



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2023 4:00 pm.

Resurrection Lutheran Church

9777 Grand Avenue
Franklin Park, IL 60131
Phone: 847-455-7013

E-mail: office@rlcfp.org, Website: www.rlcfp.org

Resurrection Lutheran Church is called by God, to reach beyond our walls and share the Good News, bringing Christ to the world through Prayer, Love, and Action.

Christmas Eve **How does a weary world rejoice? *We make room***

All guests are welcome at the table of the Lord to receive communion if they have been baptized and believe Christ is present in the Sacrament. Please fill out a pew card and give to the usher when coming forward for communion.

We hope that you enjoy the pre-service music and spend this time reflecting and preparing your hearts and minds for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PRELUDE “*God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*”, arrangement by Robert Powell

CALL TO WORSHIP

- P There is room for you here.
If you're weary and worn, or hopeful and patient.
- C If you're tired and lost, or wrapped up in hope.**
- P If you're new to this place, or have been here before.
- C Come in, come in.**
There is room for you here.
- P The angels are singing,
- C “Be not afraid.”**
- P The angels are singing,
- C “Good news and great joy!”**
- P So come in, come in!
- C There is room for us here.**

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!

CANDLELIGHTING LITURGY

P How does a weary world hold onto hope, practice peace, spread joy, or know love?

C How does a weary world combat cruelty?

P How does a weary world shine a light into our bleakest night?

C We do all these things with God's help. For tonight, a child is born in Bethlehem.

P Tonight, Christ draws near.

C Tonight, we light the Christ Candle.

P Tonight, we are not alone.

C God is near. Love has drawn close. Rejoice! For God loves this weary world. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P Did you know that a version of the phrase, "Be not afraid" is written in scripture as many as 365 times? That's one for every day.

God says, "Be not afraid." The angels say, "Be not afraid."

Over and over again, we are told to not be afraid. Friends, that sentiment carries us into this moment of prayer. During the prayer of confession we are honest with God about the mess of our lives and we are met with God's grace. God does not meet us with anger. God does not hold a grudge. God does not keep score. Instead, God wraps us in mercy and holds us in love. So be not afraid, and join me in the prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P Loving Christ, Scripture tells us that you were placed in a manger among livestock and hay because there was no place in the guest room.

C The space was full, and yet— your parents made room.

P Scripture tells us that shepherds arrived from the fields beyond town.

C The space was full, and yet— they made room.

P Scripture tells us that Mary pondered what the shepherds had to say. Her heart was full, and yet— she made room.

Too often we assume there is no more room.

C Too often we choose exclusion and close off our hearts. Teach us how to make room for one another.

Teach us how to make room for you.

Carve out space in our hearts to love as you love, for we do not want to build hostility here.

We want to build your promised day. Guide us forward.

With hope and honesty we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P Friends, the angels say, “Be not afraid,” but they also say, “Unto *you* a child is born.”
Christ is born for you. Christ walked this earth for you. Christ forgives you.
That’s what love does. It makes room. It offers grace. It learns your name.
So repeat these words of hope after me: Unto us a child is born.

C Unto us a child is born.

P Unto us grace is given.

C Unto us grace is given.

P May this good news change the very fabric of our lives.

C Christ has made room for all of us. Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

SHARING OF PEACE

SONG *“Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella”*, arrangement by Alfred Fedek

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

P Loving God,

We have heard this story before—

the story of a star in the sky and a baby who was laid in a manger.

We have heard this story before—

passed down in hopeful whispers through the generations.

So this night, as we lean our hearts and our ears closer to you,

we ask that you would make room in our souls to hear this story again.

Make room in us for awe. Make room in us for wonder.

Make room for heartache and compassion. Make room in our hearts for you.

Pull us into the narrative, that we might hear the truths in this ancient Word as if it were the first time.

For we know that you are still speaking. So speak to us again this night.

We are listening.

We are already making room.

C Amen.

P Hear the Word of the Lord from Isaiah 9:2-7:

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 96 (read responsively)

¹Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**

³Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the
peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD,
for you come to | judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

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.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

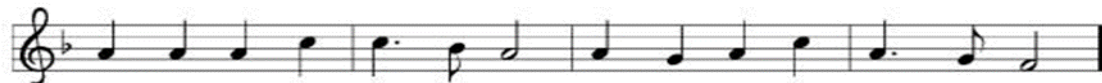
⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news 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!”

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:15-20

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.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Stand as you are able

HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”
(verse 3 see page 9)

ELW #289

Please be seated

SERMON

Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell

HYMN

ELW #270

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav’n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king!”

AFIRMATION OF FAITH

C We believe in a God who makes room for us—
who opens the door, pulls up a seat,
puts the kettle on, and says, “Tell me everything.”
We believe that God not only treats us this way but also makes room for
our neighbors, for strangers, and for our enemies.
Jesus modeled this kind of room-making love when he said, “Let the children
come to me,” and, “Let me wash your feet,” so we try to follow suit.
In a world of closed doors, we believe in saying,
“There is room for you here.” Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P Holy God,
We have been waiting a long time for this night— for the joy and the quiet of
Christmas Eve, for the sound of the angel chorus, for the old familiar songs.
We have carried weary hearts through the last four weeks of Advent, longing for
the peace and hope of this night, and now we’re finally here. So as we bow our
heads, we offer you our most earnest and honest prayers, trusting that once again,
you meet us where we are. So tonight God, we say thank you for the things in our
lives that spark joy: Thank you for the gift of family recipes and crowded tables.
Thank you for a slower schedule, as many approach vacation. Thank you for infus-
ing this season with practices of generosity. Thank you for the bells, and the songs,
and the candles in the windows. Thank you for the children who squeal with joy,
and the neighbors who drop off cookies. Thank you for every ounce of beauty that
marks this season; it has made it possible for us to join our voices with the angel
chorus.

However, God, even in the face of remarkable joy, we still bring weary and worried
hearts to you this night. Because we know that many have an empty seat at the table
this year. We know that many will celebrate Christmas from a hospital room. We
know that many have crunched numbers over and over again to see if they could
afford a gift. We know that for far too many, the holidays are a reminder that the
world is still not as it should be.

So in between our joy and our weariness, God, we ask that you would make room.
Pour yourself into the cracks of our hearts. Bind yourself to our good days and our
bad days. Carve out space for your love in the center of our beings so that no matter
where we go we might trust the angels' song when they say, “Be not afraid,” and,
“Joy to the world!”

Until then, until the day when joy overpowers weariness, until the day when there is
room for all at every table, until your promised day, we will continue to pray as your
son taught us to pray, saying:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

"We Are an Offering"

ELW #692

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering.
Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands,
Lord use our lives, they are yours:
we are an offering

All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be,
we give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering, we are an offering.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C **Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



Scan to donate!

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Page 144

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION - *all are invited *gluten free wafers are available.*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

“Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”, arrangement by Robert Powell

“Coventry Carol”, arrangement by Robert Powell

ELW #279

TABLE BLESSING

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

C **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P God of angel choruses and teenage mothers, there are a million other places we could be, but tonight we wanted to be here. Tonight, we needed to be here— online and in person, worshipping together on this joy-filled Christmas Eve. For when we gather around this table we remember the ways that you always make room for us. You are always pulling up chairs, welcoming the children, the tax collectors, and the outcast. At your dinner party, no one gets turned away. Help us to carry that inclusive spirit into the rest of our lives, for we know that love like that is what turns weariness into joy. With grateful hearts we pray,

C **amen.**

Candle Lighting Instructions

The ushers will receive their light from the Pastor. They will then come down the center aisle holding their candle upright. You will tip your wick to their candle. As soon as your candle is lit hold it upright and offer the light to your neighbor who will tip their candle to yours. The candles may be extinguished when the lights come back on.

Silence

CANDLELIGHTING HYMN

ELW# 281

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,

Hol - der 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

BENEDICTION

P Family of faith, as you leave this place, you go into a weary world—
so speak tenderly. Do the good that is yours to do. Choose connection.
Hold onto hope. And remember that Christ took on flesh for you. You are
God's beloved.
So go rejoicing.
The world needs it.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

ELW# 267

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.

DISMISSAL

P Go over the hills and everywhere and tell the story. Christ, the newborn king, is with you.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *“Dost Thou in a Manger Lie?”, arrangement by Robert Powell*

Henrietta Atkin, pianist

Wayne Ryerson, oboist

Cover art created by Joyce De Winter

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23703. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

CELEBRATING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

The Poinsettias decorating the sanctuary are to the Glory of God and in honor or memory of loved ones from the following people:

Linda Andrade in memory of her sister Natalie and her brother Jeff.

Sue & Pat Flanagan in memory of their son Dean, in memory of their parents and brother, and in memory of Darlene Kessling.

Sue Koevenig to the glory of God.

Alan & Barb Miralgio in memory of Frank & Agnes Miralgio, and in memory of Herbert Diekman & Anne Darcy.

Pastors Darryl & Carla Thompson Powell in honor of all God's blessings this year.

Barbara Ziemer in memory of Ron Ziemer and Erwin & Jeanette Ziemer.

Poinsettias may be taken home after the service

