

2023 Children's Christmas Lovefeast

Chorales and CarolsHome Church Band, Nola Knouse, leader

Prelude - *Morning Star*Brian Henkelmann (2002)

Processional Chimes

WelcomeThe Rev. Ginny Hege Tobiassen

(Standing)

Hark! The Herald Angels SingT. *Herald Angels*

Hark! The herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all you nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King!"

Prayer

Invitation to the Lovefeast

(Serving)

Once in Royal David's City.....T. *Irby*

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
for that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heav'n above,
and he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

O Come, All Ye FaithfulT. *Adeste Fideles*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the king of angels!

Refrain: 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, glory in the highest! **Refrain**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

O Little Town of BethlehemT. St. Louis

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth;
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

Moravian Blessing: *Come, Lord Jesus, our guest to be; and bless these gifts bestowed by thee. Amen.*

(Partaking)

Anthem - *Star of the Mountain*Eugene Weigel (1910-1998)

Children's Choir

The Christmas StoryBecky Hodges, Director of Christian Formation

(Collecting)

What Child Is ThisT. Greensleeves

What child is this who, laid to rest on Mary's lap, is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and lamb are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Refrain

Away in a MangerT. *Away in a Manger*

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 you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
Be near me, Lord Jesus! I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

(Standing)

Angels We Have Heard on HighT. *Gloria*

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?

What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear? **Refrain**

Prayer and Offering

Offertory Music - *Sing We Now of Christmas* T. *Noel Nouvelet*, arr. Kristin Campbell (2007)
Jonathan Williams, organ and violin

Good Christian Friends, RejoiceT. *In Dulci Jubilo*

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart, and soul, and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today,
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart, and soul, and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

(Candles)

Ave MariaJ.S. Bach (1685-1750) and Charles Gounod (1818-1893)
Jonathan Williams, organ and violin

Morning StarFrancis Florentine Hagen (1815-1907)

(The congregation responds, singing the words in **bold print**.)

Soloist: Claire Richardson

Morning Star, O cheering sight! Ere thou cam'st, how dark earth's night!
Morning Star, O cheering sight! Ere thou cam'st, how dark earth's night!
Jesus mine, **in me shine**; in me shine, **Jesus mine; fill my heart with light divine.**

Morning Star, thy glory bright far excels the sun's clear light.
Morning Star, thy glory bright far excels the sun's clear light.
Jesus be, **constantly, constantly, Jesus be more than thousand suns to me.**

Thy glad beams, thou Morning Star, cheer the nations near and far.

Thy glad beams, thou Morning Star, cheer the nations near and far.

Thee we own, **Lord alone**, Lord alone, **thee we own, our dear Savior, God's dear son.**

Morning Star, my soul's true light, tarry not, dispel my night.

Morning Star, my soul's true light, tarry not, dispel my night.

Jesus mine, **in me shine**; in me shine, **Jesus mine; fill my heart with light divine.**

Silent NightT. *Stille Nacht*

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 your holy face,

with the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at your birth; Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Christmas MessageRev. Tobiassen

(Standing)

Christ the LordT. *Christ the Lord*

Christ the Lord, the Lord most glorious, now is born; O shout aloud!

We by him are made victorious; praise the Savior, hail our God!

Praise the Lord, whose saving splendor shines into the darkest night;

O what praises shall we render for this never-ceasing light?

(Lift candles)

Praise the Lord, God our salvation, praise him who retrieved our loss;

sing, with awe and love's sensation, hallelujah, God with us!

Benediction

Postlude - Chorale Prelude on "In Dulci Jubilo" (BuxWV 197)...Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

A Christmas Prayer

Rejoice, for to you is born a Savior who is Christ the Lord! We join in prayer for the indwelling of the Spirit of Christ as we offer God our worship in this holy season. May the peace of the Lord abide with us all!

Virginia Hege Tobiassen, *Pastor*
Becky Hodges, *Director of Christian Formation*
Glenn Siebert, *Director of Music*
Jonathan Williams, *Organist*
Cambria Dyess, *Youth Ministry Coordinator*

We ask that no photographs or recordings be made during the services. Please do not use cameras, recording devices, cell phones or iPads in the Sanctuary in order that there be no distractions from worship.

We are thankful for the following artists whose work graces this year's cover: Seth Eudy, Ashby Fisher, Louise Johnson, Charlotte McCrory, and Claire and Sydney Richardson.

Instructions for making your own manger: 1. Cut out the figures from the front cover (Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus are together as one; The Wisemen are together as one; The Shepherds are together as one). 2. Make cuts along the black lines at the bottom of each figure. 3. Cut out the strips beside the manger scene (do not cut the dotted line). 4. Cut the solid black lines on each strip and fold the strip on the dotted line (these will be the stands for your figures). 5. Match the stand slits to the figure slits and insert the figures into the stands. 6. Place your manger scene where you can see it often. Merry Christmas!

For those children who are not able to drink hot coffee during the lovefeast, juice boxes are available in each vestibule, to be picked up before the service begins.

All proceeds from this offering will be donated to the following Christian ministries: Crisis Control Ministry, Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries, and Sunnyside Ministry.

The poinsettias used in the decorations are placed in the Sanctuary in loving memory of *Roy C. and Ester Hampton Haberkern, Roy C. Jr. and Carlotta "Tota" Haberkern, Anthony H. Whitaker, Mary A. Hampton, and Anna L. Rights* by the family.

The narcissi are placed in the Sanctuary in loving memory of *Mr. and Mrs. C. T. "Clarence and Margaret" Leinbach, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. C.T. "Ted and Kaka" Leinbach, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. L.B. "Brick and Kafoo" Leinbach, Mr. W. J. "Bill" Leinbach, Mr. and Mrs. P.H. "Paul and Margaret" Kolb, Margaret Leinbach Hawkins, Mark Edward Hepler, Kathryn Leinbach Brown, and Caroline Leinbach Woo* by the family.

The Lovefeast candles are given in loving memory of *Mr. and Mrs. Anthony H. "Mike" Disher, Mr. and Mrs. Bynum V. "Bill" Disher, and Mr. Lloyd W. Disher by the family.*

The boutonnières provided for the ushers, dieners, and pastors are given by Deb and Mike Garner in memory of *our beloved Home Moravian sisters and brothers who have gone to their heavenly home since last Christmas.*

The wreaths are placed on the outside doors of the Sanctuary in loving memory of *I.B. and Mary Southerland* by I.B. and Carol Southerland and their family.

Personal sound receivers to assist with hearing are available. If you would like to use one, talk with one of the ushers, who will provide you with a receiver and show you how to use it.