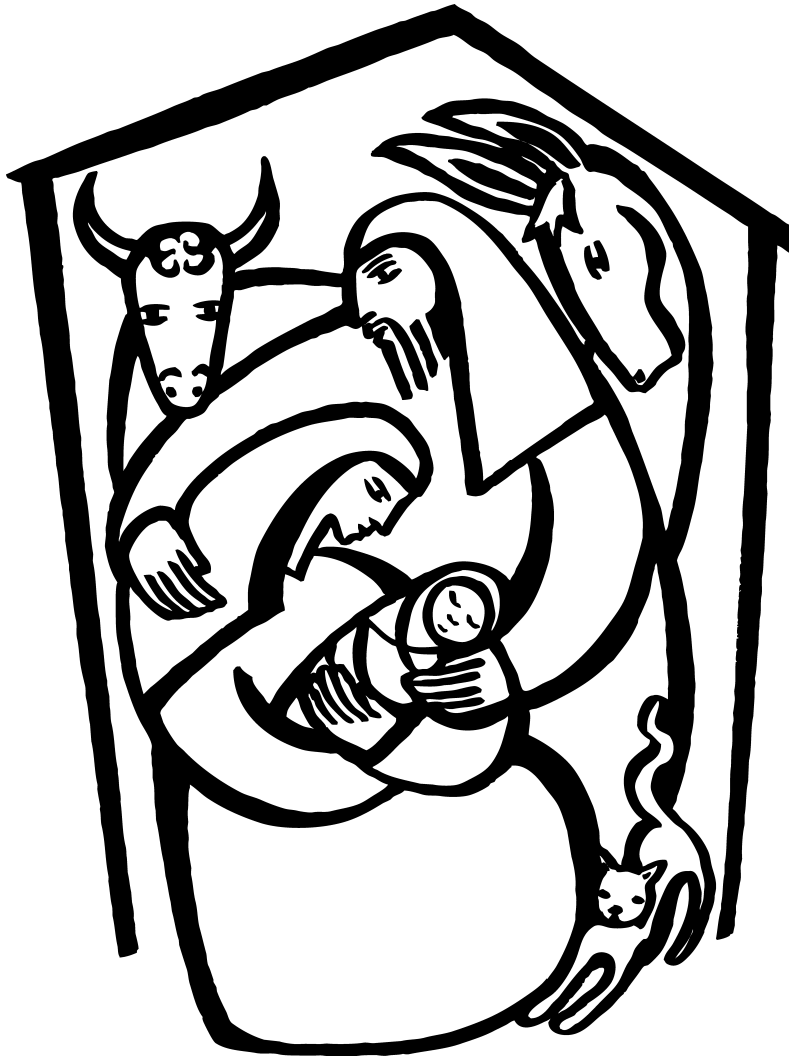


Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ



Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022

6:30 p.m.



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Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshipping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshipping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Key:

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

*Please Note: In an effort to protect those who are vulnerable, **masking is strongly recommended**. In addition, the first four rows of pews on the left side of the sanctuary are reserved as a “masking only” section (for those who wish to be in close proximity only with others who are masking).*

Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

In winter’s deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. 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

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

† **Call to Worship**

One: If you are like Joseph, and you are seeking encouragement,

All: There is room here for you.

One: If you are like Mary, and you are seeking rest,

All: There is a seat here for you.

One: If you are like the wise men, and you are looking for a sign,

All: These candles are here for you.

One: If you are like the angels, and you cannot help but sing,

All: There is a melody here for you.

One: God invites you to make yourself at home. Love was born tonight, and there is love here for you.

All: Let us worship the God of love.

**† Gathering Hymn: Oh, Come All Ye Faithful
ELW 283 v. 1, 2, 3**

1 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!

2 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*

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

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880

<p><i>The presiding minister greets the assembly with the words used by Paul in 2nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, and a shared hope in God.</i></p>	<p>† Greeting</p> <p>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.</p>
<p><i>The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.</i></p>	<p>† Prayer of the Day</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p>Children's Sermon: Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Christ Candle</p>
	<p>Christ Candle Hymn: Go Tell It On the Mountain ELW 290 (Sung Twice)</p> <p>Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!</p> <p><small>Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925</small></p>

The Gospel of Luke is the only gospel to feature the beloved infancy narrative of Jesus.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Gospel Part 1: Luke 2:1-7

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. ⁵Joseph went to Bethlehem 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. ⁷And 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.

Hymn: Away in the Manger ELW 277 v 1

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

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Gospel Part 2: Luke 2:8-14

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 the shepherds saw that with the angel there was 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 God favors!”

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ELW 270 v 1

1 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!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

*The Gospel is announced.
Following the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.*

† Gospel Part 3: Luke 2:15-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child

lying in the manger. ¹⁷When the shepherds saw Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

Christmas Homily – The Rev. Marissa Harrison

Silence for reflection

**† Hymn of the Day: O Little Town of Bethlehem
ELW 279, v. 1, 3, 4**

1 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.

3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still

the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

*As the church, we
pray for those in
our community and
around the world.
The prayers are
also responsive,
emphasizing our
own participation.*

† Prayers of the Church

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

Your infinite love is born to us this night. Send us out as messengers of the hope that has come to all people and all of creation. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You are pleased to dwell with your creatures and the whole earth sings for joy. Renew the splendor of creation from the smallest cell to the widest galaxies. Guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Your authority is over the nations. Break the rod of oppression in every land and free all people from fear. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where

there is suffering, and healing where there is disease.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. Protect infants and children, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain, especially those in our hearts who we name aloud or silently at this time...God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Your lovingkindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those who are experiencing distress of body or mind, those who are missing loved ones and those who are grieving. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You welcome those who have died into the joyous light of glory. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place. Inspire us by their example to love you by serving others. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**


Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **Amen.**

A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.

† **Passing of the Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you always
And also with you.

The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.

<p><i>God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Meal <i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>Offering</p> <p>God’s ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using this QR code:</p> 
	<p>Offertory: “Ave Maria” by mother-daughter musicians, Deb Yandala and Emily Bishop</p>
<p><i>The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God’s blessings.</i></p>	<p>† Offering Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High ELW 289, v. 1</p> <p>1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.</p> <p><small>Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, <i>The Crown of Jesus Music</i>, 1864</small></p>
	<p>† Offering Prayer</p> <p>God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of angels, and gather us at your table of celebration.</p>

	<p>Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.</p>
	<p>† Great Thanksgiving</p> <p>The Lord be with you. And also with you.</p> <p>Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.</p> <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.</p>
	<p>† Words of Institution</p>
<p><i>The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.</i></p>	<p>† Lord's Prayer (prayed by all)</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p>† Invitation to Communion</p> <p>Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.</p>

Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with “Amen” or “Thanks be to God.”

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding down the center aisle to the front. We will be observing standing processional communion tonight, rather than kneeling at the rail.

Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine is red; grape juice is white. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Special Music: A Medley of Christmas Carols and Hymns, Deb Yandala and Emily Bishop

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

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

† Candlelight Hymn: Silent Night ELW 281

Please tip the unlit candle to receive the flame.

1 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.

2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 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.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

Sending

God blesses us and send us in mission to the world.

*With the blessing of
God, we go out to
live as Christ's body
in the world.*

† Blessing

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the courage of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you
now and forever.

Amen.

Please extinguish your candle.

*Through the
sending hymn we
are sent out into
the world to follow
Jesus.*

† **Sending Hymn: Joy to the World**
ELW 267 vs 1, 2, & 4

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

- 2 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.

- 4 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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

*The dismissal sends
us out into the
world as Christ's
Body—fed,
nourished, and
ready to serve.
Worship has ended,
and our service
begins!*

† **Dismissal**

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Announcements from Good Soil Saturday Dec 24, 2021

For those in need of healing, comfort or strength:

Peter Alexander; Helen Andrews; Max Bechtel; Jae, Jeff, and Oakley; Andrew Evatt; Ed Fink; Daryl and Mary Hanson, Jamie Lanter; Scott Krankowski; Willie Lee, Char Mattson; Jen Mitterholzer; Rich Petrusky; Marie Sternad; Jeanette Weidlich

For those celebrating birthdays:

Brynn Carlson (Dec 24), Mark Johnson (Dec 25), Else Rolland (Dec 26), Maddie Sburlea (Dec 28), Nick Young (Dec 28)

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the glory of God by members of the Good Soil faith community to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Diane Bennett	Dave and Paula Maeder Connor
Dave and Abbie Blocksom	Jim Mattson
Carl Bruns	Joe and Donna Michalski
Louise DeBell	Bill and Darlene Wahl
Barbara Demko-Werner	Michael and JoAnne Wancata
Bill Fink	Wylie Family
Inman Family	Young Family
Larry and Chris Jacobson	Stan and Joan Zeager
Lanter Family	

Join the Good Soil faith community tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. for Praise in Pajamas on Christmas Day! You are also warmly invited to join in a “Cookie Potluck” with hot chocolate immediately following worship. Bring some cookies to share!