

# CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION SERVICE

## St Paul Lutheran Church and School, Northville, MI

December 24, 2025  
6:00pm and 8:00pm



### God Appears—Light in the Darkness

#### Pre-service Music

<i>Cristina Muresan</i>	Violin
<i>Malik Muresan</i>	Violin
<i>Hang Su</i>	Viola
<i>Paul Wingert</i>	Cello

#### Come Jesus Come

*Sarah Hughes / Paul Ventimiglia*

#### AS WE GATHER

A very merry Christmas to all who come to worship the Christ Child.

An array of candles exemplify the Christ as "light of the world" (John 8:12).

Tonight we gather amid the busyness to reflect, rejoice, and ponder anew the joy of our Savior born to us. We prepare our hearts to receive the greatest gifts ever given through Him—hope, forgiveness, newness, and an assured promise of eternal life through faith in Christ.

"God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people" (Titus 2:11).

## O Come O Come Emmanuel / *Kylie Kreucher* / Soloist

**Welcome** – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn



***Please Stand***

### Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**Invitation to Worship:** *1 Timothy 3:16; Luke 2:19*

Pastor: Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

**People: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.**

Pastor: But Mary treasured up all these things,

**People: pondering them in her heart.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Isaiah 9:2*

Pastor: In our Christmas joy, let us confess our sins.

**People: Mighty God, on this day of celebration, we confess our sin to You. We are by nature sinful. Without Your help, we are powerless to overcome it. We confess our impatience with You and with others, and our self-indulgent ways of life. By our sin, we have hurt others, ourselves, and You. We ask You to forgive our sins for the sake of Christ and to transform our broken lives.**

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, and the light of Christ shines on them. As a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"**

## O Come All Ye Faithful

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!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation. Sing,  
 all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, in the highest

O come, let us adore Him, o come, let us adore Him, o come, let us adore Him,  
 Christ the Lord!

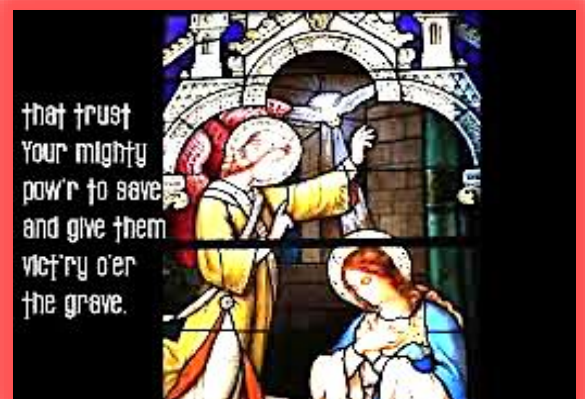
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning. Jesus, to Thee be glory  
 giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing

O come, let us adore Him, o come, let us adore Him, o come, let us adore Him,  
 Christ the Lord!

### *Please sit*

#### **The Story of Mary:** St. Luke 1:26-35

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words, and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.



The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God. " Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsory:**

P: The Lord himself will give you a sign.

**C: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son.**

P: And they shall name him Emmanuel,

**C: Which means, God is with us.** Isaiah 7:14

**Mary Did You Know**

*Hannah & Sarah Hughes / Soloist*

**Prayer:**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, in choosing the virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, you made known your gracious regard for the poor and lowly. In the beauty of our salvation, help us receive your Word in humility, and so to be made one with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**



## **The Story of Joseph:** St. Matthew 1:18-21

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsory:**

P: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse.

**C: And a branch shall grow out of his roots.**

P: The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him.

**C: The spirit of wisdom and understanding.**

P: The spirit of counsel and might.

**C: The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.** Isaiah 11:1-2

### **Prayer:**

P: Let us pray. O God, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and the spouse of his virgin mother: Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**



## What Songs Were Sung

*Soloist / Kylie Kreucher*



### **Go Tell it On the Mountain**

*(Congregation)*

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

The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus, the hailed our Savior's birth  
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born

Down in a lowly manger, The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation; That blessed Christmas morn.  
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born

## **The story of the Angels:** St. Luke 2:8-14

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 a 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, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

This is the word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**



### **Responsory:**

P: Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings.

**C: Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings.**

P: Lift it up, do not fear.

**C: Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"** Isaiah 10:9

### **Prayer:**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have made yourself known in your Son, Jesus, redeemer of the world. We pray that his birth as a human child will set us free from the old slavery of our sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## 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 heavenly 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



## 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 ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the new - born - King

Christ by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the-incarnate Deity  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth  
Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the new - born - King  
Hail, the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings, rising with healing in His wings.  
 Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth  
 Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the new - born - King

### ***Please Stand***

#### **The story of Jesus' Birth:** St. Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from the 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.



This is the word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### ***Please Sit***

**O Holy Night** – Soloist / *Kylie Kreucher*.



**Christmas Encouragement** - Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

## OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

*St. Paul appreciates the continued support of those worshipping with us online and in person as we each help in sharing the amazing love of Jesus! **Thank you.***



**We invite our guests and members to fill out our**

**Friendship Card** during worship, which is found on the back of the pew. Please leave your card at the end of the pew near the center aisle as you leave.

P: Let us pray. Lord of Christmas,

**C: We are mindful of the supreme gift that you gave us in a manger at Bethlehem. Humbly we offer our gifts of service and possessions in joyful thanksgiving for the love you have shown us. Accept these gifts for the sake of your Son who was born to us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

***Please Stand***

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE LIGHT

NOTE: Pastors will light the candles of ushers, who light the candles of people sitting by the aisles, who in turn light those next to them, tipping unlit candles toward lit ones. Lights will be dimmed as the candlelight increases.

*Please do **not tip** a lighted candle.*

## God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

*Soloist / Kurt Menhart (8:00 Service)*

**Lights dimmed**



## Silent Night / Congregation Hymn

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 Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

PLEASE EXTINGUISH ALL CANDLES.

*PLACE THEM ON THE TABLE AS YOU LEAVE THE CHURCH.*

## Closing Prayer

**P:** Let us pray. Almighty God, you have 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## Benediction

*Lights Raised*

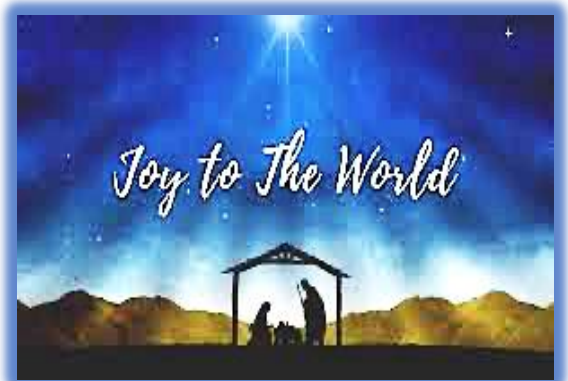
### ***Remain Standing***

#### **Joy to the World** / *Congregation Hymn*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

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.

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**Where We Serve**

Preacher / Liturgist	Pastor Christopher Fairbairn	
Music Director	Paul Ventimiglia	
Musicians:		
	Cristina Muresan	Violin
	Malik Muresan	Violin
	Hang Su	Viola
	Paul Wingert	Cello
	Larry Fratangelo	Percussion
	Kylie Kreucher	Vocal Soloist
	Sarah Hughes	Vocal Soloist
	Hannah Hughes	Vocal Soloist
	Kurt Menhart	Vocal Soloist
Elder	6pm 8pm	Mark Potter George Foor
Reader	6pm 8pm	Jeff Shapiro Mark Ernst
Ushers	6pm	Gary Cash Jeff Henning Mike Williamson Christian Krauter Lenny Elliott



8pm

John Nordbeck  
Barry Helmick  
Katie Helmick  
Carole Crete  
Paul Kemp

Greeters

6pm

Ernst Family



Altar Flowers

One vase in joyful celebration of our Savior's birth from Dennis and Kathy Verseman.

One vase Wishing a Merry Christmas to our church family from Gretchen and John Hasse.

Please arrange to pick up your flowers after the 12/25/25 10am service.

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