CHRISTMAS EVE



In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

GATHERING

GATHERING SONG: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (ELW 270)



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

GREETING (ELW p. 138)

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world! Christ is the Light no darkness can overcome.

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."

In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The assistant minister leads the prayer of the day. Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The reading may be announced:

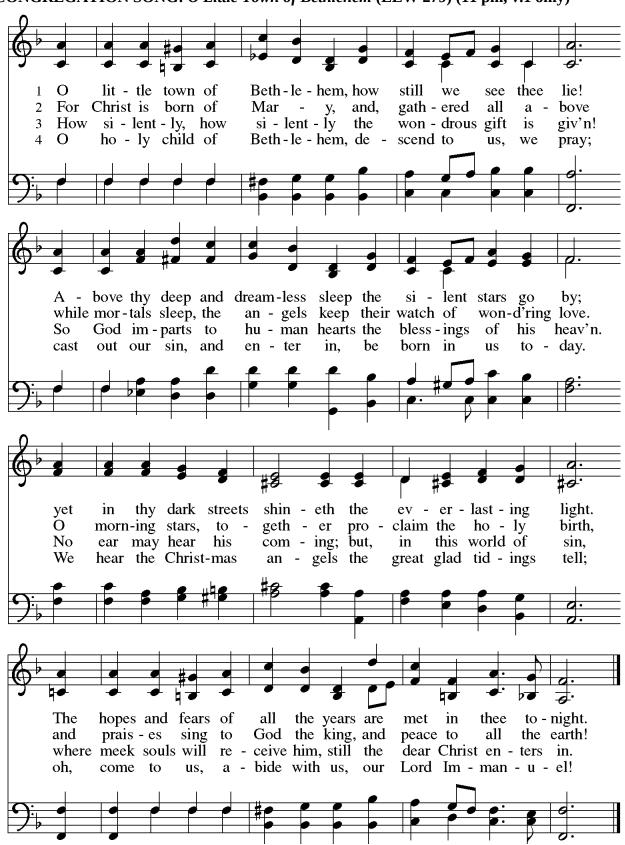
A reading from Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

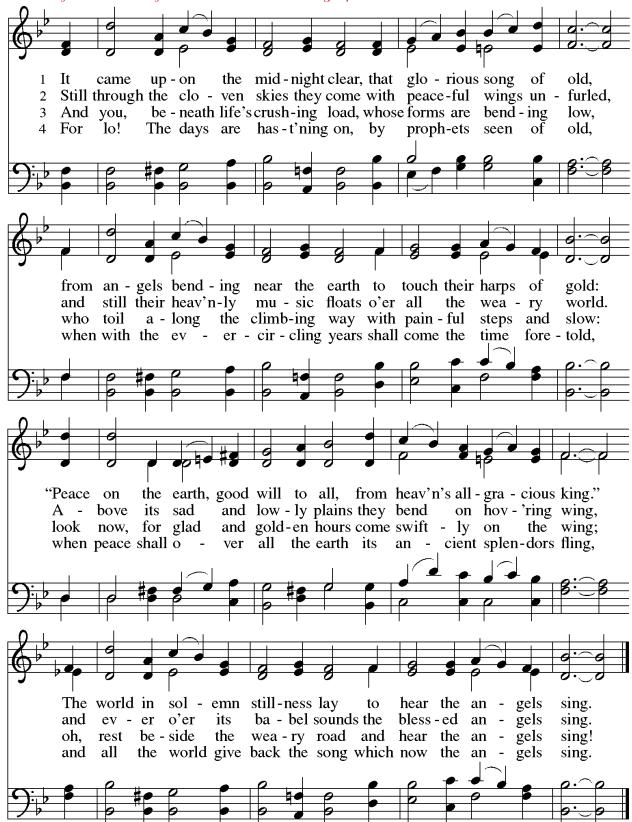
CONGREGATION SONG: O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279) (11 pm, v.1 only)



Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: It Came upon the Midnight Clear (ELW 282) (11 pm, v. 1 & 4)

The assembly stands as they are able to welcome the gospel.



Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900 **GOSPEL:** Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁶And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the homily.



HYMN OF THE DAY: O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283)

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.



Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

NICENE CREED (ELW p. 104)

The assembly stands as they are able.
The assistant minister leads the Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assisting minister leads the intercessory prayers.

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence.

Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness (*especially*).

Be especially with all those we name now: Jack (12/10/23), David G. (12/10/23), Larry and Joyce H. (12/10/23), Karl B (7/30/23), Kate S. (7/30/23), Pamela (5/28/23), Cindy (5/28/23), Jay (5/28/23), Lauren (5/28/23), Frieda L. (5/17/23), Paul S. (4/16/23), Gary M. (11/14/21), Tim R. (12/18/18), and all our family members and friends; Give them comfort, reconciliation, and hope. Be their help and their shield. Calm all who are facing illness, surgery, or a new diagnosis. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in their vocation. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host. We rejoice in the zeal of all your saints (*especially*) who have witnessed the appearing of your grace, and who reveal to us your salvation for all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION CONCLUSION

The presiding minister concludes the intercessory prayers.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 144)

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE (ELW p. 144)

The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 145)

The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

(continued on next page).

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen**.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 145)

The presiding minister may introduce 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

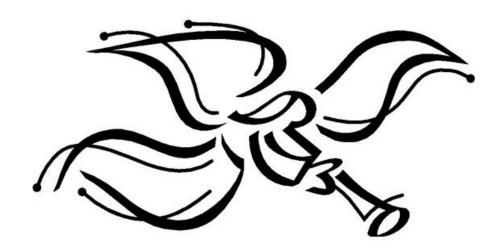
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. *and each person may respond*

Amen.

The ministers commune either after or before others commune.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

At this time, the assembly may commune receiving the communion sacrament(s). During communion distribution, the assembly will sing hymn 277.



COMMUNION SONG: Away in a Manger (ELW 277) crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord A - way man-ger, no in a ba - by wakes, but The cat - tle are low-ing; the a lit tle Lord near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for down his sweet head; Je - sus laid the stars in the bright sky looked cry - ing he makes. Ι love you, Lord Je - sus; look Je - sus, no love me, all the dear chil - dren in ev - er and Ι pray. Bless down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the cra - dle till morn-ing is down from the sky and stay by my ten - der fit us for heav-en, to live with you there. vour care and

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

TABLE BLESSING

The presiding minister offers a blessing.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)

The assisting minister leads the following prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus, a candle will be lit from the Christ Candle and the light of Christ shared with others.

To light a candle, please tilt the unlit candle atop the lighted candle to avoid spilling candle wax. Please supervise all younger children to avoid burns.



CONGREGATIONAL SONG: Silent Night, Holy Night!: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! (ELW 281)



Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

SENDING

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



SENDING SONG: *Joy to the World* (ELW 267)

The assembly stands as they are able to proclaim the word of God in song.



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL (ELW p. 146)

The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ. The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

CHRISTMAS DEDICATIONS

In Loving Memory of

All my loved ones ~ Virginia LaFalce

My parents – Ruth & Martin ~ Gwendolyn Feldt

My nephew ~ Gwendolyn Feldt

My beloved ancestors ~ Therese Paff

Jeremy ~ Patty & Rocky

Linda Upright ~ Doug & Christine Upright

Greg Upright, Ed & Edith Peplow, and Margaret & James Peplow ~ Shirley Upright

In Honor of

Jeremy ~ Patty & Rocky

In Thanksgiving to God For

Hi grace & mercy ~ Patty & Rocky

MISSION NOTES

We are so glad that you are here with us for worship, and invite you to consider other ways to deepen faith and connect with the Redeemer community and the world around us - to which God calls us in loving service!





Greening of the Sanctuary

Gathering to transform the Sanctuary at Redeemer, New Paltz for Christmas was an intergenerational event filled with team work and smiles, plus Christmas carols and a sumptuous pot luck feast that followed in the Community Room. Thanks again to all who made this joyous event possible as we prepared to welcome the holy Christ child!

Advent Journey and Christmas Celebrations

Thanks to our Worship Incubators Team, we have some wonderful multi-sensory opportunities to gather in and beyond worship for our Advent journey. Join us each week as we gather to praise and worship God and prepare to welcome the Christ child into our lives, community, and world.

• Dec. 25th, Christmas Day, 10:30am

For more information about upcoming Advent and Christmas events, please visit https://redeemernewpaltz.org/christmas.

3rd Annual Kwanzaa Celebration December 30th, 2023, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Join us on December 30th, from 11 am to 1 pm, to celebrate community and culture and learn about Kwanzaa with the Dr. Margaret Wade-Lewis Center.

The Center, located in a historic two-story foot frame house built in 1885, is the former Ann Oliver house and is a cultural artifact of Black history in New Paltz and the only house from the historic free Black neighborhood that is being preserved by and for the Black community.

Redeemer is exceptionally pleased to offer the Center space for their incredible Kwanzaa event. We hope you join us as ambassadors to Redeemer and learn more about Kwanzaa, and to help the Margaret-Wade Lewis Center realize their dream.

For more information, please contact Pastor Tobias, <u>tobias.song@gmail.com</u>, or visit <u>https://www.mwlcenter.org/.</u>

RSVPs are requested. To RSVP, please visit https://www.mwlcenter.org/events-1/3rd-annual-kwanzaa-celebration-1.

Second Sunday Speaker Series: Mental Health

The January Second Sunday Speaker Series will focus on Mental Health, featuring a panel of local Mental Health professionals discussing this important topic. We will gather at the New Paltz United Methodist Church at 11am on Sunday, January 14th. Please see pastor Tobias or email him at tobias.song@gmail.com with questions or suggestions.

Joint Epiphany Worship: hosted at Redeemer

On Sunday, January 7th Redeemer will host a joint Episcopal-Lutheran Epiphany worship service (at the normal worship time of 9:30am), followed by Hospitality (an opportunity for building relationships with one another!) Worship will include our ecumenical Sunday School leading the congregation in singing two Christmas carols, and the choir from Redeemer singing a Christmas anthem. What a wonderful opportunity to practice being Church with a capital "C" in the world together!

Calling all Cooks-SOUP NEEDED

During winter months fresh produce for Free Fresh Food Giveaway is scarce and lean. So we supplement with homemade soup. If making soup please consider donating a portion of your soup. Please check with Jackie A for freezable containers.

The date made and ingredients must be listed on lid. Thank you so much in advance for your help feeding the cold and hungry.