



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

CALVARY Lutheran Church  
480 MONTEREY AVE.  
MORRO BAY, CALIFORNIA  
Pastor Brian Stein-Webber

December 24, 2023  
Christmas Eve



**PRELUDE****WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Brian Stein-Webber

**CAROL**                    **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #270**                    (red hymnal, rear section)

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!”

**REFRAIN**

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
 late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel!

**REFRAIN**

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.  
 Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.

**REFRAIN****GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray together... **Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.**  
**Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the**  
**brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the**  
**Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

**WORD AND SONG**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

**First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7**

*(congregation please join in on the **bold** words)*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
**those who lived in a land of deep darkness –on them light has shined.**  
 You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;  
**they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,**  
**as people exult when dividing plunder.**

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.**

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.**

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.

**The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.**

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**O Holy Night**

**Clay Schmit**

**CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION**

**GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:1-20**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus  
that all the world should be registered.

This was the first registration  
and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

All went to their own towns to be registered.

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.

He went to be registered with Mary,  
to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

**CAROL      O Little Town of Bethlehem #279      (red hymnal, rear section)**

**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 wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king and peace to all the earth.**

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

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

### **GOSPEL READING CONTINUED**

While [Joseph and Mary] were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.  
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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night.  
Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them,  
and they were terrified. 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:  
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.  
This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”  
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,  
praising God and saying,  
“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

**CAROL     `Angels We Have Heard on High #289     (red hymnal, rear section)**

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

### **REFRAIN**

**Glo.....ria in excelsis Deo;  
Glo.....ria in excelsis Deo;**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?**

### **REFRAIN**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn king**

### **REFRAIN**

### **GOSPEL LESSON COMPLETED**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,  
“Let us go now into Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place,  
which the Lord has made known to us.”  
So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.  
When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;  
and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.  
But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.  
The shepherds returned,  
glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen,  
as it had been told them.

**SERMON****Pastor Brian Stein-Webber****SERMON HYMN      The First Noel #300      (red hymnal, rear section)**

**The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

**REFRAIN**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.**

**REFRAIN**

**This star drew near to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.**

**REFRAIN****PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

*A brief silence.*

Your infinite love is born to us this night. With choirs of angels the church proclaims the good news. Send us out as messengers of the hope that has come to all people. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You are pleased to dwell with your creatures and the whole earth sings for joy. Renew the splendor of creation from the smallest cell to the widest galaxies. Guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your authority is over the nations. Break the rod of oppression in every land and free all people from fear. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where there is suffering, and healing where there is disease. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Protect infants and children, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain, especially those whom we remember in our hearts. Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your lovingkindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those among us, or known to us, who are experiencing distress of body or mind, missing loved ones, or grieving. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together.... **God of abundance,  
 receive and bless these gifts we have offered.  
 Join our hearts with the song of the angels,  
 and gather us at your table of celebration.  
 Strengthen us to share with all the world  
 the abundance of your grace upon grace,  
 poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.  
 Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

On the other night at the end of his life, in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it  
 and gave it to his disciples saying,  
 "Take and eat, this is my body given for you.  
 Do this in remembrance of me."

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
 "Drink this, all of you. It is the new covenant of my blood,  
 shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this in remembrance of me.'

Let pray the prayer that our Lord Jesus taught us:

**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.**

## **TAKING OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*[All who desire may come forward to take the body and blood of Christ. For the sake of reducing transmission of illness, please open your hands to receive the wafer, and then take the plastic cup from the tray for drink. There are gluten-free wafers available as well as non-alcoholic wine. Please let the server know if you wish one of these kinds. Please also let the server know if your child will be receiving communion, or otherwise, a prayer.]*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in eternal life.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together:

**God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life.**

**As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace.**

**Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**AMEN.**

## **BLESSING**

God bless you and keep you, ✝ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **CAROL          Silent Night, Holy Night #281    (red hymnal, rear section)**

*[Please have your candles out for lighting for this hymn. The candle with the light should be held upright while the candle to be lit should bend over to receive the light. Please help children with the lighting of their candles.]*

**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.**

*[You may extinguish your candles at this point.]*

**DISMISSAL**

Christ the Savior is born!  
 Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.  
 Thanks be to God.

**CAROL**                    **Go, Tell It on the Mountain #290** (red hymnal, rear section)

**REFRAIN**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
 go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
 behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.**

**REFRAIN**

**The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth  
 rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.**

**REFRAIN**

**Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
 and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.**

**REFRAIN**

Thank you to:

- **Andy Jacoby** for assisting in worship.
- **Sandy McMillan and others** for counting the offering.
- **Joyce Bauer, Nikki Rocha and Kathie Sperow** for preparing communion.
- **Janet Lorenzo** and others for streaming worship.
- **Janet Lorenzo and Gail Brochtrup** for editing and assembling bulletins and the newsletter.
- **Nancy Padilla**, for setting up and welcoming.
- **Gary and Mark Orback**, for tending to our outside property.
- **Sophia and Janet Lorenzo**, for tending to our inside property.
- **Ken Brocks, Dan Sperow, Andrew Jacoby, Mike Lorenzo and Gary Brochtrup** for their handyman work.
- **The Church Council**, for leading our congregation.

Events this week:

- **Christmas Day worship** will be tomorrow Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am in the sanctuary.
- **Epiphany Day worship** will be on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, starting at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary.
- The **Congregational Annual Meeting** will be on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> after worship has ended.
- Let Pastor Brian know if you would like to **start receiving his weekly emails**.  
 (bsteinwebber@gmail.com)

Don't forget to check the Calendar website page for upcoming events: [morrobaylutherans.org](http://morrobaylutherans.org)