



**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT
COMMUNION
SERVICE**

***JESUS...*
IS COMING!**

DECEMBER 24 , 2023

7:00 PM

**WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
1008 SW 4th ST | TOPEKA KS 66606 | WWW.WSBCTOPEKA.ORG**

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

“JESUS...IS COMING!”

December 24, 2023

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

THE PRELUDES

Janice Hedberg, Church Organist

OPENING #183

“Once in Royal David’s City” (Stz. 1 & 4) *IRBY*

WELCOME & BIDDING

The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter

*A CAROL #199 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (Stz. 1, 2, 3) *ADESTE FIDELES*

*THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (STAND)

The Gospel of John (1:1-5) says this about Christ, the light of the world:

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.

This fulfills the prophecy from Isaiah 60:1-3, which also speaks of the coming light of the world:

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Finally, Revelation 21:23-24 looks forward to the day when Christ’s light will fill the whole world:

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

Sally Powell, “Candle Lighting Litanies for Advent and Christmas,” Reformed Worship 145 © September 2022 Worship Ministries of the Christian Reformed Church. Used with permission. All Rights Reserved.

A CAROL #183 “Good Christian Men, Rejoice” (Stz. All) IN DULCE JUBILO

CALL TO WORSHIP (STAND) *The Christ Candle’s Light of Love

Sing, O people! Sing, O earth!

Sing to the LORD a new song!

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised!

Let us tell of God’s salvation today...and every day!

Ascribe, O people, ascribe, O earth,

Give credit to the LORD and give God glory and strength!

Great is the Lord, who alone has made the heavens!

Let us declare God’s glory among the nations!

Rejoice, O heavens! Rejoice, O earth!

Let the seas and trees, the forests and fields rejoice, *Jesus is coming!*

Great is the Lord, and holy is God’s name!

Let us worship our God in holy splendor!

Adapted from Timothy Matthew Slemmons, “Lightening from the East: Liturgical Elements for Reformed Worship, Year B,” © 2013, Cascade Books, Eugene, Oregon. Used with permission.

***A COLLECT FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD –** O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Book of Common Prayer, Collect for the Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day, The Church Hymnal Corp.: New York. © 2007. Used with Permission. All rights reserved.

***A CAROL #181**

“Joy to the World!” (Stz 1,4)

ANTIOCH

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

ISAIAH 9:2-7

The Righteous Reign of the Coming King - Those who walked in the dark have seen a bright light. And it shines upon everyone who lives in the land of darkest shadows. Our Lord, you have made your nation stronger. Because of you, its people are glad and celebrate like workers at harvest time or like soldiers dividing up what they have taken. You have broken the power of those who abused and enslaved your people. You have rescued them just as you saved your people from Midian. The boots of marching

warriors and the blood-stained uniforms have been fed to flames and eaten by fire. A child has been born for us. We have been given a son who will be our ruler. His names will be Wonderful Counselor and Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace. His power will never end; peace will last forever. He will rule David's kingdom and make it grow strong. He will always rule with honesty and justice. The Lord All-Powerful will make certain that all of this is done. *The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

A CAROL #175 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Stz. 1 & 4) VENI EMMANUEL

A READING FROM THE PSALTER

PSALM 96

Praise to God Who Comes in Judgement

Sing a new song to the Lord! Everyone on this earth,
sing praises to the Lord, sing and praises his name.

Day after day announce, “The Lord has saved us!”

Tell every nation on earth,

“The Lord is wonderful and does marvelous things!

The Lord is great and deserves our greatest praise!

He is the only God worthy of our worship.

Other nations worship idols, but the Lord created the heavens.

**Give honor and praise to the Lord,
whose power and beauty fill his holy temple.”**

Tell everyone of every nation,

“Praise the glorious power of the Lord. He is wonderful!

Praise him and bring an offering into his temple.

**Everyone on earth, now tremble and worship the Lord,
majestic and holy.”**

Announce to the nations, “The Lord is King!

The world stands firm, never to be shaken,

and he will judge its people with fairness.”

Tell the heavens and the earth to be glad and celebrate!

Command the ocean to roar with all its creatures.

and the fields to rejoice with all their crops.

Then every tree in the forest will sing joyful songs to the Lord.

He is coming to judge all people.

on earth with fairness and truth.

A READING FROM THE WRITINGS OF THE APOSTLES TITUS 2:11-14

Teach Sound Doctrine - God has shown us undeserved grace by coming to save all people. He taught us to give up our wicked ways and our worldly desires and to live decent and honest lives in this world. We are filled with hope, as we wait for the glorious return of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. He gave himself to rescue us from everything evil and to make our hearts pure. He wanted us to be his own people and to be eager to do right.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

A CAROL #188 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" (Stz. 1, 4)

***THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)**

The Birth of Jesus - About that time Emperor Augustus gave orders for the names of all the people to be listed in record books. These first records were made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed. So, Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea. Long ago Bethlehem had been King David's hometown, and Joseph went there because he was from David's family. Mary was engaged to Joseph and traveled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby, and while they were there, she gave birth to her first-born son. She dressed him in baby clothes and laid him on a bed of hay, because there was no room for them in the inn.

A CAROL #196

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

The Shepherds and the Angels - That night in the fields near Bethlehem some shepherds were guarding their sheep. All at once an angel came down to them from the Lord, and the brightness of the Lord's glory flashed around them. The shepherds were frightened. But the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy. This very day in King David's hometown a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. You will know who he is, because you will find him dressed in baby clothes and lying on a bed of hay."

A CAROL #195 "Oh, Come, Little Children" (Stz. 1)

SCHULTZ

Suddenly many other angels came down from heaven and joined in praising God. They said: "Praise God in heaven! Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

A CAROL #184 "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Stz 1, 2, 4) GLORIA

After the angels had left and gone back to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has told us about." They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and they saw the baby lying on a bed of hay. When the shepherds saw Jesus, they told his parents what the angel had said about him. Everyone listened and was surprised. But Mary kept thinking about all this and wondering what it meant. As the shepherds returned to their sheep, they were praising God and saying wonderful things about him. Everything they had seen and heard was just as the angel had said.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

A CAROL # 192 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" MENDELSSOHN
A CAROL # 179 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" (Stz 1, 2)
REGENT SQUARE

A PRAYER & THE MESSAGE: "Good News for All the People"
The Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE & 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.

THE TABLE OF THE LORD

A CONFESSION OF FAITH Hebrews 1:1-4 & Colossians 1:19-23
Long ago in many ways and at many times God's prophets spoke his message to our ancestors.

But now at last, God sent his Son to bring his message to us.

God created the universe by his Son, and everything will someday belong to the Son.

God's Son has all the brightness of God's own glory and is like him in every way. By his own mighty words, he holds the universe together.

After the Son had washed away our sins, he sat down at the right side of the glorious God in heaven.

He had become much greater than the angels, and the name he was given is far greater than any of theirs.

God himself was pleased to live fully in his Son.

And God was pleased for him to make peace by sacrificing his blood on the cross, so that all beings in heaven and on earth would be brought back to God.

You used to be far from God. Your thoughts made you his enemies, and you did evil things.

But Jesus became a human and died.

So, God made peace with you, and now he lets you stand in his presence as people who are holy and faultless and innocent.

Therefore, we must stay deeply rooted and firm in our faith. We must not give up the hope we received when we heard the good news.

It was preached to everyone on earth, and I myself have become a servant of this message.

*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER – The Table of the Lord Jesus Christ is *open* to all persons, regardless of age, creed, gender, race, or church membership. All persons who love Jesus are invited to partake in this memorial meal commemorating the life, death, and resurrection of our Messiah. Please hold each element until everyone is served, then we will feast together. †**Servers Prepare for the Table of the Lord**

A CAROL #213

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

W. ZLOBIE LEZY

THE ORDINANCE OF HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**THE BODY OF CHRIST, THE BREAD OF HEAVEN
THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, THE CUP OF SALVATION**

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING – We will receive a Christmas Offering for the work of God in the neighborhood, city, nation, and world. Please give generously as the Lord enables you. You can give online or use an envelope available in the pews.



SPECIAL MUSIC *Gesu Bambino* **Matthew Smith**

RESPONDING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH

SPECIAL MUSIC (CHOIR) **“Away in a Manger”** *MUELLER*

†**THE CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY** – Ushers have distributed individual candles and wax protectors to worshipers before the service. ***Please be careful as the flame and wax are hot!*** The Minister will light the processional candles from the Christ Candle and pass the flame to the Ushers. An Usher will carry the flame to each aisle. ***Please keep lighted candles upright!*** Only tip the unlighted candles to transfer the flame person-to-person. We will sing after everyone has a lit candle.

***A CAROL #206 (STAND)** **“Silent Night”** *STILLE NACHT*

***THE BLESSING (STAND)** **Philippians 2:1-11**

Christ encourages you, and his love comforts you. God's Spirit unites you, and you are concerned for others. Now make Christ completely happy! Live in harmony by showing love for each other. Be united in what you think, as if you were only one person. Don't be jealous or proud but be humble and consider others more important than yourselves. Care about them as much as you care about yourselves and think the same way that Christ Jesus thought:

Christ was truly God.

But he did not try to remain equal with God.

**Instead, he gave up everything and became a slave,
when he became like one of us.**

Christ was humble.

He obeyed God and even died on a cross.

Then God gave Christ the highest place and honored his name above all others.

So, at the name of Jesus, everyone will bow down, those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth.

And to the glory of God the Father, everyone will openly agree, “Jesus Christ is Lord!”

SPOKEN BENEDICTION

The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter

POSTLUDE

NOTA BENE – Please place extinguished candles and wax protectors in the metal cans beside the Sanctuary doors after the worship service. Thank you!

All Scripture Readings were taken from the Contemporary English Version (CEV). Copyright © 1995 by American Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



POINSETTIAS – Thank you to the individuals and families who purchased and shared a poinsettia that graced the Sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Families are encouraged to take their poinsettias home after tonight’s service. Donors may leave their poinsettias in the Sanctuary over the next few weeks for decorations.

EMERGENCY - **If you have an emergency or need medical assistance, please notify an usher.** An Usher will contact 911 Emergency Services and tell any doctors, nurses, or medical staff in the Congregation. **An AED Defibrillator is in the entryway by the elevator.** If an emergency occurs, please keep calm and quiet. Listen for instructions from the Minister. The service will continue after the crisis is under control by professionals.



CHRISTMAS OFFERING - We will receive special Christmas Offerings. Please give generously and sacrificially to help love our neighbors in Jesus' name. Designate your offerings for one or more of the following:

1. Bibles for the US Military - Christmas 2023: Support Troops and Veterans by helping to provide the Bible. You can show brave American heroes how much you appreciate their sacrifices by helping provide the one thing that truly offers them lasting hope and peace — God's Word. Through your gift, you will help:



- A lonely Military Member serving in harm's way and far from home.
- A hurting Veteran who needs God's healing for physical and emotional wounds
- A Chaplain who needs more Bibles to provide urgent spiritual care.

Since 1816 donors to the American Bible Society have had the assurance that their contributions are faithfully providing God's Word to others.

2. Doorstep Inc (community service needs) - Our local mission partner, Doorstep Inc., has adopted 800 families for the holiday. We can help by donating towards a family in need: • Small Family (1-2Persons): \$40.00 • Medium Family (3-4 Persons): \$65.00 • Large Family (5+ Persons): \$100.00. ***We'll send 100% of your donation to our partners.***

3. West Side Baptist Church - Can you GIVE an end-of-the-year GIFT to help us reach our Budget Goal by December 31? You can give ONLINE, cash, check, envelope, or mail your gift to the Church Office. Your tax-deductible gift by December 31 will help change the lives of those who are still waiting for God's Word in our neighborhood. We are grateful for all you give!



Christmas blessings!
Pastor Ivan+



In Memory of

Remembering our loved ones gone, but not forgotten

In Memory of Clifford & Kathleen Bottom and Bill Ohse
Nancy Ohse

In Memory of Judy Longstaff and all our other loved ones who
have passed
Ernie Longstaff

In Memory of Judy Longstaff and John & Janice Cokeley
Will & Lynda Cokeley

In Memory of Lewis Foster
Angie Foster

In Memory of Reginald & Geneva Olson Kirby
Janice & Karen Kirby

In Memory of Mark Calloway, Harold, and Judy Calloway
Selena Jaimez

In Memory of our parents
Brian & Tonya Widow, John, Brian, and Jessica

In Memory of our loved ones
Marion & Myrt Blasdel

In Memory of Judy Longstaff
Pam & Jon Roberts

In Memory of Steve Boyce
Janice Hedberg Boyce

In Memory of Fred & Trena Ansell
Bob, Jennifer and Chris Blair

In Memory of John Amos, Ila Moe Martin, Robert Bowser
Barb Amos

In Memory of Nadine Manley
Ernie Reed

In Memory of all my loved ones
Marianne Spano

In Memory of Harry Carpenter
Pat Carpenter

In Memory of Don Morris, Clem & Vina
Morris and Everett & Opal Jones and
Debbie Morris
Molly Morris

In Memory of Rev. Gilbert McCurdy and Carroll McCurdy
Bev McCurdy

In Memory of Malcolm & Lois Smith, Fred and Elma Tschantz,
Dan Tschantz and Lisa Simpson
Brice & Colleen Smith

In Memory of Robert Pattie, Carlene Patie and Harold Hood
Steve & Janelle Hood

In Memory of The Lagerberg Family: Gustav & Hattie, Paul &
Olga and Jim & Mary
Bruce & Cathy Kready Smith

In Honor of my Church Family
Alimra Collier

