



Christmas Eve Service
St. Paul's UMC - December 24, 2022
7:00 PM Traditional Service with ASL
Pastor Linda Ray 406 Main Street, Odessa, DE 19730 302-378-2420
www.stpaulsodessa.org

CCLI 11305346 and Streaming Lic.
** Indicates please stand in body or in spirit*

WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE
WELCOME WITH MUSIC AND IMAGES

ASL Interpreter – Gail Garner, Liturgist – Melissa Brooks, Amy Brown – Director of Music

HANDBELL PRESENTATION

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: Advent hope moves us;

Many: Advent love leads us;

One: Advent joy stirs us;

Many: Advent peace stills us, that we might affirm Jesus as our King.

One: We light the Christ candle rejoicing that a Savior is born.

Many: A savior is born, indeed. Joy to the world!

**All Singing: We honor Messiah with Christ's candle flame. Our Christmas Eve candles
glad tidings proclaim. O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night. As God
comes among us, the Christians true light.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist: Good news! Unspeakable joy!

Congregation: A great light has burst forth, overcoming the darkness!

Liturgist: A child is born for us—a Son has been given!

**Congregation: Bringing a kingdom of endless peace, we shall call him Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God!**

Liturgist: Come, let us see what God has brought us! Let us see what the Lord has done! Glory to
God in the highest!

Congregation: And on earth, peace and goodwill to all!

***OPENING HYMN**

O Come, All Ye Faithful vs.1, 3,6

Red Hymnal 234

FIRST LESSON: *Genesis 3:8-15*

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

CAROL: *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* vs. 1,4 Red Hymnal 218

SECOND LESSON: *Genesis 22:5-18*

God promises to the faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed. The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

CAROL: *He Is Born* Red Hymnal 228

THIRD LESSON *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah. 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. 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

CAROL: *O Little Town Of Bethlehem* vs. 1,4 Red Hymnal 230

FOURTH LESSON: *Isaiah 11:1-4*

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown. A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

CAROL: *The First Noel* vs. 1,5 Red Hymnal 245

FIFTH LESSON: *Luke 1:26-35*

The angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High. In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a

virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, 1833

the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God."

CAROL: *What Child Is This* vs. 1,2 Red Hymnal 219

SIXTH LESSON: *Luke 2:1-7*

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.

CAROL: *Away In a Manger* Red Hymnal, 217

SEVENTH LESSON: *Luke 2:8-16*

The shepherds go to the manger. 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.

CAROL: *Angels We Have Heard On High*, vs. 1,2 Red Hymnal 238

EIGHTH LESSON: *Matthew 2:1-11*

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus. In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is

to shepherd my people Israel.” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL:

We Three Kings vs. 1,5

Red Hymnal 254

NINTH LESSON: *John 1:1-14*

The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

CAROL:

Hark The Herald Angels Sing vs.1,3

Red Hymnal 240

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Linda Ray

Blessed Lord, you have given us your greatest gift—your very Word come to earth, to live with us and through us; you have filled us with your grace and truth—your holy child sent to free us from our bonds. How can we repay such divine generosity? Receive our thanks and praise. As you have given to us, so now we share your gifts and your grace with a world in need. May this offering help bring your light and love to those who still wander in darkness. Amen.

OFFERTORY HYMN:

This Holy Night

Chancel Choir/Beth O’Grady, Soloist

*THE DOXOLOGY: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow. Praise Him All Creatures Here Below. Praise Him Above Ye Heavenly Ghost. Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the Lord's Table, all you who love him. Come to the Lord's Table, confess your sin. Come to the Lord's Table, be at peace.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

HOLY COMMUNION:

Pastor Linda Ray and Officiant Server, Ellie Leuliette

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Communion Song

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

Reader 1: On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me." Please take your wafer and commune along with me.

Reader 2: When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." Please take your juice and commune along with me.

Reader 1 & 2: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor Linda: Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

CLOSING CANDLELIGHT HYMN:

Silent Night, Holy Night

Red Hymnal 239

WE GO IN THE SPIRIT

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

Pastor Linda Ray

A child has been born for us. God's grace has been given to us. From a stable in Bethlehem our Savior has come. We have seen the glory of the Lord, revealed in the face of the Christ child. We can hardly contain our amazement. Tell the world. Treasure the story. Ponder it in your heart. We will Glorify and praise God, for all we have heard and seen! Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ has come! Amen!

POSTLUDE

Amy Brown

Altar flowers are donated by Charlotte and Ronnie Miller in memory of their son, Kendall Reed on his 41st birthday.



ST. PAUL'S

United Methodist Church of Odessa

Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out