

The Youth of Bethany
Lutheran Church Presents



THE NIGHT OF
Jesus' Birth

A CLASSIC CHRISTMAS
STORY

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION OF ITEMS INTO WORSHIP SPACE

Children and youth place ornaments on the tree as the information below is read.

This morning, we place ornaments on the Christmas tree called Chrismons. They are special Christ-centered ornaments symbolizing Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection. The ornaments are white and gold to symbolize the purity of Christ and His kingship. These ornaments were lovingly made by members of Bethany many years ago.

After the ornaments have been placed on the tree, we continue with the prayer and lighting of the Advent Wreath.

ADVENT PRAYER AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

Amen.

The candles are lit as the gathered people of God sing all four verses of "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (ELW 240).



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"The Night of Jesus' Birth" -- A Classic Christmas Story

Part One – Mary & Joseph

One day, a woman named Mary was at home when the Angel Gabriel visited her. Gabriel told her, "Mary, do not be afraid. God loves you, and you will give birth to a baby boy named Jesus. He will be the son of God."

Mary was supposed to be married to a man named Joseph, and she told Joseph that she would give birth to God's son. Joseph was not sure how this could be, but an angel appeared to him in a dream and told him not to be afraid. So, Joseph and Mary were married.

Soon, an order came from Caesar Augustus that all people had to return to their hometown to be taxed. Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, where Joseph had been born. When they arrived in Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary were very tired. But there was no room in any inn. One innkeeper told Joseph that he and Mary could stay in the stable behind his inn. It was there that Mary gave birth to a baby boy. She named him Jesus. Mary wrapped him in cloth and laid him in a manger.

Hymn: "Away in a Manger" (ELW 277) Youth sing first verse; congregation joins on the second verse.



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Part Two – The Angels Appear

That night, shepherds were in the field watching over their sheep. An angel appeared in the sky and said, "Fear not! I bring you good news of great joy!" The Angel told them that Christ had been born and they could find the baby wrapped in cloth and laying in a manger.

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" – *Sung by angels.*

THE PEACE OF THE LORD IS SHARED

Part Three – The Shepherds

The shepherds rushed to the stable and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus. When they had seen him, they spread the word of what they had been told and what they saw. All who heard it were amazed.

Hymn: "Joy to the World" (ELW 267) Youth sing first verse; congregation joins on the second verse.



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.

OFFERING

Part Four – The Star & The Wisemen

After Jesus was born, a star appeared in Bethlehem. Wisemen from the East saw this and started following the star, which would lead them to the newborn king.

“Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” – *Sung by youth.*

THE JOY OF THE LORD IS SHARED (ornaments)

The star led them to Bethlehem, and they found Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus. They bowed down to worship him. They gave Jesus many gifts, including gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

All of this took place to fulfill what the prophets had heard; The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means “GOD WITH US”.

Hymn: “O Come All Ye Faithful” (ELW 283) – *Sung by the congregation.*



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!

The assembly stands.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church on earth, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

Each petition ends with, "God of grace." The people of God then sing "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (ELW 752).



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943
Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema
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Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

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

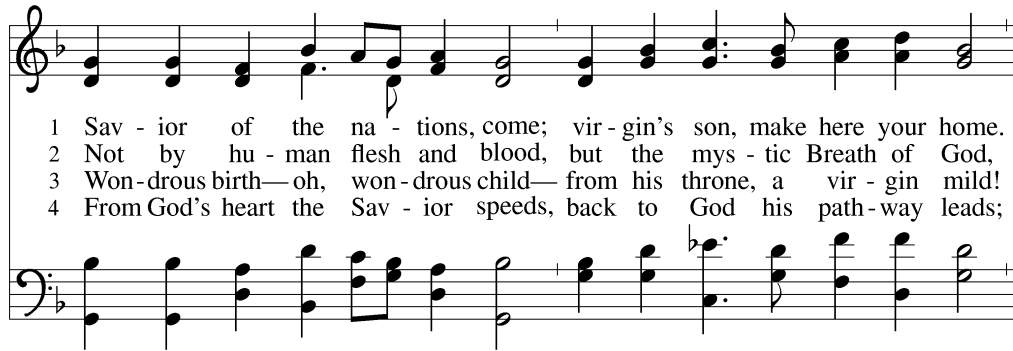
BLESSING

May God direct your ways in peace,
make you abound in love for one another and for all,
and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

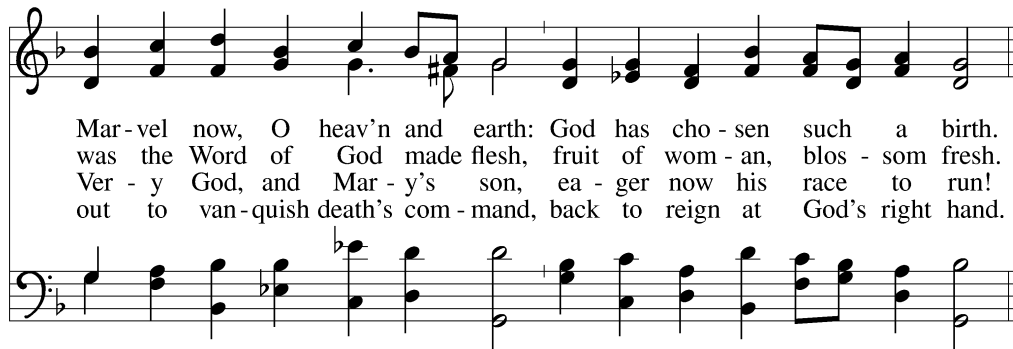
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn: "Savior of the Nations, Come" (ELW 263)



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
 3 Won - drous birth— oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version
 Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Please join us for fellowship following the program!

OUR MINISTRY ASSISTANTS		
Ministers of:	Today	December 28
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Bethany's children	Dave Bahnsen
Technology	Dale Swenson	Dave Poppen
Worship (Altar Care)	Cindy Knoop & Stacy Beyer	Cindy Knoop & Stacy Beyer
Hospitality	Nancy Bruns	Stacy Beyer
Food & Fellowship	Sunday School Families	Please sign up



Thank you for worshipping with us today. Just as Jesus welcomed the stranger, we believe all are welcome here. Please join us again next week. For more information about our life together in Christ, visit: www.wbbethany.org

WORSHIP
with us!
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
 Christmas Eve
 5:00 & 7:00 PM



5:00 service streamed
 live on Facebook

Land Acknowledgement

Bethany Lutheran is located in the original and ancestral homelands of the Iowa, Sauk, Fox, Kickapoo and Oceti Sakowin peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

SUPPORT THE MANY MINISTRIES

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1

OFFERING PLATE

Money can be placed in offering plate on Sunday morning or mailed to:
 Bethany Lutheran Church Box 236, West Branch, IA 52358.

2

ON-LINE DONATIONS



Scan QR code with your phone or visit our website
<https://wbbethany.org>. Click on the blue "Give Now" button.

3

AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL

Sign up for the "Simply Giving" program for automatic withdrawals from your account. Contact blcsecretary@lcom.net

4

MOBILE APP

Download the new Vanco Mobile App from your smartphone app store. Select Bethany Lutheran Church, West Branch, IA and make your donation.



5

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

Tax-free donation directly from an IRA to Bethany Lutheran Church
 This is a tax-free way to give your required minimum distributions from your IRA to charity.

OUR mission

To grow so deep in Christ through worship, education, and fellowship that we celebrate by reaching out to others.



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