

LIGHT OF LIGHT ETERNAL

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2022 – 4:00 PM

The Prelude:

“Away in a Manger”

David Lasky

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Janet Linker

The Chiming of the Hour

*The Opening Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 80

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

* The Greeting

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome and Introduction

LET THERE BE LIGHT

The Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

Read by Joellah Bouwman

the reading concludes with...

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness,

People: **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 38:1,3

“In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness”

This stanza follows:

**This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful
word; now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its
Lord evermore and evermore.**

LUYH 78:3

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

The Reading: Isaiah 59:4,7-9; Isaiah 9:2-6

the reading concludes with...

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness,

People: **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 88

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

The Reading: Luke 2:1-11

Read by Celia Sharda

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

the lighting concludes with...

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness,

People: **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 86

“Away in a Manger”

The Anthem: “Angels’ Gloria”

arr. Laura Farnell

*Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains, and the
mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Alleluia, alleluia! Gloria
in excelsis!*

*Gloria! 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 the angelic hosts
proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

*Sing, choirs of angels! Allelu, allelu, alleluia! Sing in exultation!
Sing alleluia!*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there, upon that silent night.
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air. Glories stream from heaven
afar, heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia!” Sleep in heavenly peace. Gloria!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

THE POWER OF THE LIGHT

The Reading: John 1:1-4

the reading concludes with...

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness,

People: **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Anthem: “Gaudeamus Hodie”

Earlene Rentz

Gaudeamus Hodie, Gaudeamus Hodie! Hallelujah!

Gaudete, Gaudete, Gaudeamus hodie!

(English translation: Let us rejoice today.)

*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 92

“Joy to the World”

THE LIGHT OF LIGHT ETERNAL

The Reading: Revelation 22:1-5

Read by Jack Becksvort

the reading concludes with...

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness,

People: **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 87

“Once in Royal David’s City”

CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

The Reading: Philippians 2:12-16

the reading concludes with...

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness,

People: **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Words of Sending

The Sharing of Christ’s Light

*As a symbol of our commitment to follow the Light of the world, we
will light individual candles with the light spread from the Christ
Candle. Please tip your candle toward the lighted candle that is
offered to you. As we hold up our lights we will rise and sing the
following verses of “Silent Night”:*

The Candle Lighting Hymn: “Silent Night! Holy Night”

All:

**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.**

All:

**Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing
“Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is
born!”**

All:

**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!**

All a cappella:

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.”

after all the candles are lit:

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness,
People: **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 76
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*The Benediction

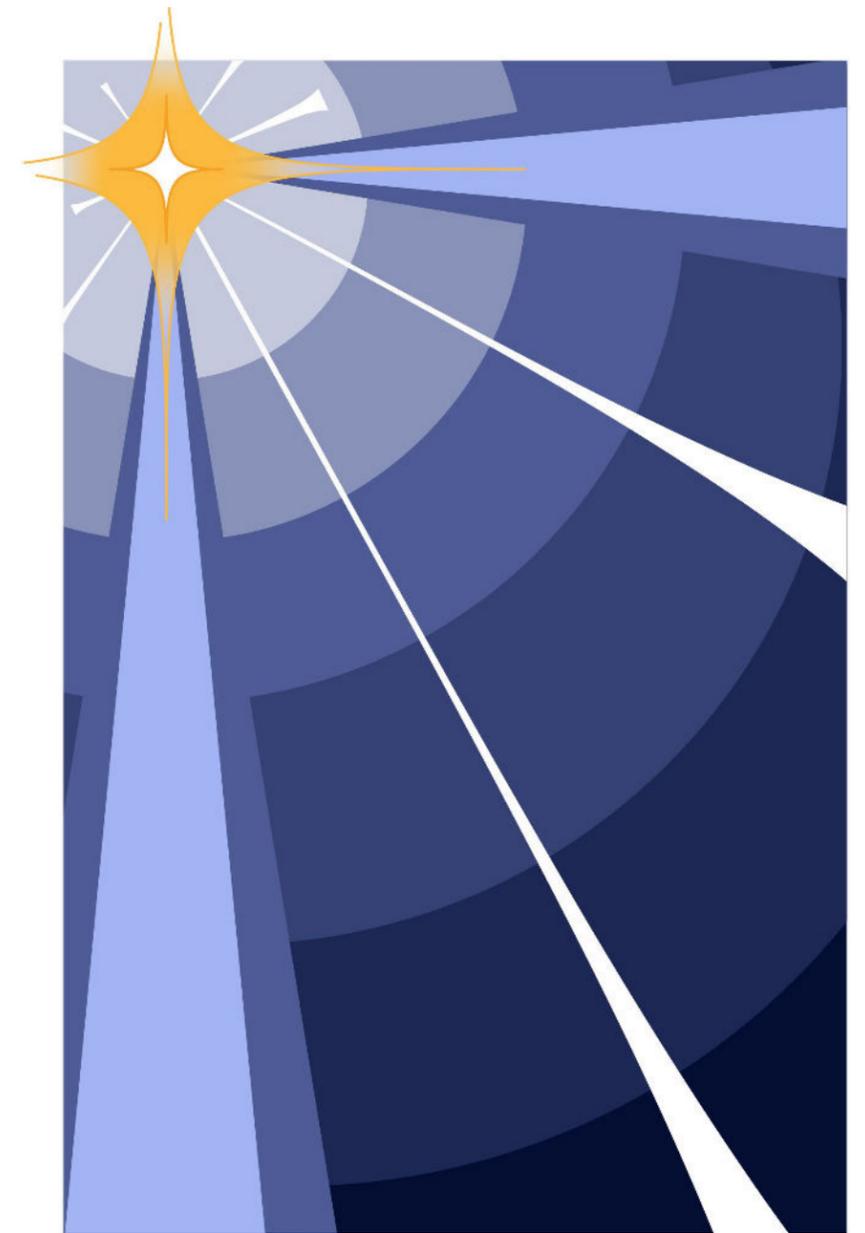
*The Postlude:
“God Rest You Merry” Wilbur Held, Christopher Uehlein

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister
Pastor Bob Grussing – liturgist
Sara Good – organist, pianist
7-12 Choir, Renee Vande Wege – director
Jonathah Bouwman, Joellah Bouwman, Levi Vande Wege,
Jack Becksvoort – acolytes
Jared Mulder – bulletin cover design

Your gifts for Bethany Christian Services will be received at the door following the service. Bethany Christian Services is a Christian adoption and family services agency that manifests the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by protecting and enhancing the lives of children and families through quality social services.

Christmas Banners at LaGrave: The primary sanctuary color of Christmas is white, symbolizing the purity and holiness of Jesus. The Christ child born in the manger was truly God and truly man. The only respect in which his humanity differed from you and me is that Jesus was perfect and lived a sinless life. It was that very sinless life that enabled him to take our sins upon himself.

The gold color represents the kingship of Christ. The colors in the banners bring together the First Advent, purple; the birth of Christ, white; and the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent, gold, in the joy and celebration of Christmas. Christ, our King, is born!



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