

**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Olympia, WA
Christmas Eve Family Worship
December 24, 2022 5:00 p.m.**

Written by Deacon Beth Tobin, 2001 for Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Olympia, WA. Permission to share so long as credit is given.

Welcome: *The pastor welcomes everyone to the Christmas Eve Service.*

Procession of Light and Reading from Isaiah

Processional Hymn: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

The pastor will process the Light in during the reading from Isaiah. When the light reaches the front, the tree lights turn on and the congregation begins to sing and the children process in in the following order:

Worship Leaders: *Process the Cross, Light, and Bible.*

Readers: *Process to pulpit.*

Angels: *Process to tree side steps and sit.*

Stable Animals: *Process to manger area and sit in character.*

Shepherds and Sheep: *Process to front of pulpit; sheep on floor, shepherds on steps & sit.*

Holy Family and Donkey: *Remain in Narthex, ready to enter at the appropriate time.*

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Congregation

Oh, come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the king of angels:

Refrain:

Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy,
Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing

REFRAIN

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest:

REFRAIN

Greeting: (Pastor)

Prayer: (Pastor or Reader)

Word:

As the readings are read, we add to the manger scene in front of the altar.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-5 Reader 1 _____

(Mary/Joseph/Donkey head down the aisle.)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” Congregation

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in they dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee to night.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:6-7 Reader 2 _____

(Baby Jesus is placed in the manger.)

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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.

“Away in a Manger”

Children vs. 1 Congregation vs. 1-2-3

Readers step out from behind pulpit, Shepherds, Sheep, and Angels stand to sing in place. Children around the manger stand and sing in place. During v. 2-3 Shepherds move closer to the red carpet/center aisle ready to respond during the next reading.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:8-14 Reader 3 _____

While this Gospel is read have an Angel stand up, gesture, and pretend to speak the words. The shepherds need to act afraid of the angel at first.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before 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; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

While “Angels We Have Heard on High” is being sung, the little ones, dressed as Angels, “fly” throughout the sanctuary. When the angels return from their flight, they join the manger scene up front.

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Congregation

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Refrain

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:15 Reader 4 _____

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.”

Have the shepherds look at each other on “Bethlehem” gesture “talking” about it and walk with sheep to Bethlehem to see the baby - by joining the manger scene, if it’s too crowded, kneel on cushions in front of railing.

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Congregation

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 angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:16-20 Reader 5 _____

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

Christmas Message (Pastor/Deacon)

Collect shepherd staffs, shepherds and sheep can sit on cushions.
All children are invited forward to sit on steps.

After message, children return to their parents as congregation sings hymn.

Hymn: “Good Christian Friends Rejoice” Congregation

Prayers

Offering:

Student Solo - Piano

Great Thanksgiving

Post Communion Prayer

Children are invited forward for:

Lighting of the Candles

After the Pastor’s candle has been lit from the eternity candle, children may light their glow sticks.

Candle Lighting Music:

Hymn: Silent Night v. 1-3 Guitar

Third verse, children hold their glow sticks up high.

During recessional hymn, children recess out following the Pastor, greet everyone, and return costumes to Fireside Room.

“Joy to the World”

Congregation (four verses)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare him room
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

Dismissal:

Go in peace to serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!