

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Sharing of the peace.

The Offering

*The Offertory *"He Is the Gift"* *Lanette Branstad*
*Offertory Prayer p. 87

*Great Thanksgiving p. 88
 "Holy, Holy, Holy" p. 89

Eucharistic Prayer #33 p.90

*The Lord's Prayer **Grey book #440**

Communion p. 92
 "Lamb of God"

Distribution

P: Let us pray together.

C: We are filled with joy for we have heard good news of great joy. We are filled with love for we have tasted the sign of God's great love. We are filled with hope for the angels still sing in our world and there is a Light for us to follow. We are filled with the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. Amen

P: Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."

Light hand-held candles. Dip unlit candle to lit candle.

HYMN *"Silent Night"* # 65

Extinguish hand-held candles.

Benediction

HYMN *"Joy to the World"* # 39

P: Let the light of the Christ Child go with you as you go out into the world. Go in Joy! Fear the Darkness No More!

C: Thanks be to God.



West Prairie Lutheran Church

40041 150th Avenue

Leland, Iowa



Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Please be advised, the service is livestreamed and posted on the internet.

*Welcome to the
West Prairie Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

Call to Worship

Service of the Light
Holden Evening Prayer

pg. 2

Reading: John 1:1-5 (Nancy Scalisi)
Lighting of Christ Candle

John 1: 6-14 (Julie Reimann)
Altar Candles are lit.

HYMN “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” # 34

P: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

*Confession and Forgiveness pg. 155

P: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; where fore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

C: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen

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HYMN “Your Little Ones, Dear Lord” # 52

P: Behold the light of the world! Jesus spoke saying, “I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk-in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

P: The People who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

P: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has a light shined.

C: We have beheld Christ’s glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: In him was life, and the life was the light of all human kind.

HYMN “What Child is This” #40 verses 1-3

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you have made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that as we have known on earth the mysteries of that Light, we may also come to the fullness of his peace in heaven and on earth; through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High” # 71

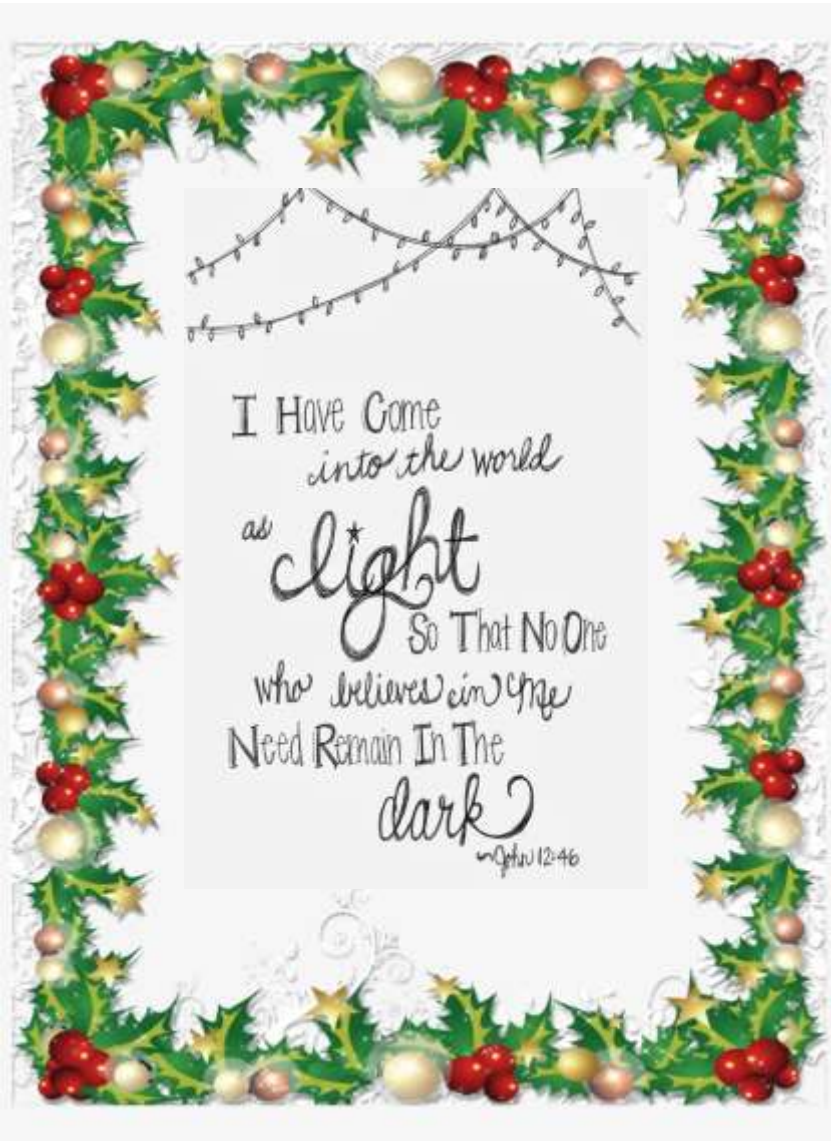
Reading: Christmas Prophecy (Isaiah 9:2-7) (Lisa Durby)
The Christmas Story (Luke 2:1-20) (Lanette Branstad)

Sermon Pastor Tony

HYMN “O, Come, All Ye Faithful” # 45

Prayers

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.



John 1:1-5

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1: 6-14

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. **8** He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. **9** The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. **11** He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. **12** Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— **13** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. **14** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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Isaiah 9:2-7

Christmas Prophecy

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ³ You 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. ⁴ For 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. ⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ⁶ For 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. ⁷ Of 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.



Luke 2:1-20

The Christmas Story

2 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.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So 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. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and 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. ⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly 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." ¹⁵ When 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." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.