



CHRISTMAS EVE
Lessons and Carols



CHURCH OF THE
SAVIOR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023



We're so glad you're here.



At Church of the Savior, our vision is to grow in “Loving God, Loving Others, Loving Life.” We hope you sense God's presence and our warm welcome. We'd love to meet you in the foyer after the service.

--Fr. Kevin and Mtr. Karen

About Our Worship: We use an Anglican liturgy. Liturgy simply means that everyone gets to participate, so please join in as you feel comfortable.

Children's Worship: Children are invited to sit with their families. Coloring pages are available. The Fireside Room will be open for anyone who needs extra space. Children's worship will restart January 6th.

Assisted Listening or Noise Cancelling Headphones: Pick up a loop in the livestream booth (the door to the right of the fireplace in the Fireside Room). An usher can guide you there. Noise cancelling headphones are available at the info table for those who might be sensitive to noise.

On Christmas, we Celebrate the Word of God Becoming Flesh: When Jesus was born, God spoke not just through prophets' words but as a living person. Frederick Buechner says, “When God spoke in Jesus Christ, what came out was not Hebrew or the King James Version or a sentiment suitable for hanging in a pastor's study. On the contrary, ‘the Word become flesh’ (John 1:17).” Christmas reminds us that God came not as a disembodied concept, but standing in our midst as a person.

Want to Stay in Touch? Let us know how at [FriendsOfTheSavior.org/visitor](https://www.FriendsOfTheSavior.org/visitor)

PRELUDE & WELCOME

Please enjoy a few moments of silence during the prelude as you quiet your mind and prepare your heart for worship.

Let All Mortal Flesh

Meiying Howard, Oboe

Once in Royal David's City

Charlie Green, Trumpet; Amy Howard, Horn

THE WORD OF GOD

PROCESSIONAL

You may stand.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild;
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations rise;
Join the triumph of the skies.
With th'angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
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 th'incarnate Deity;
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.

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.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels

*O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord*

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
O sing all ye bright
Hosts of heav'n above
Glory to God all
Glory in the highest

Yea Lord we greet Thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

LESSONS & CAROLS

PROPHETS

ISAIAH 9:2-7

Reader: We are here to celebrate the mystery of Christmas, the time when we are all on the way to Bethlehem.

But who will show us the way?

The prophets. Prophets listen to God. So they can show us the way.

Isaiah was a prophet who listened and spoke the word of God. He said one day the Messiah would be born. The Messiah would be like a light shining in the darkness. This is what Isaiah said:

² The people walking in darkness
 have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
 a light has dawned.

³ You have enlarged the nation
 and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
 as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
 when dividing the plunder.

⁴ For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
 you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
 the bar across their shoulders,
 the rod of their oppressor.

⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle
 and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
 will be fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
 to us a son is given,
 and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.

We now light the first Advent candle.

Reader: Here is Isaiah. Prophets like Isaiah can show us the way to Bethlehem.

Joy To The World

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her 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

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders wonders of His love

Reader: Mary and Joseph are on the way to Bethlehem. They can show us the way. They have good news. An angel came to Mary and said,

²⁸ “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

² In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

We now light the second Advent candle.

Reader: Here are Mary and Joseph and their donkey on their way to Bethlehem where Jesus will be born. They can show us the way.

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

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 wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to us on earth

SHEPHERDS

LUKE 2:8-12, 16

Reader: The shepherds are on the way to Bethlehem. They can show us the way. They also have good news.

⁸ [They were] living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to 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. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

We now light the third Advent candle.

Reader: Here are the shepherds and their sheep who are on the way to Bethlehem to see the special child who was born. They can show us they way.

What Child Is This

What Child is this who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping
This this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste haste to bring Him laud
The Babe the Son of Mary

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding
Good Christian fear for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading
Nails spear shall pierce Him through
The cross be borne for me for you
Hail hail the Word made flesh
The Babe the Son of Mary

MAGI

MATTHEW 2:2, 9-11

Reader: The Magi are on the way to Bethlehem. They can show us the way. The Magi saw a special star in the sky, a star for a king. They followed the star to Jerusalem, and asked King Herod,

² “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

We now light the fourth Advent candle.

Reader: Here are the Magi and their camel bringing gifts to the newborn king. They can show us the way.

We Three Kings (Kings Of Orient)

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain moor and mountain
Following yonder star

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever ceasing never
Over us all to reign

*O star of wonder star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light*

Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising voices raising
Worship Him God on high

Myrrh is mine its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing sighing bleeding dying
Sealed in the stone cold tomb

NEWBORN KING

LUKE 2:6-7

Reader: Tonight is Christmas Eve, the night we celebrate the mystery of God becoming a person. Tonight we are all at Bethlehem to meet the Christ child, the special Son of God.

⁶ While [Mary and Joseph] were [in Bethlehem], the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

We now light the Christ candle.

Reader: Here is the newborn Christ child, lying in a manger bed...
Christ the Light, a Light for the whole world.

Christ is Light. The Light shines in the darkness, and the
darkness has not overcome it.

You may stand.

As we light our candles, please tip only the unlit candle to avoid wax drips.

Silent Night

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
Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord at Thy birth
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

Silent night holy night
Wondrous star lend thy light
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

*When the song ends, please extinguish your candle, allow the wax to cool, then pass
your candle toward the center aisle where ushers will collect them.*

MESSAGE



I Got There First
by Moshe, a sheep herder

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All: And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Please be seated.

THE OFFERTORY

O Holy Night

Solo offered by John Rakes, Pastor of Music and Worship.

THE DOXOLOGY

You may stand.

O Come Let Us Adore Him

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

And so we join the saints and angels in proclaiming your glory, as we say together,

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Recalling now his suffering and death, and celebrating his resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Accept, O Lord, our sacrifice of praise, this memorial of our redemption.

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of your Son. And grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may be filled with your life and goodness.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ:

All: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

All: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Please join us for Communion: all who are baptized and seeking to follow Jesus are welcome. If that doesn't describe you, simply say "Blessing," or cross your arms, and the minister distributing bread will pray a short prayer for God's favor on your life. The first tray contains wine; the second contains grape juice. Ushers will release you row by row, finishing with the Fireside Room. Please place your empty cup in the basket at the end of the line.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

COMMUNION SONGS

In The Bleak Midwinter

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

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 can I give Him
Give my heart

Angels From The Realms Of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth

*Come and worship come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King*

Saints before the altar bending
Watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord descending
In His temple shall appear

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"
Charles Wesley | Felix Mendelssohn
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"O Come All Ye Faithful"
C. Frederick Oakeley | John Francis Wade
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"Joy To The World"
George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts
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"O Little Town Of Bethlehem"
Lewis Henry Redner | Phillips Brooks
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"What Child Is This (Greensleeves)"
Unknown | William Chatterton Dix
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"We Three Kings (Kings Of Orient)"
John Henry Hopkins Jr.
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"Silent Night"
Franz Xaver Gruber | John Freeman Young | Joseph Mohr
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"Jesus, King of Angels"
Fernando Ortega
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"O Come Let Us Adore Him"
C. Frederick Oakeley | John Francis Wade
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"In the Bleak Midwinter"
Christina Georgina Rossetti | Gustav Theodore Holst
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"Angels from the Realms of Glory"
Music: Henry Thomas Smart
Words: James Montgomery
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"Away in a Manager"
Music: James Ramsey Murray
Words: John Thomas McFarland | attr. Martin Luther
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"Good Christian Friends Rejoice"
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO
Words: tr. John Mason Neale
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"Go Tell it on the Mountain"
John W. Work, Jr.
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Away in a Manger

Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

Good Christian friends rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Give ye heed to what we say
News news Jesus Christ is born today
Ox and ass before Him bow
And He is in the manger now
Christ is born today
Christ is born today

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Now ye need not fear the grave
Peace peace Jesus Christ was born to save
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain His everlasting hall
Christ was born to save
Christ was born to save

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Celebrant: May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.

All: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

*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

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come Worship with the Wise Men

On January 6th, plan to stay after worship for a piece of rosca, the traditional “kings’ bread,” as we observe the kings’ worship of Jesus. We’ll have hot cocoa, too. (Need to run? Take a slice of rosca with you.) And if you find a small figure of baby Jesus in your rosca, save it in order to bring it back on February 3rd, when we celebrate the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

December 30th Service

Worship on December 30th will be a prayer and praise service, with communion, at our normal time of 5PM.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Nursery & Children’s Worship: Children’s Worship will restart January 6th. We provide Nursery for children 6 months through 4 years and two Children’s Worship classes. Kindergarten through 2nd Grade may attend Young Children in Worship, and 3rd to 5th Grade may attend Following Jesus.

Youth: Youth Group Gatherings will resume January 27th. See you then!
Future dates are: February 10th and 24th, March 9th, and April 6th and 20th.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Have a question about your donation? Or about something in the budget? Email our bookkeeper, Jean Ann Parker: jeanann@friendsofthesavior.org

This Year's Giving Goal: \$365,000
As of December 16:

Budgeted Giving Goal = \$353,925
Actual Giving = \$297,046
Over/(Under) = (\$56,879)

Donations to Church of the Savior:

✉ Church of the Savior, PO Box 507, Wheaton, IL 60187
🖥 friendsofthesavior.org/giving

STAFF

Rector: Kevin Miller	kevin@friendsofthesavior.org
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Meals Ministry	Cara Peterson
Prayer and Communion	Marj Mead
Prayers of the People	Deb Nickerson
Scripture Readers	Hope Grant
Setup	Angel Gonzalez
Welcome Team	Gayle Koehler

To ask about a ministry or volunteer to get involved, please talk with its leader (emails are found at friendsofthesavior.org/serve) or with Pastor Sarah Lindsay (sarah@friendsofthesavior.org).

VESTRY

Christine Sloat: Senior Warden
Synthia Cathcart: Junior Warden
Karen Bailey: Church Clerk
Karen Miller
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ASSISTING CLERGY

Bill Richardson, Co-Founding Pastor, Retired
Linda Richardson, Co-Founding Pastor, Retired



Journeying Together: Loving God, Loving Others, Loving Life

FriendsOfTheSavior.org

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