



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

DECEMBER 24, 2024

4:00 P.M.

FIRST ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

501 N. Burlington Ave. Hastings, NE 68901

402-463-1329 | info@firststpauls.org

 @firststpauls

Pastor Joel Remmers, Senior Pastor
Pastor Chad Power, Associate Pastor

Prelude

Announcements and Peace

Song

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain:
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Refrain

Cherub Choir

**“5 Little Candles”
“Jesus was His Name”**

Children’s Sermon

Song

“Away In a Manger”

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

Reading

Luke 2:1 - 7

L: *In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus.*
C: **He decreed that all the world should be registered.**
L: *Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David.*
C: **He went to Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house of David.**
L: *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.*
C: **She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.**



The staff of First St. Paul’s wishes the congregation and visitors a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are truly blessed to serve you and with you, as United, we live God’s will. We look forward to where God will lead us in 2025.

Dates to Remember

- December 31st: Gifts and Offerings you would like credited to 2024 should be to the Church Office, Attn: Megan by 5:00 p.m. or may be placed in the offering plate during services on December 28th & 29th.
- January 1st: Office will be closed.
- January 1st: No Ichthus
- January 8th: Wednesday Evening Ichthus resumes.

Emergency Numbers During the Holidays

Pastor Joel Remmers (402) 984-6866
Church Office (402) 463-1329

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers

*Ushers: Dustin & Lindsay Stuehrenberg and Dave & Deb Stuehrenberg
Acolytes: Bradyn Eickmeier and Avery Schroeder
Worship Assistant: Pastor Chad Power
Musicians: Ava Bonifas
Choir Directors: Kim Remmers and Kristen Janda*

Prayers of the Church

L: God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

L: Now Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

Extinguish Candles

Benediction

L: Let us go from this place proclaiming that we have seen the glory of God, believing that there is a light that shines in the darkness, which darkness shall not overcome. And may the love of the Father, the joy of the Holy Spirit and the peace of Christ be with you this Christmas and always.

C: Amen.

Song

"Joy to the World"

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

Sending

L: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C: Thanks be to God.

Joyful Noises

"Great Things"

Song

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

Reading

Luke 2:8 - 14

L: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks 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:

C: "Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all 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 cloth and lying in a manger."

L: Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying:

C: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Song

"The Bells of Christmas" (vs 1, 2 & 6)

*The bells of Christmas chime once more; the heav'nly
guest is at the door. He comes to earthly dwellings
still with new year gifts of peace, good will.*

*This world though wide and far out spread,
could scarcely find for you a bed.
Your cradle was a manger stall
No pearl or silk nor kingly hall.*

*Come Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,
and keep your Christmas in our breast;
then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,
shall swell our jubilee of song.*

Reading

Luke 2:15 - 20

L: When the angels had left them, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

C: They went with haste and found Mary, Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

L: But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

Song "Angels We Have Heard on High"

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing Their joyous strains.*

Refrain:

*Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?*

Refrain

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels, sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new born King.*

Refrain

Prayer of the Day

Reading Matthew 2:1 - 2, 11 - 12

L: 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." 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon Pastor Joel Remmers

Song "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!*

Apostles' Creed

C: 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.

Offering "O Holy Night"
Offertory by Ava Bonifas

Song "What Child Is This"

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*
*Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!*

(Ushers please bring up offering)

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

Lighting of the Candles

In a moment, the ushers will light their candles from the Christ Candle. They will light candles from the aisles. As you light your candle, please hold the lit candle upright, and tip unlit candles to light. We lift the candles when the song refers to the name of Jesus. Follow the lead of the worship assistant.

Reading John 1:1 - 5, 14 and 1 John 1:5

L: 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 the people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. This is the message we have heard from the beginning and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

Song "Silent Night, Holy Night!" (V1 by Ava Bonifas and V2 & V3 Congregation)

V1. *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.*

V2. *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!*

V3. *Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.*