

ADVENT VESPERS

Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church
Northfield, Minnesota



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Service of Light — from *Holden Evening Prayer*

Cantor *All*

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world; the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

Cantor *All*

Stay with us now, for it is evening, and the day is al - most over.

Cantor *All*

Let your light scat - ter the darkness, and shine within your peo - ple

here.

2

Evening Hymn — “Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory”

JOYOUS LIGHT



Joy - ous light of heav'n - ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own face,
In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of dawn,
You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev-'ry danc - ing star of night,
you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on ev - 'ry land and race.
in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song.
make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light.
Now as eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to you.
Love that fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul,
Might - y God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way,
God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.
love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.
lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- ☐ Christ, our light, shine in our lives with hope and promise.
Open our eyes to see you in others.
Help us to be people of hope.

As we light the Advent candles, I invite you to light two candles
on your Advent wreath, or two candles you have in your home.
May we be connected by the light of Christ this evening.

- ☑ **Risen Christ, Light of the world,**
shine in our lives and shine among us now.



Evening Thanksgiving

Cantor *All*

May God be with you all, and al - so with you;

Cantor *All*

Let us sing our thanks to God, It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Cantor: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe—from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

All

A - - - men.

Psalmody — Psalm 141, “Let My Prayer Rise Up”

Please sing with either Group I or Group II.

All

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the
lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

Group I

O God, I call to you, come to me now; O hear my voice when I

Group II

O God, I call to you, come to me now; O

cry to you. Let my prayer rise up like incense be -
 hear my voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise up like
 fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you. Keep
 in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.
 watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your love be
 Keep watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the
 burn - ing bright. Let my prayer rise up like incense be -
 light of your love be burn - ing bright. Let my prayer rise up like
 fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you. All
 in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.
 praise to the God of all— Cre - a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the
 All praise to the God of all— Cre - a - tor of life; all

Spir - it of love. Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be -
praise be to Christ and the Spir-it of love. Let my prayer rise up like
fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.
in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

Prayer

- ☐ May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.
- ☑ Amen.

Reading — Jeremiah 29:4-14

⁴Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. ⁸For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, ⁹for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD. ¹⁰For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹²Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Story — “What We’ll Build” by Oliver Jeffers

The Annunciation

Cantor: *An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, “Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High.” And Mary said, “I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will.”*

Magnificat

1., 3. My soul pro - claims your great - ness, O God, and my
2. You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -

spir - it re - joice - es in you, You have looked with love on your
lift - ed the hum - ble of heart, You have filled the hun - gry with

ser - vant here, and blessed me the all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part. *fine last time*

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more. How you fa - vor the
strong is your jus - tice, strong your love, As you prom - ised to

weak and low - ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart.
Sar - ah and A - bra - ham, kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

Prayers

All: (repeat continuously while cantor sings verses)

(Hmm) God of mer - cy, hold us in love.

The musical score for the All response is written in B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves, treble and bass. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a long note on 'God' and a series of eighth notes on 'of mer - cy, hold us in love.' The accompaniment is a simple harmonic support.

Cantor: *In peace, in peace, we pray to you:*

For peace and salvation, we pray to you:

For peace between nations, and peace between peoples:

For all of your servants who live out your gospel:

For all those who govern, that justice might guide them:

For all those who labor in service to others:

Grant weather that nourishes all of creation:

Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger:

For all the beloved who rest in your mercy:

Cantor
Help, us, com - fort us, all of our days:

All
Keep us, hold us, gra - cious God.

The musical score for the Cantor and All response is written in B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves, treble and bass. The Cantor's part is a simple melody with a long note on 'Help' and a series of eighth notes on 'us, com - fort us, all of our days:'. The All response is a simple harmonic support with a long note on 'Keep' and a series of eighth notes on 'us, hold us, gra - cious God.'

Closing Prayer

P Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Final Blessing

Cantor *All*

Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you.

Cantor

May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may Christ be ev-er light for our

lives, may the Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for all of our days.

All

A - - - - - men.

*Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always. **C** And also with you.

You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

Worship Leaders:

Nancy Ordahl-Kmoch, Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Nathan Proctor, piano; Sonja Wermager, violin

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