

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

December 24th, 2022

4:00 p.m. Service

Christmas Eve Family Service

Introduction to this Blessed Night: In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

✧ O Come All Ye Faithful ✧

Prelude

The First Noël - 17th Century English Carol

Christmas Greeting

Pastor Karen Natterstad

Gathering

Please stand as you are able

Opening Litany

In the hustle of Bethlehem, you quietly come to a stable where animals reside, O God.

We welcome you into the world, Baby Jesus.

The gift we celebrate today is the Light of the World, born in humble Bethlehem.

Let us spread the light of God's love in Bethlehem to the people gathered here.

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Opening Carol

#283 Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Greeting

Good news of great love, joy, and hope be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Dear God, we thank you this night for the gift of your Son, who comes to save the world from sin. Help us to love as Jesus loves and spread the good news to all the world. This we pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our newborn King.

Amen.

Please be seated

Praise Kids! Anthems

Jesus, the Light of the World by Joanne LeDoux

Star, shine, star, shine, Jesus is born, Jesus is born.

Star, shine, star, shine, Jesus, the light of the world.

*Born in a manger bed one starry night. One great star would
show the world that Jesus is the light.*

Star, shine, star, shine, Jesus is born, Jesus is born.

Star, shine, star, shine, Jesus, the light of the world.

Do You See the Christmas Star? by Ruth Elaine Schram LeDoux

*Shepherds, do you see the star, see the star? Shepherds, do
you see the star, see the star? Shining more than all the
rest, it's the brightest and the best! Shepherds, do you see
the star? Do you see the Christmas star?*

*Angels, do you see the star, see the star? Angels, do you see the
star, see the star? Sparkling like your glowing wings,
leading to the King of kings! Angels, do you see the star?
Do you see the Christmas star?*

*Wise men, do you see the star, see the star? Wise men, do you see
the star, see the star? Follow it to Bethlehem. Find the
Child and worship Him! Wise men, do you see the star? Do
you see the Christmas star?*

✦ *In the Beginning Was the Word* ✦

Children's Message

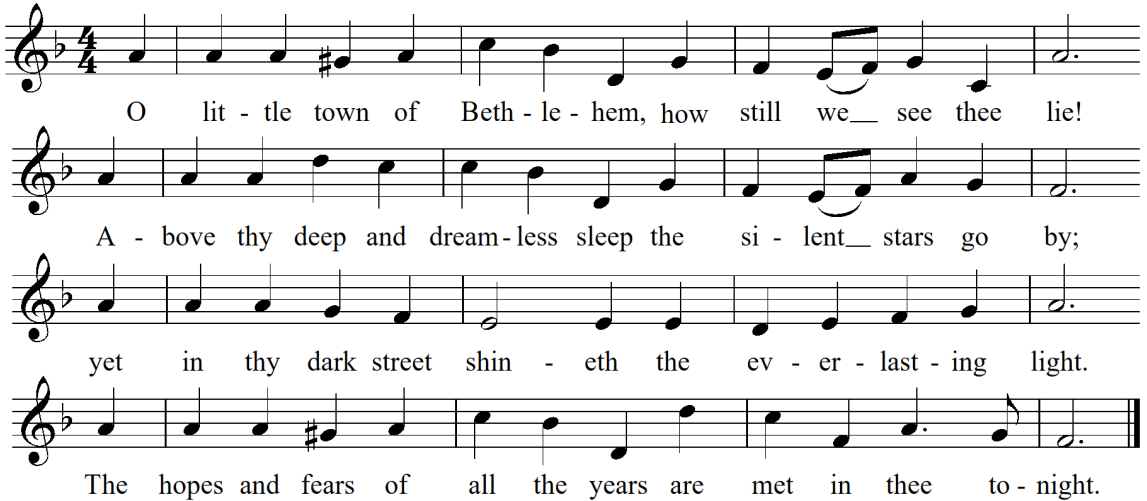
"Stars"

Pastors Karen Natterstad & Ann Williams

Word

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we__ see thee lie!

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent__ stars go by;

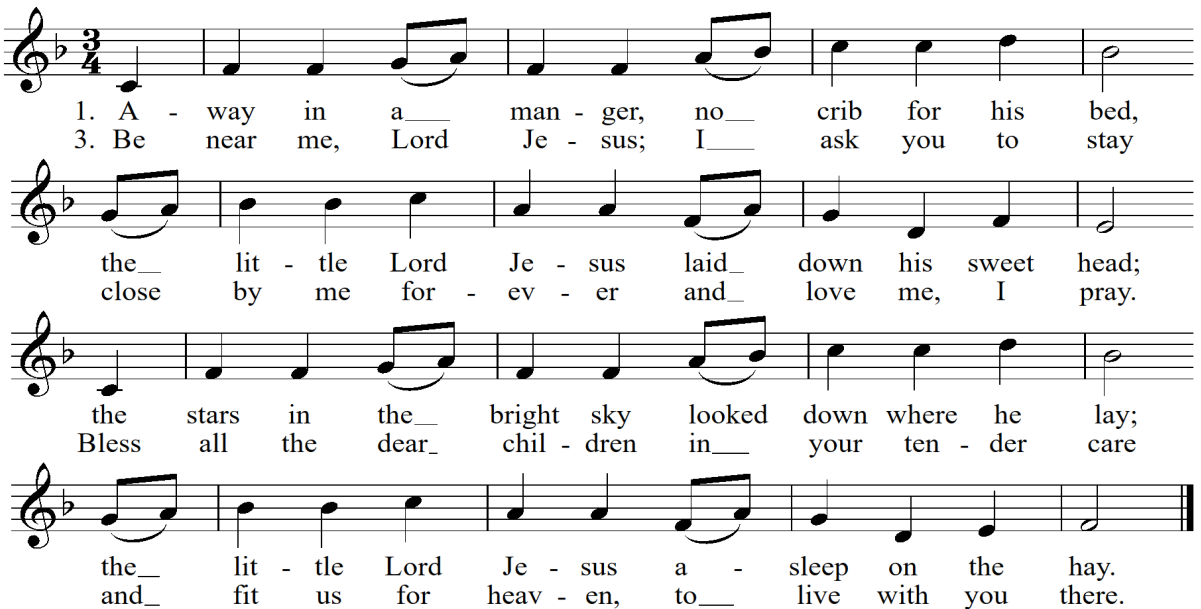
yet in thy dark street shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893. Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908. Tune: St. Louis 86 86 76 86.

Carol

Away in a Manger



1. A - way in a__ man - ger, no__ crib for his bed,
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I__ ask you to stay

the__ lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid__ down his sweet head;
close by me for - ev - er and__ love me, I pray.

the stars in the__ bright sky looked down where he lay;
Bless all the dear__ chil - dren in__ your ten - der care

the__ lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and__ fit us for heav - en, to__ live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th Cent. Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921. Tune: Cradle Song 11 11 11 11.

Carol

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?

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?

Glo - - - - - ri - a

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

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

Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864. Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958. Tune: Gloria 77 77 and Refrain. Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908. Tune: St. Louis 86 86 76 86.

Carol

We Three Kings

1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 5. Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise; King and God and sac - ri - fice:

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, sounds through the earth and skies.

O star of won - der, star of light, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,
 west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

Text: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857. Based on Matthew 2:1-11. Tune: Kings of Orient 88 86 with Refrain. John Henry Hopkins, Jr. 1857.

Please stand as you are able.

Sharing of Christmas Peace

At the birth of Christ the angels sang of peace and goodwill. May the peace of the Lord
be with you always.

And also with you.

✧ *And the Word was Made Flesh* ✧

Thanksgiving

Please be seated.

Musical Offering

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring by J.S. Bach

– Jeff Reeves & John Paradowski - Piano Duet

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory Carol

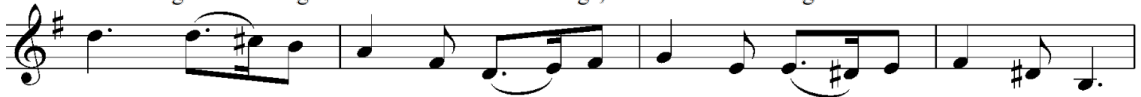
What Child is This



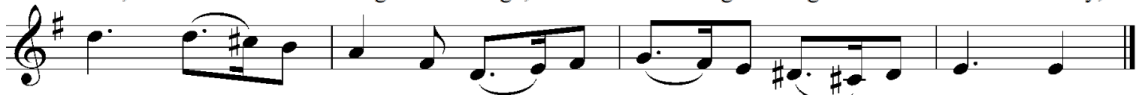
1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Raise, raise the song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898. Music: English Ballad, 16th Century. Tune: Greensleeves, 87 87 68 67.

Christmas Offertory Prayer

Almighty God, we are thankful of the gift that you gave us in a manger in Bethlehem.
Humbly we offer our gifts of service in joyful thanksgiving for the love you have given us.

We bring for ourselves and for others, the concerns of our hearts. Hear our prayers and accept these gifts for the sake of your Son who was born this day, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us join our voices with the angels and all the heavenly host to pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

...Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Grateful for your birth, we give all of our prayers to You, O God. We trust that you will always guide and protect your people. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.

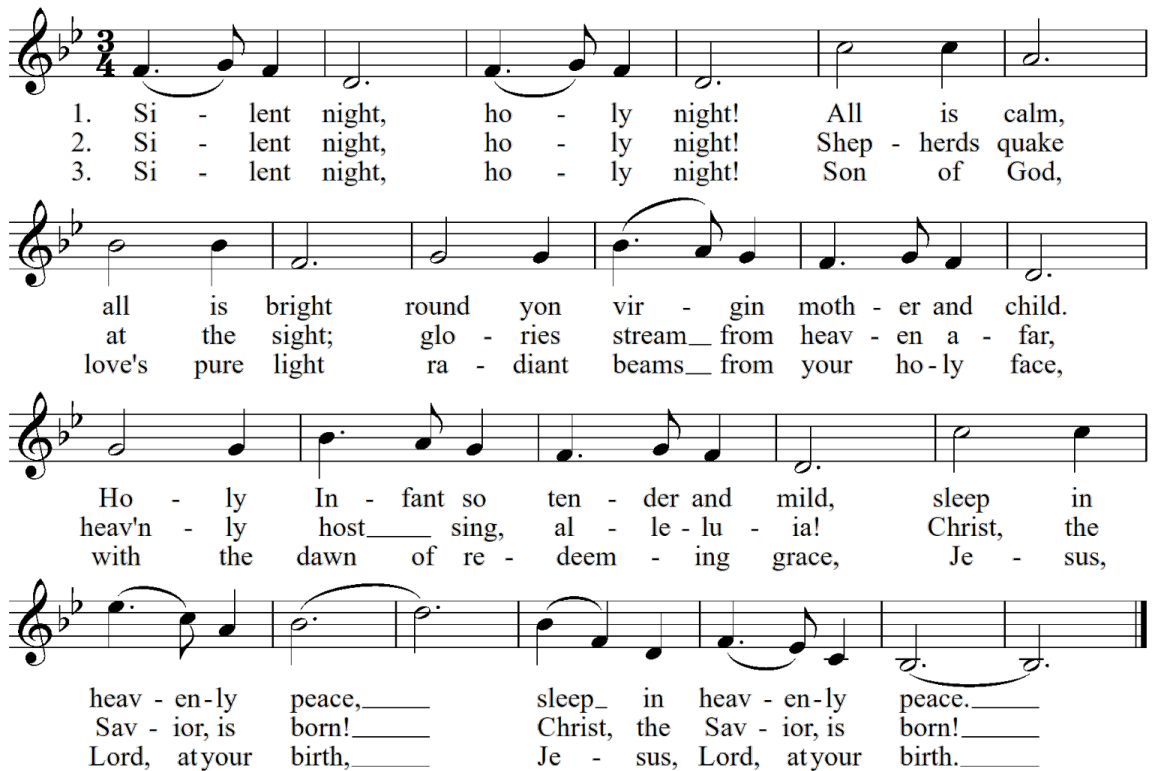
**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

✧ *And Dwelt Among Us* ✧

A worship leader will come down to share the light of Christ. Please share the light carefully with your neighbors. Place the unlit candle into the wick of the lit candle. To prevent dripping, keep lit candles vertical. After Silent Night gently blow out the candle and hold until wax hardens. Please place used candle in the bins at the church entrance when you exit.

Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild, sleep in
 heav'n - ly host sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus,

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

Tune: Stille Nacht, Irr. Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863. Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

Sending

Benediction

And now, little children, abide in him.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God!

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the faithfulness of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. May the almighty God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

Amen!

Closing Hymn

#270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Dismissal

As heralds of God's peace, go forth in joy to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to the newborn King!

Postlude

Carol Rhapsody by Rick Seaton

✧ And of His Reign There Will Be No End ✧