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# Festival Christmas Eve Service

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

5:00 p.m.



*Join us for Livestream worship via Facebook*

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## **Atonement Lutheran Church**

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## GATHERING

### **PRELUDE**

*Christmas Prelude (beginning at 4:45 p.m.)*

*Kenneth Kam, lute/guitar*

*Sherry and Leah McCarthy, violin/voice*

### **WELCOME**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. *(the paschal candle is lit)*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.**

### **HYMN**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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. **Amen.**

## WORD

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

*A reading from Isaiah*

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PRAYER**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*A La Nanita Nana (Spanish Christmas Carol)*

### **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Luke 2: 1-14*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

<sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

## PRAYER

### HYMN

*Away in a Manger*

# 277

### HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 2:15-20*

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*What Child Is This?*

*Variations by Francis Cutting*

## PRAYER

### SERMON

### HYMN

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

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### PRAYERS

On this holy night, let us offer our prayers to God, who gives us hope and salvation in the birth of his Son. God of grace and peace: **Hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, as we behold your presence in the birth of Christ; and rejoice in the brightness of His glory. **Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

With all who come to the manger, let us pray as Jesus taught:

**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.**

## **SENDING**

**CANDLE LIGHTING** *(we invite you to light candles at your home)*

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,

**And we have seen his glory;**

The glory as of a father's only son,

**Full of grace and truth.**

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it; the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

### **HYMN**

*Silent Night*

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*Stanza 1: Sung by Vocal Ensemble in German*

*Stanzas 1, 2, 3: Sung by all*

**1**

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht  
Alles schläft; einsam wacht  
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

**1**

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

**2**

Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia!'  
Christ the Savior is born  
Christ the Savior is born

**3**

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!

### **BENEDICTION**

Almighty God † Who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
Proclaimed joy through the angels,  
Filled the hearts of the shepherds with Good News,  
Give you the blessing of peace from the Child in the manger,  
This night and always. **Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest!.

**And peace to God's people on earth!**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabelle*

## ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Gail Swanson, Pastor  
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Facebook: [fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/atonementlutheranchurch)

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Atonement Lutheran Church is a gathering of God's people in Christ called to: **Invite** all people into the presence of the living God, **Prepare** for ministry in daily life and **Go** into the world as disciples*

### GUEST MUSICIANS

*Our thanks to our musicians for sharing their gift of music with us. The Carol and John Condemi gift of music fund has generously provided for the participation of guest musicians in this evening's worship service.*

### POINSETTIAS

The poinsettias decorating the chancel this year are donated by:

- Phyllis Fleming in memory of Laura and Fran Fleming
- Dorothy, Susan, and Tammy Haelen in memory of Tom Haelen
- Judy Lazenby in Memory of Gary and in Honor of Jon, Jennifer, David, Lisa, Paul, and Lindsay and in Honor of Jack, Aidan, Melinda, Olivia, Hudson, and Graham
- Pastor Gail and Pastor Craig Swanson in Honor of Our Congregations

### FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS WORSHIP Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

The Upstate New York Synod staff have pre-recorded an online Service of Lessons, Carols, and a Christmas Reflection from Bishop Macholz for congregations to use on this day. This video includes photos of decorated church sanctuaries, stained glass, and congregations involved in ministry from around the Synod (*including a few photos from Atonement!*) A link to print the bulletin and view this video on your computer has been Emailed to our members and friends. ***There will be no Livestream worship at Atonement on December 27<sup>th</sup>.***

### ATONEMENT OFFICE CLOSED OVER BREAK

The Atonement Church Office will be closed for a Christmas Break from *December 27<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>*. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastor Gail directly (cell: 614 – 477– 7863.)

# 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,

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

# Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

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# 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;

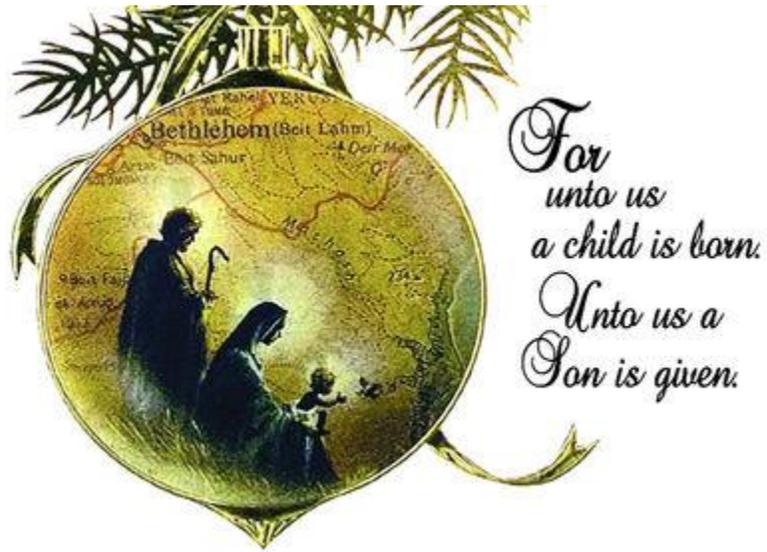
and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

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

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



### **Christmas Story Kids' Activity**

1. Glue the next page to a piece of cardstock or heavy paper  
*(you could use an old paper folder)*
2. Color or decorate the Nativity Figures-keeping the words visible.
3. Cut out the figures.
4. These figures have Good News to tell! Put them in order  
*(here's a hint...start with the Angel).*
5. Read the Christmas Story as a family: *Luke 2:1-20*
6. Punch a hole at the top of each figure and tie a loop on each one with a piece of ribbon.
7. Hang the Nativity Figures on your Christmas Tree to share the Good News of our Savior!

# Nativity figures

