

Prelude: I Wonder as I Wander, Traditional Appalachian Carol

Lighting the Christ Candle: Robert and Andrea Burlingham

In those days, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was govern of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

Opening Hymn: Joy to the World No. 246

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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 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.

(Lighting the Advent Wreath)

Behold, the Light of Hope!

The Light of Hope burns with Love!

The Fruit of God's Love is the Light of Joy.

The Joy of Being in God's Love is the Light of Peace.

We are born again to bring this Light into the World!

Medley of Carols: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (vs. 1 & 4) No. 218
The First Noel (vs. 1 & 5) No. 245
There's a Song in the Air (vs. 1 & 4) No. 249

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all of the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

(Lift the Bread)

Each of our Advent candles serve as signs. Tonight, we find Jesus wrapped in signs of bread and wine. The Bread is our sign that the Baby grew and wisdom and stature. His wisdom is seen through his He empathy; He fed the hungry and clothed the naked. His wisdom is seen in His humility; He suffered, even death on the Cross. His stature is seen in His patience: he left bands of cloth lying in an empty tomb: He rose again.

(Lift the Cup)

The wine is our sign of his power and authority. He wrapped his disciples with hope; the forgiveness of sin. He wrapped his disciples with love; God's Self. He wrapped his disciples with joy; it is a joy to be wrapped in unconditional Love. He wrapped His disciples in peace; God sends us His Peace to do the same things He sent his Son to Reveal. (John 20: 21)

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

I am favored! Our neighbors are favored!

When the angels 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."

Angels are God's heavenly messengers! God, through Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, by the power of the Holy Spirit, sends us to be messengers of Good News. Let us go to Calvary and proclaim the Good News: Christ was born! Christ Suffered! Christ Died! Christ rose again. Christ sent us to tell everyone He is coming again!

Choral Anthem: O, Holy Night

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was laying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told to them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

DECEMBER 24, 2018

CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

*She wrapped him
in cloths and placed
him in a manger...*

LUKE 2:7, NIV



The Homily: The Treasure is in You

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Father, thank you for pouring out your Holy Spirit on us. Bless the bread and wine to be signs of your presence. Thank you for being present WITH us to teach us to forgive as you have forgiven us! Thank you for being IN us to teach us the Holy nature of your grace! Thank you for working THROUGH us to lead us in making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Lord, I want to be one of many who come in the power and authority of your Holy Name.

(The Lighting of the Christ Candle)

This is God's Table. It has been prepared for us on earth as it waits on us in Heaven. God has provided the bread and wine. God prepared this table for us in presence of our enemies. Here we learn to love our enemies. Our cup runs over with Love that frees us from our enemies of sin, death, evil, and Satan.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, Our God.

The Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion: (Music: The Christmas Spirit Composed by Linda Kerby)

Passing the Light: (Light your candle off of the Christ Candle)

Closing Hymn: Silent Night

Postlude: Poor and Quiet (Mizerna, Cicha), Traditional Polish Carol, Arranged by Sally DeFord



Not Just Another Story