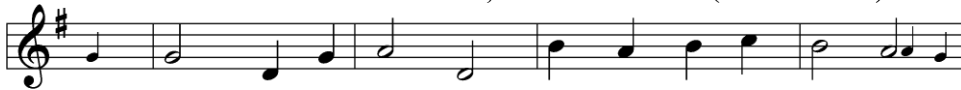
[Rev. Eric J. Edwards](#) † [Rev. Christopher Beck](#) † [Rev. Liwei Sui](#)

2200 S. High Street, Bloomington, IN † 812-332-1668 † office@faithbtown.org

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (arr. C. Winfred Douglas)

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN – “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (LSB 379:1-3)



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



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!



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:

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text and tune: Public domain

OPENING SENTENCES – *Isaiah 9:6*

- P** For to us a child is born,
- C** to us a son is given;
- P** and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
- C** and His name shall be called **Wonderful Counselor**,
- P** Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
- C** Prince of Peace.

THE CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

OFFERING – **A Processional for Advent** (arr. Rachel Aarons)

A Processional for Advent

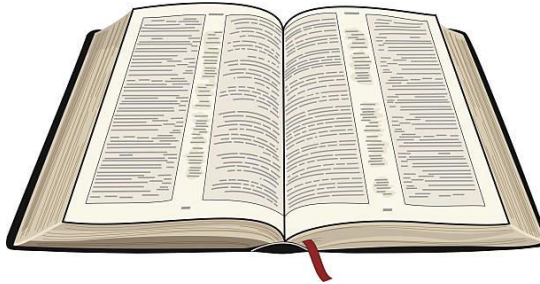
*Come, thou redeemer of the earth,
And manifest thy virgin birth:
Let every age adoring fall;
Such birth befits the God of all.*

-St. Ambrose; tr. John Mason Neale

THE MESSAGE PRESENTED BY THE CHILDREN



The Promise of Peace



In the beginning, God created a perfect world filled with sparkling stars, majestic mountains, verdant valleys, and amazing animals. There was no sickness, no pain, and no death. The people God had made lived at peace with the animals, with each other, and with God. Then one day, the people were tempted to doubt God’s Word and to question the gifts He had already given them. They disobeyed God and took what God had commanded them not to take, bringing sin into the world.

When sin entered the perfect world God had made, perfect peace was lost. The man and woman hid from God and blamed each other and God for what they had done. Peace was replaced by shame and hurt and sickness and death. But God did not give up on the people He had made! He promised to send a Savior to bring back the peace that had been lost.

We read about God’s first promise of a Savior in Genesis 3:15, when He spoke judgment on the serpent who had deceived Adam and Eve: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” The Savior would take upon Himself the punishment that man deserved. He would defeat sin, death, and Satan and restore the relationship between God and man.

Hundreds of years passed while God’s people waited, sometimes wondering if God had forgotten the promise He had made in the Garden of Eden. But God had not forgotten. He sent prophets such as Isaiah to remind the people that He would one day fulfill His promise to restore peace. Isaiah prophesied about the promised Savior, saying, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

ACTION RHYME – “To Us a Child Is Born”

CHILDREN’S SONG – “God Loves Me Dearly” (LSB 392:1, 3)

God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

Therefore I’ll
say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

He sent forth Jesus,
My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus
And set me free.

Therefore I’ll
say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

HYMN – “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (LSB 338)



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;

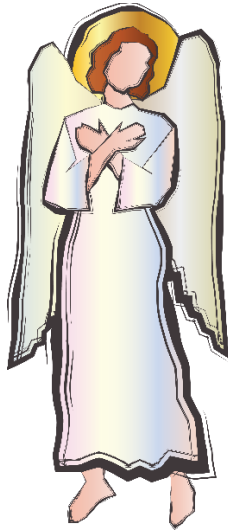


Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text and tune: Public domain



Peace Is Proclaimed



Malachi, the last prophet recorded in the Old Testament, foretold that God would send a messenger to prepare the way of the promised Savior. Four hundred years later, when John the Baptist was born, his father, Zechariah, proclaimed these words about John, who was the messenger: “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace” (Luke 1:76–79).

The promised Prince of Peace was about to arrive! God sent an angel to Mary with the proclamation that she would be the mother of the Savior. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:30–33).

God also sent an angel to proclaim this good news to Joseph. Matthew 1:20–23 tells us, “An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us).”

RECITATION

CHILDREN'S SONG – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (LSB 357:1, 4)

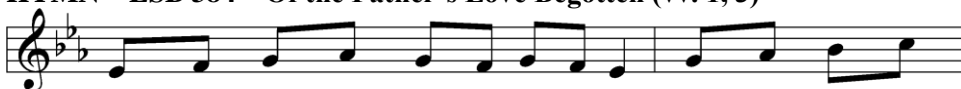
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

HYMN – LSB 384 – Of the Father's Love Begotten (vv. 1, 3)



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain



The Prince of Peace



The birth of Jesus Christ from Luke chapter 2: “In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (Luke 2:1–7).

“And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!’” (Luke 2:8–14).

“When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them” (Luke 2:15–20).

The baby born in Bethlehem was the promised Prince of Peace, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, our Savior! God the Father sent His only Son into this world to live a perfect life in our place, die on the cross for our sins, and rise again to life, giving us the sure hope of eternal life. All who believe in Him shall have peace with God once more. Romans 5:1 declares, “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

RECITATIONS

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the 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 Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

CHILDREN’S SONG – “Away in a Manger” (LSB 364)



Peace for All People



Jesus Christ came for all people. God placed a star in the heavens to guide the Wise Men from the East to the Savior of the world. We read from Matthew chapter 2: “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him’” (Matthew 2:1–2).

“When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd My people Israel”’” (Matthew 2:3–6).

“Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.’ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was” (Matthew 2:7–9).

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way” (Matthew 2:10–12).

The shepherds couldn’t keep the good news of the Savior to themselves. They returned glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard. The Wise Men also likely shared the story of the star that led them to the Savior-King. How beautiful it is when we share the Good News of the Savior, who brings peace to the world. Isaiah 52:7 tells us, “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’”

RECITATION

CHILDREN’S SONG – “To Us a Child Is Born”

Refrain: To us a Child is born,
To us a Son is given.
This Christmas we receive
The blessed gift of heaven.

The prophets spoke about
The Savior God would send,
The glorious Prince of Peace
Whose kingdom shall not end. *Refrain*

The angels sang God’s praise
Amid the heavens bright.

We also join in song
And fill the church with light. *Refrain*

The shepherds left the sheep
They watched in nearby fields
To see the Lamb of God
In human flesh revealed. *Refrain*

We also kneel before
The Babe in humble stall,
The Lord our Righteousness
Who came to save us all. *Refrain*

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

RESPONSORY

P Lord, let Your servants go in peace;

C Your word has been fulfilled.

P Our eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of every people;

C A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to take away our sins and bring peace to our fallen world. Help us to share Your message of love and forgiveness with others so that they may also find peace in You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

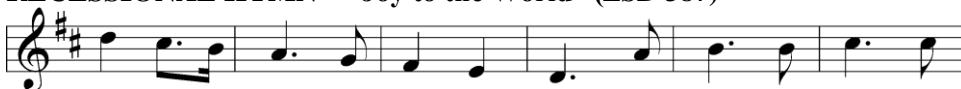
BENEDICTION

P Joy to the world, the Son of God, our Savior, has come! The peace of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you today and every day.

C Amen.



RECESSIONAL HYMN – “Joy to the World” (LSB 387)



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text and tune: Public domain

POST-SERVICE MUSIC – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (arr. Marilyn Biery)



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Serving in Worship

Instrumentalists.....Asher Edwards, Jonah Grimes, Noah Grimes, Sarah Pape, Nate Poage, Sam Poage
Cantor.....Dr. Priscilla Gabriel
Readers.....Members of FLY, Confirmation, and Sunday School

Sunday School Staff

Sunday School Superintendent.....Megan DeMoss
Parents & Two's..... Sarah Pape, Stephanie Yoder
3 & 4 Year Olds.....Vicky Hillenburg, Erin Miller, Amanda & Ryan Shettlesworth
5 Year Olds & Kindergarten.....Alyson McGhie, Samantha Schaefer
Grades 1 & 2.....Debbie Hicks, Tim Paul
Grades 3 & 4.....Lauren Gaskins, Jean Scott
Grades 5 & 6.....Emilia Brunner, John & Kim Pitcher, Tom Waggoner
Grades 7 & 8; High School.....Chastin Baker, Tatiana Huss



Tuesday, December 19

- **10am – 8pm Bell-ringing for the Salvation Army** (Kroger East)
- **5:00pm Lutheran Men's Gemütlichkeit** (Brothers Bar & Grill)
- **Musical Christmas Storytime** for children (please RSVP to music@faithbtown.org)
 - **5:15-6:00pm** birth through age 3
 - **6:15-7:00pm** preschool through early elementary

Wednesday, December 20 – FINAL Midweek Advent Fellowship & Worship

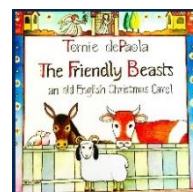
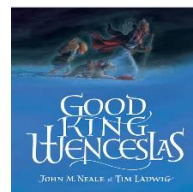
- 12 Noon **Worship** / 12:30pm Meal
- 5:45pm Meal / 6:45pm Carols / 7pm **Worship**



Sunday, December 24 (no 8:00 or 9:15am)
10:30am* Divine Service (4th Sunday in Advent)
3:00pm Lighting of the Luminaries
5pm* & 7pm **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**

Christmas Day – 10am*
Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 31 – New Year's Eve
8:00am + 10:30am* + 5pm Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:15am Multi-age activity



* Service will also be **livestreamed** on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

Follow the bulletin available on our [website](#).