**SALT PARISH**

## Christmas Eve

## ~ ~ December 24, 2022 ~~

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Hymn “*O Come, All Ye Faithful”***

Vs. 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!***

Vs. 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]***

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

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

P: “While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger.” (Luke 2:6-7). Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies; well-worn fabric full of years holds in the warmth of a parent’s love; animals and shepherds crowd in tight, glowing with adoration, while a baby’s cry squeezes out to greet the world.

***C: Tonight we give thanks for every child among us. Each new birth -- regardless of who, when or where -- reminds us of the preciousness of life, the potential of tomorrow, and the promise of God.***

P: On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle for the child-King, the infant-Redeemer, the humble-Lord. And now we know . . . He is born and nothing will ever be the same!

**Dialog**

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

***C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.***

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

***C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.***

P: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

***C: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.***

**Opening Prayer**

P: The Lord be with you.

***C: And also with you.***

P: Let us pray. 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.

***C: Amen***

**Lessons and Carols**

**Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7**

**Carol: *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”***

Vs. 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-

born 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!”

***Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing,***

 ***“Glory to the new-born king!”***

Vs. 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the

ever-lasting Lord,
 late in time behold him come, offspring of the

virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, the

incarnate deity!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our

Emmanuel! ***[Refrain]***

**Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a**

**Carol: *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”***

Vs.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.

Vs. 2 For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all

above
 while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch

of wond'ring love.
 O morning stars, together proclaim the holy

birth,
 and praises sing to God the king, and peace to

all on earth!

**Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38**

**Carol: *“What Child Is This”***

Vs. 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s

lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while

shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds

guard and angels sing;
 haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the

son of Mary!

Vs. 2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and

ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent

Word is pleading.
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross

be borne for me, for you;

hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the

son of Mary!

**Lesson: Luke 2:1-7**

**Carol: *“Away in a Manger”***

Vs. 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.

Vs. 2 The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
 But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
 I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
 And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Vs. 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
 Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in your tender care
 And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

**Lesson: Luke 2:8-16**

**Carol: *“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”***

Vs. 1 Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
 oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is

Lord of all.
 Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are

ringing, tidings bringing:
 Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is

Lord of all!

Vs. 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil

till the morning new

saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a

gospel true.
 Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises

voicing, greet the morrow:
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the

child was born for you!

**Lesson: Luke 2:21-36**

**Carol: *“Angels from the Realms of Glory”***

Vs. 1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight

o'er all the earth;
 once you sang creation's story, now proclaim

Messiah's birth:

***Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,***

 ***worship Christ, the new-born king.***

Vs. 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er

your flocks by night,
 God with us is now residing, yonder shines the

infant light. ***[Refrain]***

**Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11**

**Carol: *“We Three Kings”***

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,

Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Oh, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright;

Westward leading, still proceeding guide us to thy Perfect Light!

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again;

King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign

Oh, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright;

Westward leading, still proceeding guide us to thy Perfect Light!

**Lesson: Matthew 2:13-18**

**Carol: *“The First Noel”***

 Vs. 1 The first Noel the angel did say was to

 certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
 in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
 on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

***Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!***

 ***Born is the King of Israel.***

Vs. 2 They looked up and saw a star
 shining in the east beyond them far;
 and to the earth it gave great light,
 and so it continued both day and night.

***Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!***

 ***Born is the King of Israel.***

**Lesson: John 1:1-14**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Christmas Message**

**Carol: *“Let There Be Peace on Earth”***

Vs. 1 Let there be peace on earth

 And let it begin with me

 Let there be peace on earth

 The peace that was meant to be

 With God as our Father

 Brothers all are we

 Let me walk with my brother

 In perfect harmony

Vs. 2 Let peace begin with me

 Let this be the moment now

 With ev'ry step I take

 Let this be my solemn vow

 To take each moment

 And live each moment

 In peace eternally

 Let there be peace on earth

 And let it begin with me

**Responsive Prayer**

P: Glory to God in the highest,

***C: and peace to God's people on earth.***

P: Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

***C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.***

P: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

***C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.***

P: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

***C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.***

**Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

***C: And also with you.***

P: Lift up your hearts.

***C: We lift them to the Lord.***

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**Words of Institution**

P: 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

***C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

**Lord’s Prayer**

P: Let us pray as Jesus has taught us.

***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.***

**Communion**

**Post Communion Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

***C: Amen.***

**Blessing**

P: 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, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**Sending Hymn “*Silent Night, Holy Night”***

*(The candles will be lit at this time.)*

Vs***.*** 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.

Vs. 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!

Vs. 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.

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace, Christ is born!

***C: Thanks be to God.***

**Postlude**