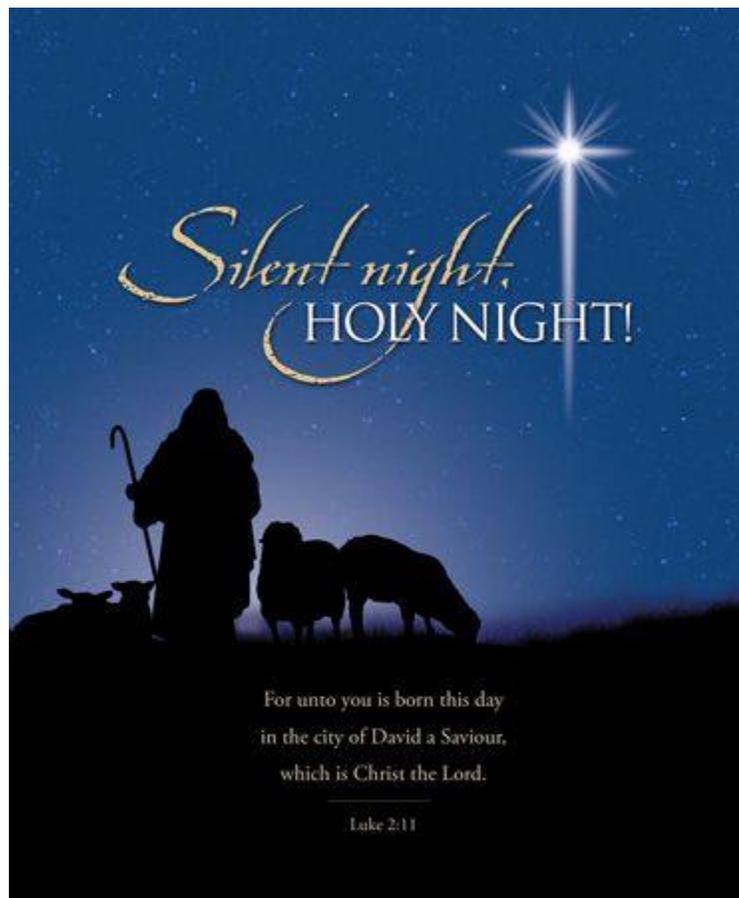


SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD / CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2021

December 24, 2021
Nativity of Our Lord I: Christmas Eve

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

SOLO

O Holy Night

MARTY WENGER

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who sends the word with angels,
who is made flesh among all peoples,
and who breathes peace on all the earth.

Amen.

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Holy God,
we confess our sin before you.
We replace compassion with competition.
We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.
We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.
We have not put on love in harmony with you.
Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.
Swaddle our hearts with your peace,
that all we do, in word or deed,
may reflect your love born among us.
Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy for all people:
God has come among us
in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.
† In Christ your sins are forgiven
and you are clothed in peace.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG (all verses)

O, Come, All Ye Faithful



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



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

A reading from Titus.

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (intro)

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And 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!"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR BILL

HYMN OF THE DAY (verses 1&4)

It Came upon the Midnight Clear



- 1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
- 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
- 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
- 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

Please stand if you are able.

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Nicene Creed.

CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(Please respond.)*

P: Merciful God.... C: receive our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY *(intro)*

In the Bleak Midwinter



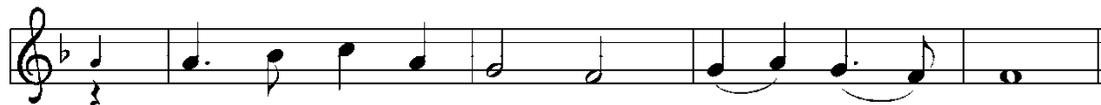
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



If I were a shep - herd 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
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,
your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,
prepare us to receive the grace and truth
you offer at this table
and renew in us the song of your salvation,
in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - Tune of *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heav'n and earth adored.

O how blest is he who comes in the holy name of God.

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!"

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER *sung*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In Christ's manger, at Christ's table,
come, see what God makes known for you.

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher, maintaining your distance. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Return to your seat.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,
God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.
As we have shared this feast of love,
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

The minister lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolized Christ, the Light of the world of who John's gospel speaks. The acolytes light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted but is always held upright when giving light to another. Extinguish candles following the Blessing.

INTRODUCTION TO SILENT NIGHT

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

A PRAYER AT CHRISTMAS

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

Congregation extinguishes their candle

SENDING SONG (All verses)

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

Christ is born!
Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.
Thanks be to God.

CHOIR BENEDICTION

May the light of Christ

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

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Head Usher Marjorie Dale
Acolyte Rebekah Aldrich, Sarah Aldrich, Sam Nienstedt, Aaron Shreiner
Lector Katy Nienstedt
Securing Offering Janice McEntire & Zoe Mummert
Communion Set-Up Becky & Sam Mull
Communion Clean-Up Becky & Sam Mull
Bread Cubes Frances Reichard
Communion Assist Becky Mull

Stewardship Thought - Dec. 24, 2021 (Nativity of Our Lord) Titus 2:11, 12 –For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly. It requires some readjustment to live fully as steward/disciples. Through Jesus we find strength. As we more fully turn to Jesus, our eyes clear, our minds brighten, and we find it easier to turn from worldly desires and values to the joy and simplicity of life in Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in loving memory of J. Austin & Nellie Hess given by Susie, Sally & Randy and their families.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

Prayer requests for the following: *Jane Winters, Alan Johnson, Linda Wepking, Ann Grapes, Bonnie Hudson, Jean Jackson, Frances Kramer, Connie Bikle, Nancy Bumbaugh Cook, Charles and Mary Jo Bedsworth, Rich Plummer, Minnie Tom, Bonnie Creager Youcum, Sandy Chilcote, Sandy Bream, Linda Keller, Raelynn Tarman, Susie Alleman, David Riggleman, Thelma Briggs, Darrell Veilleux, Bud Armstrong, Gertie Reichard, Manny Negron, Anne English, Millie Kulkusky.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Note:** At the beginning of each month, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.

“Believing in the real presence of Christ, this church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion when they are visiting in the congregations of this church.” (from the ELCA's sacramental practices statement) As Lutherans, we believe that the bread and wine of Holy Communion are signs given by God, signs that Christ is fully present among us. It is through the words and the elements that we experience the real presence of Christ. If you are unable to receive either of the elements, be assured that even in the words, Christ is present to you. If you believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Savior, you are welcome to come to the Table and be fed and nurtured with us.

Communion Cards – in order to maintain accurate records, we ask that each member fill out a communion card **only once per calendar year**, at a service when you partake of Holy Communion.

We ask that you please **silence your cell phones** during the worship service.

*The Christmas Poinsettias in
Memory and Honor of Family and Friends
have been donated by:*

*Doug, Zoe & Family
In memory of Glenn & Nelle Mummert*

*Rose & Family
In memory of Don Wishard*

*Ron, Bonney, Kevin & Brian Coldsmith
In memory of our parents Bill & Louise Coldsmith
In memory of Jack & Bea White*

*Wayne & Marjorie Dale
In memory of our parents: Harold & Dorothy Dale and
John & Hazel McKenzie
In honor of our children & grandchildren*

*Don & Ginny Detwiler
In memory of Ginny's parents
In memory of Don's parents*

*Mark & Sally Gayman
In memory of our parents
In honor of our children & grandchildren*

*Bernie & Edna Harris
In honor of our children, grandchildren & great-grandchild*

*Ilona & Jerry Laney
In honor of Audrey
In honor of Clark*

Rich & Janice McEntire

*In memory of our parents Richard & Wanda McEntire
and Daniel & Betty Bingaman
In honor of our sons & their families*

Sam & Becky Mull

In memory of our loved ones

The Nienstedt Family

*In memory of Gerry & Christian Nienstedt
In honor of David & Joan Likeness*

Clif & Carole Rau

In memory of loved ones

Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Veilleux

In honor of Pastor Bill's retirement, best wishes

DECEMBER 24-25, 2021
CHRISTMAS EVE, CHRISTMAS DAY

In Jesus we find hope and see God's glory.

taking
faith
home

CHRISTMAS BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Christmas celebration.

Friday	Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-20	The coming king The birth of Jesus
Saturday	Titus 3:4-7 John 1:1-14	Maintain good deeds The Word became flesh

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."
Luke 2:14 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Christmas:

Loving God, we thank you for the hope you give us and all the world to overcome hurts and disappointments through Jesus, born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God, thank you for this special day; bless all we do and all we say. May we each enjoy your blessings, as Jesus' birth we celebrate. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, bless you with hope, peace, joy, and love.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What concerns do you have for the world today?
- How does God bring hope for the whole world?

HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS

O Little Town of Bethlehem



DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 2:1-20.

Read these verses slowly. Treasure the message that Mary treasured. As the hymn (*O Little Town of Bethlehem*) says, “The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.” From a small town, from peasants tending sheep at night, and for a young couple gazing at their newborn son, comes a message that conquers powerful empires. When political, economic, and military realms wreak havoc on defenseless people, whether ancient or modern, God remembers promises made and enters into human history. The Christmas gospel confidently tells the story of God’s determination, God’s loyalty, and the power of God’s reign even while suffering lingers in our daily lives. The angels sing, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.” This is the story of God’s glory and power that will not be stopped.

Discuss: Who is someone to whom you would like to tell the story about the birth of Jesus?

Pray: **God of love and mercy, help us to remember the story of Jesus’ birth and your entry into our lives that gives us eternal hope and peace. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Christmas Bible Readings and theme, what act of kindness can you do for someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

For Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, light the four candles on the Advent Wreath plus the white candle in the center.

Say: **We light the Prophet’s, Bethlehem, Shepherd’s, and Angel’s candles on the Advent wreath symbolizing God’s unending love. We now light the white candle, the Christ candle, that represents the birth of Jesus and hope for all the world.**

Pray: **Dear God, we thank you for entering our world. May we show your hope, peace, joy and love in our daily lives, through Christ Jesus. Amen.**