

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2023 – 4:00 PM

The Prelude:

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Joseph Martin

“Away in a Manger”

Joseph Martin

The Chiming of the Hour

*The Call to Worship:

All God’s people – boys and girls, women and men:

Come and worship!

Shepherds, Magi, saints and angels:

Come and worship! Come and worship!

All who need a Savior; all who long for peace:

Come and worship, come and worship Christ the newborn King!

*The Opening Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 76:1-3

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*The Greeting

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome and Introduction

PEACE WITH GOD

The Loss of Peace

The Readings: Matthew 1:20-23, Romans 3:21-24

Read by Ella Busscher

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 95

“What Child Is This”

PEACE BETWEEN PEOPLE

The Loss of Peace

The Readings: Luke 2:8-14, Ephesians 2:14-15

Read by Penny Redder

The Hymn: Worship and Rejoice 191

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

PEACE WITH THE NATURAL WORLD

The Loss of Peace

The Readings: John 1:1-4, Revelation 21:3-5a

Read by Polly Slotsema

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 92

“Joy to the World”

PEACE WITH OURSELVES

The Loss of Peace

The Readings: Luke 2:15-20, 1 Corinthians 1:26-10

The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 80

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

The Christ Candle is Lit

Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Read by the Holford family

Concluded by...

To us a Child is born, to son us a Son is given.

**And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

The Christmas Prayer

*The Words of Sending

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 93

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

*The Benediction

*The Postlude:

“In Dulci Jubilo” (In Sweetest Joy), BWV 729, BWV 608

Johann Sebastian Bach

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister

Rev. Kristy Manion – liturgist

Dr. Rob Hobgood – organist, pianist

David Versluis – cover and banner 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!

