



Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023
10:00 pm

Let the heavens rejoice
and the earth be glad.
Psalm 96:11

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
11560 SE Market St, Portland, OR 97216
glcportland.org | (503) 256-1835
<https://www.facebook.com/gethsemaneportland>
Worship Leader: Pastor Sara Gross Samuelson
Cantor: Dick Bemrose
Accompanist: Brooke Benfield

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Let us be in the spirit of worship together.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! For the safety of our community, we ask that you sign in. Our worship service is broadcast live on Zoom and Facebook. We are now serving communion at the altar. If you wish to continue taking it at your seat, pick a kit up in the narthex or see an usher.

*** = Please stand as you are able.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Come to the manger! You from the fields, you from the streets.

C: We come, bringing our hopes and our fears. Both held close to our hearts.

P: Come to the manger! You from far away, you from close by.

C: We come, travel weary and jet-lagged from our own longings.

P: Come to the manger! Look and see! New life! Hope! A holy pause as we breathe in new birth.

C: We come! We will let ourselves arrive in this moment. This holy moment of weariness and hope, joy and change. Wrapped in a swaddling cloth and laying in this manger we are all invited to. We are here. We are here. We are here.

GATHERING SONG *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, ELW 283



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!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

You 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.
For 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.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For 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.
His 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

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

Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

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

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

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

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

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

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

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."**

Let 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.

**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord,
for you come to judge the earth.**

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

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Angels We Have Heard on High*, ELW 289**

Refrain

Glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -
ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
 Music: GLORIA, French carol

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and

lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

[When 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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, ELW 270



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!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION -

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence.

Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in their vocation. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host. We rejoice in the zeal of all your saints (*especially*) who have witnessed the appearing of your grace, and who reveal to us your salvation for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING *Carol of The Manger, Arr. Dale Wood*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to this feast of love.

Be fed. Be whole.

COMMUNION

What Feast of Love, ELW 487



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve, ELW 271



Jeg er så glad hver ju - le - kveld, ti da blev Je - sus født;

- 1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
- 2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!
- 3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, the Son of God to - day;
- 4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais - es then I sing;
- 5 And so I love each Christ-mas Eve, and I love Je - sus too;



da lys - te stjer - nen som en sol, og eng - ler sang så sødt.

Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.
and still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they pray.
he o - pens now for ev - 'ry child the pal - ace of the king.
and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well is true.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959

Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

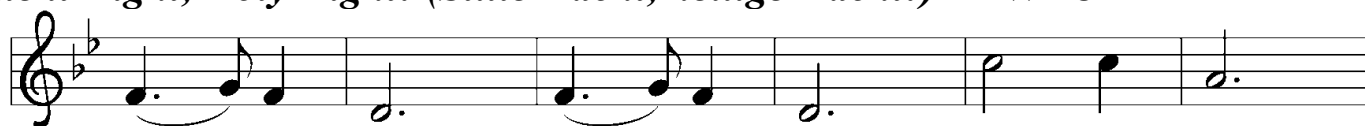
Amen.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

*Hold the lit candle upright; tip the unlit candle towards the flame to light it.
Flame-less candles are available from the ushers at the back of the sanctuary.*

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN:

Silent Night, Holy Night! (Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!) ELW 281



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,



Hold - er 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



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

BLESSING: *How the Light Comes* by Jan Richardson

I cannot tell you how the light comes.
What I know is that it is more ancient than imagining.
That it travels across an astounding expanse to reach us.
That it loves searching out
what is hidden,
what is lost,
What is forgotten
Or in peril
Or in pain.

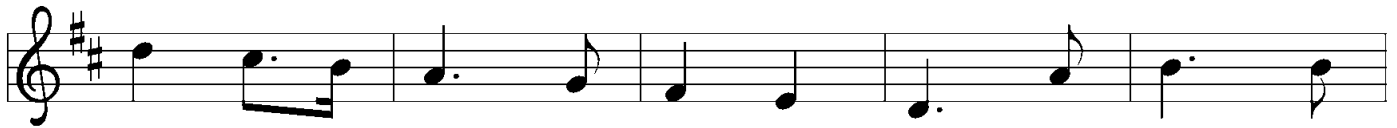
That it has a fondness for the body, for finding its way toward flesh,
For tracing the edges of form,
For shining forth through the eye,
The hand,
The heart.

I cannot tell you how the light comes,
But that it does.
That it will.
That it works its way into the deepest dark that enfolds you,
Though it may seem long ages in coming or arrive in a shape you did not foresee.

And so may we this day turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies to follow the arc it makes.
May we open and open more and open still to the blessed light that comes.
Amen.

The candles are extinguished.

SENDING HYMN: *Joy to the World*, ELW 267



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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

Go and see! Christ is born! Do not be afraid.

We will see! Glory to God!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Bible Study and the Quilters** are taking next week off.
- **GLC book group** will be discussing *Grateful* by Diana Butler Bass on **Thursday, January 4** (we changed the date from the one noted in the *Olive Press*) at 4:00 at Jim and Diane Liefeld's home. Everyone is welcome to join us. It's a great place to share ideas. You don't have to commit to attending each session since each time we discuss a different book/theme. You can borrow the book from the library or buy it online. I also have copies to lend out, so call, text, or email Barbie if you would like to borrow one.
- **Pastor Sara will be out on December 26** but in on Wednesday and Thursday, 12/27 and 12/28.
 - Her general availability and office hours are as follows:
 - M - Sabbath/OFF
 - T-Th - Office Hours 9-11:30, available by appointment in PM
 - F - home visits and sermon prep and/or working from home
 - Sat- special events/OFF
 - Sun - worship + visits
- **Sign up as worship assistants!** Signups will no longer be online; sheets for now through February are on the bulletin board in the narthex near the coffee bar. **PLEASE sign up!**
- **Join us at <https://www.youtube.com/@gethsemanelutheranchurch8452>.** Hit the "Subscribe" button on the GLC YouTube page to make sure you're always kept up to date on our videos! If you have trouble finding it, please contact a council member or church staff for assistance.



- **Church financials** are posted on the narthex bulletin board and on our website at glcportland.org/finances. If you don't know the password, please contact Anna in the office.
- The **Change For Good** jar is designated for our Open Hands fund for community assistance with utilities and small incidental expenses.

This Week at GLC

Mon., Dec. 25, Office CLOSED for Christmas Day

Wed., Dec. 27, 5:30-6:45 pm ~ Clutterers Anonymous Eastside (Comm. Hall)

Wed., Dec. 27, 7:30-9:30 pm ~ Cristo Viene prayer (Activity Room)

Fri., Dec. 29, 7:30-9:30 pm ~ Cristo Viene Bible Study (Activity Room)

Worship Assistants

Worship Assistants are always needed!

Sign up on the sheets by the coffee bar in the narthex.

Date	Cantor	Reader	Usher/s	Communion Assistant	Altar Guild
Xmas Eve	Dick Bemrose	Dale Banke	Laura Britzius	Mary Curtis	Sharon M.
Dec. 31	Ernie B.	Gloria Kelsay	Nona Paxton	Gloria Kelsay	Gloria Kelsay
Jan. 7		Mary Curtis	Laura Britzius		



Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year
from Pastor Sara
and the GLC Staff