

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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Find us on Facebook



Music - Scriptures - Silence - Reflection - Prayer

Wednesday, December 21, 2020

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Pastor Carol Braun

A brief explanation about the service

Call to Worship

Leader: Remember the messengers of faith you have known, rejoice and give thanks for their witness.

People: We, too, will prepare the way of Christ; we will help to level the hills and valleys of life.

Leader: Hold one another in your hearts this day; pray that love may rule all your relationships.

People: We will weep with those who weep. We will rejoice with those who rejoice.

Leader: God be with you wherever you go. Amen

Song In the Bleak Midwinter ELW 294 V.1

**In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;**

**snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.**

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

Opening Prayer

God of love and understanding, we gather here this evening to confront our pain in the midst of the world's celebration. Help us know that you are present with us in all our moods and feelings and seasons. Grant us a taste of the hope, peace, joy and love that you promise to all of your people through the gift of your Son, Jesus. Amen

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 40:28-29, 31

We hear words of compassion and encouragement to our feelings, weakness, and powerlessness. The prophet Isaiah gives us God's words of assurance that he will comfort and support us.

Matthew 11:28-30

When burdens get piled on top of other burdens, the load can crush us. In His promise, Jesus offers us help to carry the burdens and responsibilities.

Luke 14:15-24

This story offers hope for those who have no one to invite them. It reminds us that in God's divine order, no one is excluded—all are invited!

Reflection

Song **In the Bleak Midwinter** **ELW 294** **V.2**

**Heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty,
Jesus Christ.**

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

Candle lighting

Leader: We light four candles tonight in honor of our loved ones. We light one for our **grief**, one for our **courage**, one for our **memories** and one for our **love**.

Leader: This candle represents our **grief**. We own the pain of losing loved ones, of dreams that go unfulfilled, of hopes that evaporate in despair. (Reader lights candle; a brief silence follows.)

Leader: This candle represents our **courage**. It symbolizes the courage to confront our sorrow, to comfort each other, to share our feelings honestly and openly with each other, and to dare to hope in the midst of pain. (Reader lights a candle; a brief silence follows.)

Leader: This candle represents our **memories**. For the times we laughed together, cried together, were angry with one another or overjoyed with one another. We light this candle for the memories of caring and joy we shared together. (Reader lights a candle; a brief silence follows.)

Leader: This candle represents our **love**. The love we have given, and the love we have received. The love that has gone unacknowledged and unfelt and the love that has been shared in times of joy and sorrow. (Reader lights a candle; a brief silence follows.)

Leader: You are invited to light candles you have which represent your burdens, grief, sorrow and all things which make Christmas a “blue” time for you. You may speak the name or the event if you wish to do so.

Pause to light candles, the leader continues...

Leader: We light the Christ candle, remembering that Jesus Christ is always the center of our lives. He hears our cries, he knows our hearts and in the midst of all our thoughts and emotions, he offers us hope and healing. (Leader lights the Christ candle.)

Leader: Let us pray, Comforting God, wrap us in your presence in this time of remembrance. With these candles, help us find your light, a light that guides us day by day, step by step, as we try to live fully and wholly. We cherish the special ways in which we have been touched

by our loved ones. We thank you for the gift their lives have been to us. Now comfort us, encourage us and empower us. **Amen**

Song In the Bleak Midwinter ELW 294 V.3

**What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—
give my heart.**

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

Invitation to Communion

Leader: In him was life, and life was the light of all

**People: The light shines in the darkness, and the
darkness has not overcome it.**

Leader: Beloved, this is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table. Come, not because you must, but because you may, not because you are worthy, but because you are forgiven.

People: From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn

“Silent Night”

ELW 281

- 1 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.**

- 2 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!**

**3 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.**

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

Blessing

Leader: Go in peace, knowing that the God whose love created this world sent Jesus into the same world to be our friend, companion and Savior. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out!

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sending Music

Special Thank You to our Recording crew and Musicians