



NORTHDALÉ LUTHERAN CHURCH
TAMPA, FL
DECEMBER 24, 2016
7:00 P.M. CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Northdale Lutheran Church and School

15709 MAPLEDALE BLVD

TAMPA, FL 33624

WWW.NORTHDALELUTHERAN.ORG

813-961-9195

"WE GROW IN GOD'S WORD SO THAT WE CAN GO WITH GOD'S WORD"

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Welcome to Northdale Lutheran! We are so glad you are joining us to proclaim what God has done and to sing his praises. Here the Lord also comes to us and strengthens us with his mighty Word. Take a moment to meet and greet those around you! Also:

- ❖ Restrooms are in the entrance and through the nursery hallway.
- ❖ Snacks and drinks are available for everyone after the second service.
- ❖ Help us be more welcoming by signing the guest registers in each row.

Please Note: To help keep the sanctuary as a quiet place of worship and meditation and for your convenience:

- ❖ A Quiet Room is available for the whole service for young children in the back of the sanctuary. Please make use of this room if your child becomes loud in worship.
- ❖ In the entryway, Busy Bags are provided for all the children during worship. There are coloring books, toys and snacks provided in each of the bags.



WORSHIP THEME

Tonight we retell the beautiful Christmas story as Martin Luther told it in his famous hymn, "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come." What wondrous love our God showed to us in coming down to this earth to save us and rescue us from our sins.

Notes for worship:

- ❖ All hymns from *Christian Worship (CW)* are in the red hymnals in front of you unless printed in this service folder.
- ❖ All hymns from *Christian Worship Supplement (CWS)* are in the blue hymn books on the end of each of the pews.
- ❖ Everything else will be printed in the worship folder.



CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN: *CW #61, "HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"*

PLEASE STAND

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: Unto us the Christ is born:

C: **Oh, come, let us worship him.**

M: My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

C: **The Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.**

M: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.



C: He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he said through his holy prophets of long ago.

M: Tonight we marvel at the love our God showed to the people of this world in the salvation he brought through Jesus our Savior. We acknowledge before God our need for salvation as we confess our sins:

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment, both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me a sinner.

M: Glory to God in the highest! In love that astounds us, the eternal God sent his only Son to live among us, to obey as we could not and to suffer what we deserved. In Christ, there is indeed peace on earth. In him, God extends good will to all people. He was born to save us. Therefore because of Christ and by his authority, I say to you what God himself says: In Christ, your sins are forgiven.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.



SONG OF RESPONSE

M: In the peace of God, let us sing praise to the Lord!

C: *Sing CW #42, "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"*

**Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing his love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.**

**See how God, for us providing,
Gave his Son and life abiding;
He our weary steps is guiding
From earth's woe to heav'nly joy.**

**Gracious Child, we pray you, hear us;
From your lowly manger cheer us.
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join th' angelic choir.**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen (spoken)**

BE SEATED

CHOIR ANTHEM, "O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"

THE WORD OF GOD



THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 9:2-7

Isaiah shares beautiful words of comfort for God's people. The darkness of sin will be scattered and the light of salvation will dawn. We celebrate tonight that God accomplished this in Jesus our Savior.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

³You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.



And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.



HYMN: *CW #38, "FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME" (VS. 1-5)*

**"From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:**

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

**"This is the Christ, our God most high,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.**

**"He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in his kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us his glory share.**

**"These are the signs which you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."**

THE SECOND LESSON: TITUS 2:11-14

Just as Israel longed for the coming of the Messiah, so we long for the coming again of the Christ. The babe of Bethlehem has come; the fight is won and victory assured. We live now in his light until he comes again in glory.

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

HYMN: *CW #38, “FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME” (VS. 6-10)*

**How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us his own dear Son.**

**Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christchild lying there.**

**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.**

**Ah, Lord, though you created all,
How weak you are, so poor and small,
That you should choose to lay your head
Where lowly cattle lately fed!**

**Were earth a thousand times as fair
And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small
A cradle for the Lord of all.**



THE GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 2:1-20

The Savior has come and his light shines brightly in the darkness.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

HYMN: *CW #38, "FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME" (VS. 11-15)*

**Instead of soft and silken stuff
You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great,
To be enthroned in royal state.**

**And so it pleases you to see
This simple truth revealed to me:
That all the world's wealth, honor, might
Are weak and worthless in your sight.**

**Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
Within my heart, made clean and new,
A quiet chamber kept for you.**

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

**Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto us his Son has given!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.**

SERMON THEME:

So Simple... Yet So Profound



SERMON RESPONSE: CWS #707, "PEACE CAME TO EARTH "

OFFERING

Please sign the Friendship Register in each of the pews and pass it to those sitting next to you.

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34) The members of Northdale Lutheran joyfully give our offerings to the LORD in response to His Word and in thanks for the many ways he has blessed us. We have joined together as a congregation to use these offerings to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world through the work of our Synod. Your gifts moved by the Holy Spirit out love for God and his blessings are welcome.

PLEASE STAND

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

M: Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.

C: On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.

M: You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.

C: Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.

M: You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard tonight.

C: May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.

M: You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the "joy that will be for all people" be

our joy. May the “peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

C: For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord.

M: Hear us, O Lord, as we join to sing the prayer our Redeemer taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Tune: Away in a Manger

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver your children most dear.**

**For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign.
And your is the power; all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

BE SEATED



THE CANDLELIGHTING CEREMONY

(The minister will light his candle from the Christ candle. He will give light to the ushers, who in turn will give light to the first worshiper in each pew, who will then pass it on to the others. Please do not tip the lighted candle, but always hold it upright when giving light to another.)

(After all the candles have been lit, we join in the responsive reading.)

M: “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

C: Jesus is the Light of the World. Whoever follows him will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

M: Jesus came into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in him will stay in darkness.

C: The true light that gives light to every man has come into the world.

M: Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.(John 14:27)”

C: “I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world! (John 16:33)”

HYMN: CW #60 “SILENT NIGHT! HOLY 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; Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia;
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!**

**Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, loves pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

PRAYER

M: When all was still and it was midnight, your eternal Word, O Lord, descended from the almighty throne to dwell among us. May we receive him in the peace of forgiven hearts and proclaim your gracious good will to all people on earth for you are the God with us, Emanuel, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

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

C: Amen. (Spoken)

(THE CANDLES MAY BE BLOWN OUT AS THE LIGHTS ARE TURNED ON FOR THE CLOSING HYMN.)

CLOSING HYMN, CW #62 "JOY TO THE WORLD"

ANNOUNCEMENT



God's blessings as you leave his house of worship tonight, rejoicing in what a great and awesome Savior we have in Jesus Christ. May the peace which he alone can bring between God and man guard and keep you throughout this season and the whole year through. Christ is born! Merry Christmas!



THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

For over two thousand years the Christian world has marked the passing of time from the year of Jesus birth. Recognizing his coming into the world as the central event in the story of humankind, Christians count the years before his birth as B.C. (Before Christ) and the years after his birth as A.D. (Anno Domini, the Year of our Lord.)

An event so important wasn't just celebrated for a day or two. Early Christians would celebrate Christmas for twelve days. (You are perhaps familiar with the song The Twelve Days of Christmas). Our celebration of Christ's birth will follow that ancient pattern. Here are other opportunities to worship in this Christmas season:

Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.—The Festival of the Nativity—In a celebratory service, we gather on Christmas day to celebrate Christ's birth to ponder some of the most profound words in scripture, found in the Gospel of St. John.

Sunday, January 1 at 10:00 a.m.—The Name of Jesus—God gave Jesus his name for a very special reason—to reveal the mission for which Jesus came to this earth. We rejoice in the name of Jesus because we rejoice in what he came to do.

Please join us for any or all of these worship opportunities!



Called Staff

Pastor Charlie Vannieuwenhoven: 813-850-7520

Principal Mark Thiesfeldt: 941-209-0010

Aimee Hardman: 813-464-5113

Amy Vannieuwenhoven: 813-850-7520

Christopher Haring: 517-202-7283

Lynn Marggraf: 262-613-3020

Serving Today

Music: Lynn Marggraf

Ushers: Chris Teeples/Ryan Cunill

Acolyte: Elyse Vannieuwenhoven

Elder: Chris Teeples

