

Christmas Eve – Live Nativity –Friday, December 24th, 2021 3:00 pm

Music Today

Cross Road

Welcome & Invocation

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Opening Song **O Come, All Ye Faithful (v.1,3)**

- ¹ 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: Refrain
- ref O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!
- ³ Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: Refrain

Text: Public domain

Opening Dialog

Pastor: For to us a child is born!

People: To us a Son is given

Pastor: And He will be called: Wonderful Counselor

People: Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Solo One Small Child (*Duet with Natalie Lietzau & Lydia Johnson*)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Pastor: On the four Sundays in Advent, we light a new candle each week. We mark the four candles with these four words: hope, peace, joy, and love. The circular wreath of evergreen branches reminds us of the eternal nature of our Lord God, and that He gives the promise of eternal life for all who believe, just as a circle is unending, and an evergreen lives through winter. The blue colors of the 3 candles remind us of the royalty of Jesus, and how He welcomes us into His Kingdom. The single pink candles reminds us to pause our lives and reorient ourselves to positivity and joy. The center white candle reminds us that Christ is the center of our lives and makes us pure.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the hope of the nations.

People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we hope.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.

People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we rest.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the source of all joy.

People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we rejoice.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Lord of love.

People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word His love finds us.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the center of our lives.

People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word he forgives our sins.

Call to Worship "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

Angel 1

From Heaven above to earth I come; To bring good news to everyone!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring; To all the world, and gladly sing.

All (Congregation Sings vs 8)

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery That You might share Your joy with me.

Angel 2

To you this night is born a child ; Of Mary chosen virgin mild;
This new born child of lowly birth; Shall be the joy of all the earth

All (Congregation Sings vs 14)

My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

Reflection

Pastor: Gathered before an empty stable, we are reminded of many things:
The Announcement by the Angels of Jesus Birth
That the Shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem
Of Joseph and Mary's Journey that ended...here.
That God's Son came into a world where there was no room for him
That the Wise men followed a star to find a Savior in this place
Even some of our most cherished Christmas memories are sparked by the
smell of hay and the promise of hope – contained here.

Prayer

Pastor: Lord God, we marvel at your love. Not only do we gather this evening as families,
friends and followers of you. We rejoice that you have made us your sons and
daughters through our Lord Jesus Christ. For, on this holy night we pray that you
would cause us to marvel once again like a child. Grant us the faith of a child that
we might trust you completely and receive your love fully. In Jesus, whose birth
we celebrate...

People: Amen.

Hymn of Praise Christmas Must Be Tonight

Come down to the manger, see the little stranger
Wrapped in swaddling clothes, the prince of peace
Wheels start turning, torches start burning
And the old wise men journey from the East

Chorus: How a little baby boy bring the people so much joy
Son of a carpenter, Mary carried the light
This must be Christmas, must be tonight

A shepherd on a hillside, while over my flock I bide
 On a cold winter night a band of angels sing
 In a dream I heard a voice saying "fear not, come rejoice
 It's the end of the beginning, praise the new born king." **(Chorus)**

I saw it with my own eyes, written up in the skies
 But why a simple herdsman such as I
 And then it came to pass, he was born at last
 Right below the star that shines on high. **(Chorus)**

A Message for Dreamers at Christmas "Joseph had a Dream"

Song: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (v. 1)

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.

Song: How Many Kings

¹ Follow the star to a place unexpected
 Would you believe after all we've projected
 A child in a manger
 Lowly and small, the weakest of all
 Unlikeliest hero, wrapped in his mother's shawl
 Just a child
 Is this who we've waited for?

Chorus: How many kings, stepped down from their thrones?
 How many lords have abandoned their homes?
 How many greats have become the least for me?
 How many Gods have poured out their hearts
 To romance a world
 that has torn all apart?
 How many fathers
 gave up their sons for me?

² Bringing our gifts for the newborn savior
 All that we have whether costly or meek
 Because we believe
 Gold for his honor and frankincense for
 his pleasure And myrrh for the cross
 he'll suffer
 Do you believe,
 is this who we've waited for? **Chorus**

Song: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (v 1)

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 host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Refrain

ref Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King!"

Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 2)

For Christ is born of Mary,
 And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
 Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
 Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
 And peace to all the earth!

Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 3-4)

How silently, how silently
 The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
 The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
 But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
 The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
 Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
 Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
 The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
 Our Lord Immanuel!

Offering

We Three Kings

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

Chorus: O.... Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading,
Still proceeding, Guide us to Thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring, to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign. **(Chorus)**

Frankincense to offer have I, Incense owns a Deity nigh,
Pray'r and praising, all men raising, Worship Him, God most High.

Glorious now behold Him arise; King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia, Earth to heav'n replies. **(Chorus)**

Little Drummer Boy

Come, they told me pa rum pa pum pum
A newborn King to see pa rum pa pum pum
Our finest gifts we bring pa rum pa pum pum
To lay before the King pa rum pa pum pum
Rum pa pum pum, rum pa pum pum
So to honor Him pa rum pa pum pum
When we come.

Little Baby, pa rum pa pum pum
I am a poor boy too, pa rum pa pum pum
I have no gift to bring pa rum pa pum pum
That's fit to give our King pa rum pa pum pum
Rum pa pum pum, rum pa pum pum
Shall I play for You pa rum pa pum pum
On my drum?

Mary nodded, pa rum pa pum pum
The ox and lamb kept time pa rum pa pum pum
I played my drum for Him pa rum pa pum pum
I played my best for Him pa rum pa pum pum
Rum pa pum pum, rum pa pum pum
Then He smiled at me pa rum pa pum pum
Me and my drum.

Prayer

Candlelight Singing *(turn lights down - candles are lit w/ help of kings)*

Christmas Hallelujah

¹I've heard about this baby boy Who's come to earth to bring us joy
And I just want to sing this song to you It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth
The minor fall, the major lift With every breath I'm singing

Halle – lujah hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelu - u - jah.

² A couple came to Bethlehem Expecting child, they searched the inn
To find a place for You were coming soon There was no room for them to stay
So in a manger filled with hay God's only Son was born, oh Halle – lujah
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelu - u - jah.

³ The shepherds left their flocks by night To see this baby wrapped in light
A host of angels led them all to You It was just as the angels said
You'll find Him in a manger bed Emmanuel, our Savior, Halle - lujah
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelu - u - jah.

⁴ A star shown bright up in the east To Bethlehem, the wise men three
Came many miles and journeyed long for You And to the place at which You were
Their frankincense & gold & myrrh They came to You and cried out, "Hallelujah"
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelu - u - jah.

⁵ I know You came to rescue me This baby boy would grow to be
A man and one day die for me and you My sins would drive the nails in You
That rugged cross was my cross, too Still every breath You drew was Halle - lujah
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelu - u - jah.
hallelujah, hallelujah, halle - lujah, halle lu - u - jah.

Benediction

Song *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!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly 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 Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Public domain

(extinguish candles – turn up lights)

Closing Song ***Joy to the World*** (v. 1, 3, 4)

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.

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

Text: Public domain

Cast List

Live Nativity 2021-Bethlehem Lutheran Church Sanctuary
December 24, 2021

Director: Pastor

Preacher: Pastor

Costumes: Bonnie Stein

Animals: New Beginnings Ranch

Music: Cross Road

Media: Bonnie Stein, Bill Stace

Music:	Cross Road
Narrator:	Kathy Allen
Angels:	Natalie Lietzau, Lydia Johnson,
Duet:	Natalie Lietzau & Lydia Johnson
Inn Keeper	Dan Macejkovic
Holy Family (infant doll)	Aiden Stein & Chloe Lietzau
Shepherds	Bob Hogeland, Sarah Marcheske, Vi Gross, Aidan Christensen, Liam Christensen, Cullen Christensen, Jacob Marcheske, Jack Molaison, Aubrey Molaison
Wise Men	Jeff Schwab, David Sarandos, Ross Johnson
Donkey Handler	Tom Gitzlaff
Clean up	New Beginnings Ranch