

Christmas Eve



*From Generation to Generation:
We Tell This Story*

Saturday, December 24, 2022 | Christ on Capitol Hill

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GATHERING

Congregational responses are in bold print.

The Holy Spirit gathers us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Natalia Peterson

WELCOME

THEME – Christmas Eve – *We tell this story*

We tell this story every year because it shows so clearly God’s desire to be in relationship with people. We tell this story because we, too, are invited to come to the manger and witness the miracle. We tell this story because it brings hope and good news—hope especially for those deemed powerless, unworthy or unwelcome. It’s a story we need to hear again and again. On this night, we tell this story to pass along this good news and continue to thread together the generations with hope.

**You may stand*

***GATHERING SONG**

Angels We Have Heard on High

Worship 289

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Readers

Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked to fill in the blank for the statement: “My story is...” From the voices of different generations, hear their answers:

Adair Bullock

Rory Bullock

Craig Dokken

Carol Dokken

SOLO

A Miracle Came

Dan Koopmans

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Holy God, we need this story—this Christmas story. We need this story of ordinary people who were brave. We need this story of love that changed the world. We need this story of angel choruses that give reason to hope, and starlight that reminds us to look up. In a battered and bruised world, we gather around your Word like people gather around a fire to warm themselves. So we are here, gathered together to warm ourselves by your light, because we need this story. We need the truth that lies deep in these holy words. So today we pray: scoop out space in us to truly listen. Quiet our minds. Open our hearts. Kindle the fire. **Amen.**

SONG

Love Has Come

Worship 292

WORD

God speaks to us through scripture reading, preaching, and song

GOSPEL

Luke 2: 1-20

Readers

English (vs. 1-7)

Tigrinia (vs. 8-12)

English (vs. 13-20)

A reading from Luke

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!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Pastor Joy McDonald Coltvet

*SONG

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

Worship 271

**You may stand*

CALL TO CONFESSION, CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

As a kid I used to think the prayer of confession was scary. I thought it was a moment designed to make me feel guilty, intended for eyes cast down and shoulders hung low. But that's not it at all. The prayer of confession is an invitation. It's an opportunity to say, "This is who I've been, and this is who I long to be." So let us pray together. Let us be truth tellers. Let us hold our heads high and speak honestly before God and one another. This is easy to do when we are surrounded by a God who delights in us. Friends, let us pray:
Holy God, We admit—we don't fully understand the Christmas story.

We are not familiar with angel choruses.

We have not walked many miles to be counted in a census,

and we don't always hear your voice in our dreams.

We don't fully understand this story, so we admit, sometimes we hesitate to tell it.

Instead of running out into the streets to shout that there is a love bigger than we could imagine,

we whisper this good news.

Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting people in,

we simply leave them unlocked, hoping folks will figure it out.

Instead of telling the next generation why this night matters so much,

we stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure.

Forgive us for our silence.

Forgive us for our hesitation.

Forgive us for the moments when we fail to share your good news.

Plant this story of love so deep in our bones that we cannot help but share it from generation to generation. Amen.

Friends, repeat after me:

No matter where we go,

No matter where we go,

No matter what we say,

No matter what we say,

No matter what we do,

No matter what we do,

We belong to God.

We belong to God.

We are held.

We are held.

We are loved.

We are loved.

We are forgiven.

We are forgiven. Amen!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that for generations people have gathered together on this holy night, because there is something about this story that speaks to the deepest parts of us. We believe in bundling up this hope, this good news, and passing it on— to our children, to our neighbors, to the world around us. I believe my voice can make a difference, just like I believe this

story can make a difference, so I will not stay quiet. I will tell this story—of a love that makes room for all. I will sing this story—of a love that knows our name. I will live this story—because love has come again. I believe that words have power. I will not stay quiet. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

Pastor

P The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

You are invited to stand, turn & greet one another with a bow or wave, in the name of Jesus!

OFFERING

O Holy Night

Alissa Lawson

OFFERING PRAYER

Leader

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels and gather us at your table of grace upon grace, in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

RESPONSE

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord vs 1, 3

Worship 286

_____ **MEAL** _____

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sin, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours forever and ever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor

Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

Everyone is welcome to take communion!

You may sit until the ushers direct you when to come forward. You may receive the bread/wafer in cupped hands—like a manger. Cups of grape juice are available on both sides. If you need gluten free, just indicate to your server.

COMMUNION SONGS

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
It Came upon a Midnight Clear

Worship 276
Worship 282

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth and life. As you have gathered us in joy, make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CANDLE LIGHTING *with* SILENT NIGHT

[Tilt only unlit candles; lighted candles should remain upright.]

Lighting of the candles as John 1 is read by Pastor Joy

When all candles are lit, all join in singing:

**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! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**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.**

The candles are extinguished. Remember these words from Godly Play—

Watch, when the light is extinguished, it goes everywhere.

————— **SENDING** —————

God blesses us and sends us into the world.

BLESSING

Pastor

Grace from God's own heart, peace from the + Child in the manger, and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings for you today and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

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.

CHARGE

Leader

Go with Christ who fills you with grace and truth!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Natalia Peterson

<p>Worship Participants— <i>everyone here</i></p> <p>Preacher/Presider Pastor Joy McDonald Coltvvet</p> <p>Worship Leader Pastoral Intern Carrie Stiles</p> <p>Readers Edward Mumba, Yohannes Gabir Pastor Joy</p>	<p>Advent Candle Lighting Words Adair and Rory Bullock Craig and Carol Dokken</p> <p>Greeters Kathy Harris Carol Dokken</p> <p>Musicians Natalia Peterson Dan Koopmans Alissa Lawson</p>	<p>Ushers/Candle Lighters George & Kathy Kolstad Scott Seitz</p> <p>Communion Servers Pastor Joy McDonald Coltvvet Pastor Edward Mumba Pastoral Intern Carrie Stiles</p> <p>Tech Team Ben McDonald Coltvvet Bobbie Cloud, Abenet Coltvvet</p>
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May you all have a joyful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Poinsettias—Thank you!

Thank you to all who ordered the lovely poinsettias to beautify the worship space.

New Year’s Day Worship—January 1 at **10:30 am**—Lessons & Carols of Christmas

20s and 30s Gathering at Shamrock's on West 7th

This will be a chance to touch base and catch up for those associated with Christ on Capitol Hill. Bring a friend, partner, or family member. It will be lead by Craig Dokken and Intern Carrie Stiles on **Thursday, Jan 5th- 5:30pm**. Come enjoy time together!

Godly Play & Four12 resume on January 8, 2022.

Christ’s Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, January 29 after 9:30 am Worship.

Thank you to all who made 2023 *Becoming New* commitments!

THANK YOU so much to **every single person** who has given gifts of any size to Christ this past year, and to all of those who turned in commitment cards for 2023 giving as a part of our ***Becoming New*** stewardship appeal. With God’s guiding, we will continue to ***Becoming New*** in more and more ways into the future.

Year-End Gifts

In a season when we receive many good requests from many worthy causes, and in a year when offerings already have been generous, we want to remind you how important your offering to the ministry of Christ (the General Fund) is for our health as a congregation. We invite you to give generously at this year-end.

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