VASHON LUTHERAN CHURCH



Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve December 24, 2023 3:45 PM Worship

Vashon Lutheran Church Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023

PRELUDE Dickens Caroling Group Marita Ericksen, Lauri Hennessey, Dr. Gary Koch, Dianne Kutzke, Joe Kutzke, Nancy Lee Spears, vocalists; Paul Colwell, mandolin & vocals

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol: Joy to the World ELW, #267, vs. 1, 2, & 4

1 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.

2 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.

4 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.

Greeting Marlee Koch, Reader

M: Today old dreams die and new dreams come to life. The promise is fulfilled.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

M: Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation. C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

M: The candles tell the story. Dawn invades midnight. The Light of the world has come.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

M: This light is a light for all, warming us from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God in human flesh, within us and among us now and always.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will to all.

Carol: O Come, All Ye Faithful ELW, #283, vs. 1 &4

Latin Verse – Solo – Dr. Gary Koch

ALL:

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: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

June Langland, Assisting Minister with the brightness of the true Light.

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.**

Reading: Isaiah 9: 2-4

Dr. Gary Koch, Reader

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.

Carol: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

ELW, #282, vs. 1 & 4

I It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Reading: Isaiah 9: 6-7

Elise Ericksen, Reader

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.

Carol: What Child Is This?

ELW, #296, vs. 1 & 3

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him. The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

ELW, #288, vs. 1 & 2

I Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 1-4

Marlee Koch, Reader

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 2.

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.

Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW, #279, vs. 1 – 3

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.

- 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!
- 3 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.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:5-7

Rev. Dr. Joe Kutzke, Reader

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.

Carol: Away in A Manger

ELW, #277

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Gospel Reading: Luke2:8-14

Rev. Dr. Joe Kutzke, Reader

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!"

Carol: Angels, from the Realms of Glory

ELW, #275, vs. 2 & 4

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

4 All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:15-20

Dr. Gary Koch, Reader

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.

Carol: The First Noel ELW, #300, vs. 1 & 2

1 The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain - Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

Repeat Refrain Above.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

June Langland, Assisting Minister

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.

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. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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. We lift up to you all who are in need, either silently or out loud...God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host. We rejoice in the zeal of all your saints who have witnessed the appearing of your grace, and who reveal to us your salvation for all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **Amen.**

C: 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 sins, 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, now and forever. Amen.

Special Music: Breath of Heaven by Amy Grant and Chris Eaton
Lauri Hennessey, mezzo-sop., Marita Ericksen, alto & piano

Carol: Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW, #289, vs. 1 & 3

1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. <u>Refrain</u>: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Repeat Refrain Above

CLOSING PRAYER:

Dr. Gary Koch, Reader

Let us pray. God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING CAROL (next page):

ELW, #281

Silent Night, Holy Night! Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!



Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Marlee Koch, Reader

God bless you and keep you, \(\frac{1}{2}\) Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Carol:

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW, #290, v. 1 & 3

<u>Refrain</u>: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. <u>Refrain</u> (above)
- 3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. <u>Refrain</u> (above)

Dismissal: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. **Thanks be to God.** *POSTLUDE:*Marita Ericksen

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Worship Assistants this afternoon are:

Worship Assistants in 2 weeks (1/7/24

Assisting Minister – June Langland

Care Pastor – Pr. John Michael Barich

Readers - Marlee Koch, Dr. Gary Koch, Elise Ericksen, Assisting Minister - TBA

Rev. Dr. Joe Kutzke, June Langland

Musicians – Marita Ericksen, Dianne Kutzke,

Lauri Hennessey, Nancy Lee Spears, Dr. Gary Koch,

Per Dr. Lee Kutzke, Boul Colorell

Contain Musician – Dinah Helgeson

Rev. Dr. Joe Kutzke, Paul Colwell Cantor – Marita Ericksen

Ushers – Jim Dam, Elise & Frankie Ericksen Usher – TBA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poinsettias donated from: In Memory/Recognition of:

Marita, Elise & Frankie Ericksen Rev. John Ericksen, husband, father & grandpa and

in recognition of Frankie, our young Acolyte! Ted & Doris Gebhard, Paul & Vene Marmont Loved Ones & in recognition of June Langland

Lector-TBA

Pr. Joe & Dianne Kutzke

Marcy & Milton Beck, Ted Burger, Jack & Jean Kutzke

June Langland Dwayne Langland

Jeff & Gail Larson & Karen & Dave Witte

Judy Lorance Husband, Richard Lorance

Contact Gail Larson (206/567-4779) with your prayer request.

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

SUNDAY

Roger and Martha Gebhard

Dinah Helgeson

1st Food Bank Sunday
Dec. 31, 2023, 10:00 AM Worship at CHS, Episcopal

Jan. 7, 10:30 AM Worship at VLC 6:30 – 8:30 PM AA Group

MONDAY

Dec. 25, 2023 & Jan. 1, 2024 Offices closed

4th, 6:00 – 8:00 PM VCN Board Meeting

TUESDAY

2nd, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

3rd, 10:00 AM – noon

Quilt Sewing Group
Vashon Quilting Group

WEDNESDAY

1st, 9:00 AM – noonLutheran Quilters Group1st, 6:30 PMPrayer & Healing Service3rd, 7:00 PMVLC Council Meeting

THURSDAY

6:30 – 7:30 PM VCN Caregivers Support Group at VLC 4th, 5:00 PM IFCH Dinner prepared VLC, served VPC

FRIDAY

7:00 – 8:30 PM AA Group for Men



Vashon Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 2930 Vashon WA 98070

Street Address: 18623 Vashon Hwy. SW

Church office hours:

Tuesday - Friday noon - 3 PM

Phone: (206) 463-2655

Email: vlc98070@centurytel.net

Website: <u>www.vashonlutheran.org</u>

Pr. John Michael Barich, Care Pastor (206) 463-2655

Hymns for December 24, 2023

ELW, 267, v. 1, 2, 4 ELW, 283, v.1, 3, 4 ELW, 282, v. 1 & 4	Joy to the World O Come, All Ye Faithful It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
ELW, 296, v. 1, 3	What Child Is This?
ELW, 288, v. 1 & 2	Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
ELW, 279, v. 1 – 3	O Little Town of Bethlehem
ELW, 277	Away In A Manger
ELW, 275, v. 2 & 4	Angels, From the Realms of Glory
ELW, 300, v. 1 & 2	The First Noel
ELW, 289, v. 1 & 3	Angels We Have Heard on High
ELW, 281	Silent Night, Holy Night!
ELW, 290, v. 1 & 3	Go Tell It on the Mountain