

December 24, 2023

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

God writes His Word on our Lives, building us into a Family engaged in Spirit-filled Service.



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Pastor Steven Hayden

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Aids for hearing, children's activity bulletins, and large print bulletins are available from the ushers

Solo:

“Who Would Imagine a King?”

Sung during the placing of Jesus in the manger.

Pastor: We begin in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

The Carol #386

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa-ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

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Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

People: To us a child is born.

Pastor: To us a Son is given.

People: And the government will be on his shoulders.

Pastor: And he will be called—

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

Pastor: For unto you is born today in the city of David—

People: A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

Pastor: On this holy night, merciful Father, hear our confession, for frequently we hesitate to take your Son.

People: Instead we take the forbidden fruit, like Adam and Eve, and hide behind the bushes.

Pastor: We take advantage of others, while mouthing pious words.

People: We take your blessings for granted, living with thankless hearts.

Pastor: We take vengeance upon those who hurt us, promising retaliation.

People: We take life into our own hands, ignoring your holy will.

Pastor: We take refuge and satisfaction in sin, spurning your commandments.

People: We take hold of our possessions, refusing to let them go.

Pastor: We take part in sinful conversations, oblivious as to how they break your heart.

People: Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

Pastor: Luke writes in tonight's gospel lesson, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). Jesus your Savior took your place in the manger and upon the cross. As the Christ and Lord, Jesus took all of your sin, shame and brokenness. I announce to you the complete and full pardon of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. For unto you is born today in the city of David—

People: A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

The Carol #380

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



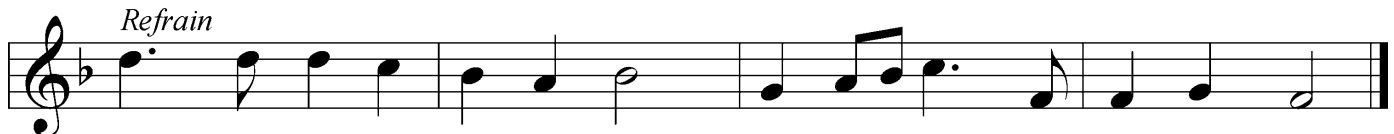
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”

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The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince

of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Quartet: *“Still, Still, Still”*

The Epistle Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to his own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Solo *“O Holy Night”*

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:8-14

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

The Carol #367 v1-2,4-5

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"



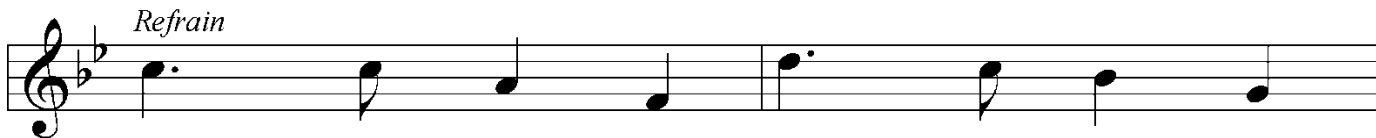
1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Refrain
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Confession of our Faith

I believe in God the Father, Creator of all things, who sent His Son as my Savior. I believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by angels, worshiped by the Wise Men, who lived to suffer, die, and rise again, to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil. I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ and by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ my worship, my life, my love; to live under Him as my King, now and forever. Amen.

The Carol #379

“O Come All Ye Faithful”



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 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



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

The Message

The Prayers

Pastor: Dear Lord Jesus, you came from eternity into time and space—not as a metaphor or myth, fable or tale—but to bear our sin and be our Savior. We sing to you with all the humility and joy we can muster, “Born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.” We praise, bless and adore you as we embrace the hymn of the angels. For unto you is born today in the city of David—

People: **A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!**

Pastor: Dear Lord Jesus, we thank you that Luke took such great care to detail

the history of your birth—one of the greatest details is the lowliness of your birth. Any other king—like Caesar Augustus—would've come with great fanfare and a royal entourage. But you came into our world in profound weakness. "No room in the inn" wasn't an insult to you; it was your choice, your plan, the way of the gospel. We rejoice with the angels who announced. For unto you is born today in the city of David—

People: A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

Pastor: Dear Lord Jesus, you didn't consider equality with God something to be protected or hoarded. Rather, you made yourself nothing, becoming one of us. And with measureless love and indescribable compassion, you died in our place upon the cross. Thank you for these angelic lyrics. For unto you is born today in the city of David—

People: A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

Pastor: Dear Lord Jesus, we long for the Day when every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that you are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. But on this Christmas Eve, we humble ourselves, in quietness and stillness, gratefulness and peace. We pray in your merciful and mighty name, Jesus.

People: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

The Service of Lights

(The lighting of the candles. Please, to avoid dripping the wax, tip only the unlit candle; do not tip the lighted candle. Hold burning candles straight up. Please do not allow little children to hold the burning candles. We have glow sticks available for anyone who does not wish to hold a candle.)

Pastor: As we light our candles, we remember and worship our Savior, Jesus Christ, God's light of love. "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you" (Isaiah 60:1). "When Jesus spoke again to the

people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'" (John 8:12). "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth" (Ephesians 5:8-9). "In the same way, let your light shine before people, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

The Carol #361

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
 So God im-parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, You made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. You have filled us with the Light of the World who became human and lived among us. Let the light of our faith in the Christ-Child shine in all we do and say. In His name we pray, live, and reflect His light.

People: Amen.

Pastor: You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and then cover its light. Instead they set the lamp upon its stand, set up high, so that it lights everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine in the world, that people may see your good works and give praise to Your Father in heaven.

The Christmas Blessing

Pastor: The Lord is your light. He is your life and salvation.

People: Thanks be to Christ, our light.

Pastor: The Lord's benediction is not a wish. As I speak this blessing of the Lord, the gift is yours. Receive it with joy on this holy night, as the Holy Spirit opens this gift and reveals its truth to you:

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

The Carol #363

"Silent Night, Holy Night"



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round you
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - dant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,
stream from heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
beams from Thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



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

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SILENT PRAYER

(Please extinguish your candles.)

Thank you to all the musicians who led us in worship tonight. Your talents, used to praise our newborn king, are the greatest gift you can give to us.

The Poinsettias that Decorate the church were donated by

Carol & Jerry Campbell	In memory of their parents
Carol Cambell	In memory of her brother
Lance & Jerry Pailer	In memory of their mothers Marie & Mary
Jack & Rosalyn Carson	In Memory of their parents, Julie , & Sue
Jaye & Cindy McCrea	In memory of their parents
Don & Pam Menke	In memory of their loved ones
Mike & Reda Joost	In Memory of their parents
Alison Vancott	Those before us
Shirley & Bob Mai x2	In memory of their parents
Susan & Walter Krause x2	In memory of their parents
Janis & Mara Lipacis	In memory of their parents
Rosemary Bonnough	In memory of Clay Bonnough
Pat & Jean Page	In memory of their parents
Davis Mortensen	In memory of Ann & Cathy
Kathy & Gary Roper	In memory of their parents & son
Robert & Marcia Elkins	In memory of their parents Carl & Nippy Johnson, Edward & Marian Elkins

Christmas Day Worship is at 10:00am tomorrow morning. Please join us.

