



CHRISTMAS EVE

Kent Memorial Lutheran Church

184 Sunset Hill Drive
Sunrise Beach, Missouri 65079

The Rev. Edward L. Foster, Pastor

December 24, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Hearing God's Call & Responding in Love,
We Share Jesus With All!

OUR CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP IS AVAILABLE VIA ZOOM:

To join us, click the link below. Please mute your phone and turn off video when you join the meeting to ensure everyone can hear.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89876671750?pwd=b3VKOVRtNjlvK1RzRy9Qc1I0SkQ0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 898 7667 1750

Passcode: 693284

To listen on your phone instead of video, dial 1+312-626-6799 [long distance charges may apply].

Welcome to Worship

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.

Prelude

Angel Voices

Margo Strothmann
& Vanessa Hebrank

Welcome & Invocation

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life.

C: **Amen.**

Musical Offering:

See That Star

Once in Royal David's City

In the Bleak Midwinter

O Holy Night

Kent Choir
Dan Garrett, Mike McClain &
Kylie LaBelle, trumpets
Kent Handbells
Tracy Garrett, flute
Dan Garrett, flugel horn
Tracy Garrett

SERVICE OF LIGHT

Lighting the Christ Candle

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C: those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

P: Our Advent journey is now complete. The darkness is gone. The Light of the World is here!

C: Our hope has been met. Our preparations are done. Our joy has been made perfect.

The love of God has come to live among us. And so, today, we light the candle of Christ.

P: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. The long-awaited Christ has come!

C: Celebrating the birth of our Savior, we light this candle. Together, we will shine with the radiant light of Christ!

Dialogue of Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: God of peace,

C: We confess that we are not at peace – with others and with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in the world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of Peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.

C: Amen.

Liturgy *Setting 4*

ELW p. 147

Kyrie

Canticle of Praise: This is the feast

ELW p. 149

Processional Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

J. F. Wade, tr. F. Oakeley

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:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

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

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest:

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

All: 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.

Children's Time (all children are invited to come forward)

Pastor Ed Foster

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Away in a Manger

ELW # 277

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.

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.

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.

Psalm 96 (congregation reads 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 among the nations
and God's wonders among 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 honor 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 beauty 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 coming, 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

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Announcement

Pastor Ed Foster

P: The gospel according to Luke, the second chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-20

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Christmas Message

Pastor Ed Foster

Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Text: C. Wesley;
Music: F. Mendelssohn

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”

Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heav’n born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Profession of Faith - The Nicene Creed (2nd Article)

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.**

The Prayers of the Church

P: Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

Reception of Offerings

Bring Us Hope

Kent Choir

Sally Burke, cello

Jane Maher, bass clarinet

Offering Prayer

P: God of abundance,

C: **receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the
abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.**

Amen.

Words of Institution

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.**

Distribution

*Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine,
instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink. All believers are welcome at the Lord's table.*

Children who do not commune may come forward with their family for a blessing.

Communion Hymns

Angels We Have Heard on High

French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy;
arr. E. S. Barnes

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

REFRAIN: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain.*

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Text: P. Brooks;
Music: L. H. Redner

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.

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!

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

Medieval Latin carol; tr. J. M. Neale
German carol; arr. R. L. Pearsall

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!

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!

The First Noel

Text & Music: English Trad; arr. J. Stainer

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, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

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. *Refrain*

Post-Communion Prayer

Sharing the Light

We acknowledge the Lordship of the Christ Child, the Light of the world in our lives, as we light our candle from the fire of the Christ Candle and then share that light by passing it on to others. As the ushers bring the light to the first person in each pew please tilt the unlit candle toward the lit candle to avoid dripping wax. Please supervise young children or let them jointly hold onto your candle. Thank you.

P: As we remember this night and the birth of the Christ Child, the Light of the World, these candles remind us to let our light shine that all the world may see the good that we do and glorify our Father in heaven.

Hymn

Silent Night

Text: J. Mohr; tr. J. F. Young;
Music: F. Gruber

Solo Verse: *antiphonal trumpets*

Congregation: 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.

Christmas Prayer & Blessing

Benediction

Sending Hymn

Joy to the World

Text: I. Watts, Music:
English mel; arr. Lowell Mason

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 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.

Dismissal

P: In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: Peace to God's people on earth!

Postlude

Joy to the World Reprise

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor	Rev. Edward L. Foster
Organist	Margo Strothmann
Choir Director.....	Tracy Garrett
Handbell Choir Director	Katie Heaford
Communion Assistant	Altar Guild
Greeters/Ushers	Kathy Fair, Larry Fair,Ray Lacroix, Kat Lacroix
Liturgist	Al Mohling
Lector.....	Mary Foster
Sound/Zoom Technician	Sam Foster

The Kent Choir:

Soprano: Joyce Burke, Katie Heaford, Cindy Mohling, Liz VanDeVeire
Alto: Tracey Atzeni, Kirsten Blaney, Mary Foster, Karole Karls, Jane Maher
Tenor: Sally Burke, Vanessa Hebrank, Al Mohling
Bass: Steve Atzeni, Chuck Wanamaker, Bill Work

The Kent Handbells:

Tracey Atzeni, Kirsten Blaney, Joyce Burke, Sally Burke, Karole Karls, Kat Lacroix,
Jane Maher, Al Mohling, Elizabeth VanDeVeire, Toni Wagner, Michael Wagner, Joyce
Wanamaker, Bill Work, Barb Yount

Trumpets:

Dan Garrett, Kylie LaBelle, Mike McClain

***Our thanks to these members & friends for providing
poinsettias to beautify our Sanctuary this season***

Phil & Melba Bangert—in honor of our family

Joanne & Kirsten Blaney—in memory of Jon & Jackie Erickson

Allan & Sally Burke—in memory of loved ones

Lynn & Joyce Burke—in memory of our lost ones & in honor of loved family

John Coyner (2)—in memory of Paul & Doris Coyner

Mary Evans—in honor of family

Pat Garrett—in memory of Joe Garrett

Sandra Gilbert—in memory of my mother

Bill & Katie Heaford—in memory of our families

Jake & Linda Jacobson—in honor of Jesus, our Savior & Lord

Allen & Linda Kimberling—in memory of Brian Welsh

Ron & Jane Kornfeind—in memory of parents & Erv & Agnes Rasmussen; & of Fred &
Jean Kornfeind

Jim & Gail Kruse—in memory of Betty Buss

Nancy Larson—in memory of Ron Larson & Jim Curtis

Larry & Suzanne Lutjen—in memory of Sharon Lutjen

Harry Mason—in memory of Dianna in heaven & in honor of Mason & Salyer Family

Mike & Lee Ann McClain—in memory of Kathy Frey

Jim & Karen Melody—in memory of family no longer with us, & friends, too

Al & Cindy Mohling—in memory of our loved ones

Ingrid, Erik, Erika & Karl Niemann—in memory of Charles E. Niemann

Curtis Reams—in memory of Diane Reams

Tom & Karen Ringsdorf—in memory of our parents

Teri Stout & Kelly Bryant—in memory of Loyd Cunningham

Karen Thompson (2)—in memory of Mr. & Mrs. HV McCray; & of Jack Thompson

Don & Joan Wilken—in memory of our parents; & in honor of our children &
grandchildren

Women of the ELCA—in memory of Lorraine Boyd

Vince & Barb Yount—in memory of Joyce Yount & Dennis Droege

Diane Ziehl—in memory of Jim Ziehl

Merry Christmas!

Mary, Sam and I are so very excited to celebrate the birth of our Lord with our Kent Family again this year. We are truly blessed to serve with such a caring and committed congregation. In so many ways you have enriched our lives, inspiring and encouraging us, filling our days with wonder and joy. We thank God for all of you and pray that God will continue to bless each of you with all of the good gifts that have been prepared for you.

God bless you all!

Pastor Ed, Mary and Sam Foster