# CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE





Redeemer Church Office
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www.redeemermilwaukee.org

December 24, 2025, 6:00 p.m. 631 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233

#### **WORSHIP LEADERS**

PREACHER/PRESIDER: Rev. Dr. Lisa Bates-Froiland

**LITURGICAL ASSISTANT**: LuAnn Blohm

**READER:** Scott McIntosh

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:** Jeff Bray

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** The Walker Family

**ALTAR GUILD:** The Walker Family

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS:** Isaac and Selah Bray

Leo, Silas and Quinton Schumwinger **USHERS**: Dorothy Zeidler, Bill Standiford

**PRELUDE** "Take Comfort My People"

Steve Warner

Redeemer Choir

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 40 (selected verses)

Scott McIntosh

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.

Before him all the nations are as nothing; they are regarded by him as worthless and less than nothing.

He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.

Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.

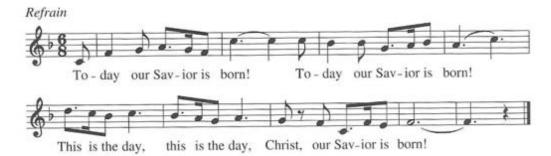
PROCESSIONAL SONG "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" Red Book 270

Redeemer Teens enter with Bible and candles to light the Four Candles of Advent (Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love) and the Christ candle.

**WELCOME** Rev. Dr. Lisa Bates-Froiland

OPENING PRAYER LuAnn Blohm

Gracious God, this Christmas eve we hear the story of Jesus' birth once again. Inspire us to hear it, sing it, and pray it in a way that meets the needs of ourselves and our world... this night. **Amen.** 



#### Verses

- Sing to our God a joyful song! Everyone bless God's name. Tell of God's wondrous deeds; sing to all the world.
- Heaven be glad and earth rejoice, let every ocean roar!
   Every forest, every tree joins the song of joy!
- Cry out with joy for God has come, come to rule the earth.
   God will rule the world with love, righteousness and truth.

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

"Away In a Manger"

Red Book 277

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



The Good News is found in the book of Luke, chapter 2, verses 1-20.

## Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened,

which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

<sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

**SERMON** "The Gift of Respect" Rev. Dr. Lisa Bates-Froiland

**SERMON SONG** "O Come All Ye Faithful" Red Book 283

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

#### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

OFFERTORY "Christ Our Light Has Come" Steve Angrisano

Redeemer Choir

OFFERING PRAYER LuAnn Blohm

In this moment of worship we welcome your presence again, O God.

And we offer you our time-for reflection and prayer.

In this moment we remember what Jesus taught in word and deed.

And we offer our resources-for the ministry beyond us.

In this moment of giving we hear your call to each of us

And we answer with the gift of ourselves. Amen.

#### PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

**Song** "What Feast of Love" Red Book 487 v. 1

**Presider's Prayer** 

**Song** "What Feast of Love" Red Book 487 v. 3

#### **Words of Institution**

## **Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. God, you are our Holy Parent, our Mother . . .

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

**COMMUNION SONGS** "Who Has Known" John Foley

Redeemer Choir

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" Red Book 279

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

# **CANDLE LIGHTING** "Silent Night"

Red Book 281

The ushers light their candles from the ministers' candles, then light the candle of each worshipper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is NEVER TILTED but is always held upright when giving light to another. The lights of the sanctuary will be dimmed.



#### **BLESSING**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience 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  $\pm$  and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.** 

SENDING SONG

"Joy to the World"

Red Book 267

#### **ANNOUCEMENTS**

**DISMISSAL**: Go in Peace; Christ is Born this Night! **Thanks be to God.** 

**POSTLUDE** "Jesus What a Wonderful Child/Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Special thanks to Cheryl Walker for the sanctuary decorations.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The church office is open, 9 – 1, Monday – Thursday. Call 414-933-7004, or email <u>admin@redeemermilwaukee.org</u> to set up an appointment with the pastor.

### **BIBLE STUDY - MONDAY**

There will be no Bible study this Monday.

### **DONATIONS**

- If you do stock donations to Fidelity, please make sure you alert Lisa Walter at <u>finance@redeemermilwaukee.org</u>. She needs the date, the amount and the name of the stock.
- Please make sure any donations sent in are clearly marked for regular tithes or Forward in Faith.
- If you are bringing a donation of clothing, please let the staff ok the donation first before putting it in the clothes pantry.

#### LUNCH AT OLGA'S

- Lunch is served Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Alex at <u>operations@olganws.com</u>.
- There will not be a meal served on Christmas Day.

## **CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

Christmas Day – Brunch Worship – 10:00 AM (Event Space)

We are all aware that Pastor Lisa's last day is quickly approaching. We'll be hearing, over the next couple of weeks, her seven last sermons. Here are the plans for those sermons:

Jan 4 - Stewardship of Self

Jan 11 - Ah, Family. And Politics. And Faith.

Jan 18 - One God, Many Paths?

Jan 25 - All the Sex and Gender Stuff (RIC Sunday)

Feb 1 - Keeping the Faith: Resilience and Tradition Feb 8 - Letter to the Next Pastor of Redeemer Feb 15 - It All Comes Down to This