

Welcome to West Prairie Lutheran Church!

Worship Service for Christmas Eve

7 p.m., December 24, 2016

Prelude

Pastoral Greeting

Lighting of the Candles

Hymn: *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*LBW #45

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Cong: Amen

Pastor: God commanded the light to shine out of darkness, to shine in our hearts, to give us light and the knowledge of His glory which is in Christ Jesus.

Cong: Thanks be to God for His wondrous gift!

Pastor: May the light of the Christ child lead us from darkness into his marvelous light.

Cong: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men. Amen.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Cong: Lord, I confess that I have walked away from Your brilliant light of love. I have ventured into the shadows and darkness of my own sinful nature; I have sought after my own interests. I have not loved You with my whole heart. I have not loved my neighbor as myself. I have sought the darkness and broken Your commandments. I am sorry for my sins and I repent of them. Shine Your light into my heart and disperse the darkness therein. Forgive me and invite me back into Your light.

Pastor: Arise and shine, for your Light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. The Word has become flesh.

Our Lord Jesus suffered and died for our sake to proclaim the Father's love for you and the forgiveness found in His name. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by Christ's authority, I declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sin; in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Cong: Amen.

Congregational Prayer (all)

O loving Father, who sent Your Son as the true light of the world, send Your Spirit into our hearts as we worship together. Turn our thoughts toward Bethlehem, and the glory of the birth of our Lord. May His light lead us from darkness into eternal light. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Special Music

Breath of Heaven. Lanette Branstad and Julie Reimann

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

Hymn : *O Little Town of Bethlehem*LBW #41

Message: "Why Celebrate Christmas?"

Special Music *When Love Was Born* Lanette Branstad

Offering

Offertory: *Good Christian Friends Rejoice* LBW #55 v.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!

Communion Prayer (all)

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to all of us. We remember his birth, his life, his death, his resurrection, his ascension, and we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and drink of it all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

The Lord's Prayer (all)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Communion Hymn: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* LBW #44

Communion Distribution

Prayer (all)

Almighty God, You gave Your Son, both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the Godly life. Enable us to receive Him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to His; through the same Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Lighting of the Candles

(Pastor will light his candle. He will share the light with the ushers who will light the candles of the congregation in this way: Those nearest the aisle will receive the light and give it to the person next to the. "Silent Night" will be sung when all the candle are lit. Candles will be extinguished after singing the hymn.)

Hymn: *Silent Night, Holy Night!* LBW #65

Candles are extinguished

Benediction

Hymn; *Joy to the World* LBW #39

Postlude

