

ONE: You give a place for the exiled, rest for the weary, food and drink for those in need, and kingdom built on love to call our own.

ALL: O come Lord of might, the one from the line of King David to rule in our lives

ONE: You give us victory over the grave, and open wide your heavenly home to us. You bring joy to this world and our lives.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY 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. Amen.**

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTER: **CHRIST'S LIGHT** *All candles lit*
All sing verse 5 of "One Candle Is Lit," sung to tune of "Away in the Manger"

**Come, listen, the sounds of God-with-us ring clear,
and signs of a cross in the distance appear.
The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near.
One candle is lit for the Christ-birthday here.**

READER/CONGREGATION:

Christmas is about the Light of the world, the Christ child, the anointed/awaited Savior of the world. **He is the gift we all receive, a gift of light in a dark world. The light he offers is life-giving.**

His light lives within us, among us and goes before us. We await for his triumphant return to earth.

With his return, Jesus ushers in the beginning of our eternal life with him, God the Father, the Holy Spirit and all God calls family.

Between today and that day, let us seek to live and love like Christ; to carry his light in our daily lives, into the world.

GROWING

*P: THE HOLY GOSPEL according to Luke the 2nd chapter **Glory to you, O Lord**

In 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. 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.

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!"

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 they saw this, 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. This is the Gospel of the Lord **All: Praise to you O Christ.**

"Mary Did You Know"
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Solo by Keith Lee
Pastor Mary Eide

GIVING

*THE APOSTLES' CREED (*professed together*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

**Or, He descended to the dead.*

NOTE: Giving to support God's ministry at Shepherd of the Hill can be mailed in (Mailing address: 207 University St., Elk Mound, WI 54739– OR - go to GIVE tab on our website (www.sothem.org) to make a one time or reoccurring donation.

* OFFERING PRAYER Dear Jesus, **you came into the world as one unknown, yet bringing joy and salvation to the earth. We generously give to the ministry being done in your name, because we want to share the Good News of your birth, ministry, death and resurrection with the world. May our individual and congregational lives be a reflection of the love and peace, revealed in you, our Savior. Amen.**

* PRAYERS (*Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.*)

* LORD'S PRAYERS **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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

[Carefully light the candles you've received as we sing

"Silent Night"

**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.**

**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!**

[Candles are extinguished.] Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

* BLESSING: Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ✝ through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

* #39 CLOSING HYMN *Joy to the World*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,**

**Let earth receive her king;
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

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

**and makes the nations prove
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

BELLS AND DISMISSAL Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Jennifer Kinblom

THIS WEEK AT SHEPHERD OF THE HILL

Today: 4:00 & 7pm - Christmas Eve Worship
Friday FOOD PANTRY CLOSED
Next: 10:00 am - Special pre-recorded worship will be on our FB page at 10am
Sunday and found on website at www.sothem.org

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