

# *Christmas Eve*

December 24, 2020



Facebook Live Caroling – 3:30pm  
Facebook Premiere Worship – 4pm



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# GATHERING

Music to Prepare Us for Worship – Away In A Manger (Nan Crary)

Gathering Songs (Song lyrics for tonight's hymns can be found at the end of the bulletin)

O Come, All Ye Faithful vs. 1-3

There's a Star in the East - All

Welcome

No Longer Strangers Prayer

Let us pray together. God of the Stranger, **we wait for you to come among us and yet, you tell us you are already here. You are here in the hunger of a stranger, the handshake of a friend, the hug of a loved one. Give us eyes to see you in the face of everyone we meet. May we greet all people, friend and stranger, as we would greet you. Amen.**

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the community of the Holy Spirit is with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray: O Lord,

**The joy of this night comes to us new each year. Light the fire of the angels' midnight proclamation within our hearts again, that we might marvel beside the manger of our newborn Savior, in whose name we pray, Amen.**

# THE STORY

Based on Matthew and Luke's telling of the Birth of Jesus

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs 1, 4, 6)

*My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness O God* (From Holden Evening Prayer)

*Joseph's Song* (vs 1 & 2) (Song lyrics written by David E. Nelson)

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* (vs 1 & 5)

*Away in a Manger* (vs 1-3)

*Angels We Have Heard on High* (vs 1, 2 & 3)

*Go Tell It on the Mountain* (vs 1-3)

**Sermon** (A special thanks to Pastor Emily Scott and the inspiration she provided for today's sermon from her story shared in her book titled [For All who Hunger](#))

*Joy to the World* (vs 1, 2 & 4)

## Prayers of the People

*Together we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.*

Each petition will close with the words: God of Hope  
And we invite you to please respond: **Hear our prayer.**

## Offering

*We are grateful for your financial gifts; it's the only way churches are churches. Set up automatic giving by going to our website, [riverofhopehutchinson.org](http://riverofhopehutchinson.org) and follow the directions to "give online".*

## Offering Song

*Hark, The Herald Angels Sing* (vs 1, 2 & 3)

# THE FEAST

## Setting the Table

*As we gather our gifts of bread and wine/juice, the youth will lead us in the table prayer written by Martin Luther: Let us pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. And let these gifts to us be blest. Blest be God who is our bread, may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.***

## Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord is with you

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise**

## Words of Institution

## The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

**Our Father, in heaven, holy is your name.**

**Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil,  
for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## ***Invitation to the Meal***

*This is not my table or River of Hope's table, but rather this is Christ's table and all are welcome. If you hunger and thirst for grace and mercy that comes through Jesus Christ, then Christ has set this table just for you. Bring all that you are and all that you have to the table. You will be fed. You are forgiven. There is enough.*

*"This is the body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you."*

## Communion Songs

*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day (vs 1-4)*

## Blessing and Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

**Loving God, thank you for the gift of grace received at this table. Send your Spirit of truth to direct our steps, to guide our hearts, and to live a life of following Jesus for the sake of the world. Draw us near to you through your body and blood, through your presence in this world here and now. Amen.**

## THE SENDING

### *Silent Night (Vs 1-3)*

*This year we gather from our own homes for worship with the promise that Emmanuel, “God with us” draws near. You are invited to light a candle, hold a flashlight, or gather around your Christmas tree, as together we sign Silent Night and reflect on the Holy Spirit who draws us together as beloved community to share the good news that “Christ, the Savior, is born”.*

### Blessing

### Sending Song

*Jesus, What a Wonderful Child (All)*

Go in peace – serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

### Music to Send You Out

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ClergyStuff2020 Sermon Illustration from Pastor Emily Scott's book titled For All Who Hunger.  
Prayers Adapted from Sundays and Seasons 2020 Photos from Unsplash and River of Hope Congregation

## Christmas Eve Music Lyrics (alphabetized)

### **A Song for Joseph by David E Nelson**

To Joseph an angel appeared in a dream  
Do not be afraid for it's not as it seems  
The child Mary carries is sent from above  
The work of God's Spirit – a gift of God's love.

So Joseph, believing, took Mary, his wife.  
And cared for her, loved her, the rest of his life.  
And when that day came when young Mary gave birth  
He named the child Jesus, our God come to earth.

### **Away in a Manger** Text: North American, 19th cent.

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
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.
- 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.

**Go Tell It on the Mountain** Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
- 3 Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

- 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!"

*Refrain*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

**I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day** *Words by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Music by John Baptiste Calkin*

I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play;  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought as how this day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had run so long the unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:  
"There is no peace on earth," I said,  
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth God sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth good will to men."

**Jesus, What a Wonderful Child** *Text: African American traditional, alt.*

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.  
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;  
new life, new hope the child will bring.  
Listen to the angels sing:  
"Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring!



**Joy to the World** Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

- 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.

**The Magnificat** *From Holden Evening Prayer*

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your kindness evermore.  
How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart.

You have cast the mighty down from their thrones, and uplifted the humble of heart,  
You have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part.  
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice, strong your love,  
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore.

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.

**O Come All Ye Faithful** (Adeste Fideles)

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

*Chorus*

O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord

2. Sing choirs of angels  
Sing in exultation  
O sing all ye bright  
Hosts of heav'n above  
Glory to God all  
Glory in the highest

3. Yea Lord we greet Thee  
Born this happy morning  
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing

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**O Come O Come Emmanuel** (Veni Emmanuel)

1. O come O come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

*Chorus*

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

2. O come Thou Rod of Jesse free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave

3. O come O Dayspring come and cheer  
Our spirit by thine Advent here  
And drive away the shade of night  
And pierce the cloud and bring us light

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**O Little Town of Bethlehem** Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

- 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.
- 5 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!

**Silent Night** (Stille Nacht)

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 Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus Lord at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

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**There's a Star in the East** Text: African American spiritual

- 1     There's a star in the east on Christmas morn,  
      rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
      It will lead to the place where the Christ was born,  
      rise up, shepherd, and follow.

*Refrain*

Follow, follow,  
rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
Follow the star of Bethlehem,  
rise up, shepherd, and follow.

- 2     If you take good heed to the angel's words,  
      rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
      You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds,  
      rise up, shepherd, and follow. *Refrain*