

LORDSTOWN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7:00PM



CHRISTMAS

EVE



5615 Palmyra Rd SW Lordstown, OH 44481

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www.lordstownlutheran.org

Worship Bulletin
Sunday, December 24, 2023
Lordstown Lutheran Church

Rev. Steve Brown —Pastor
Mrs. Margaret Thomas— Organist
Mrs. Lois Dorazio—Choir Director
Mrs. Linda Falatic - Lectors

We welcome you to worship with us this morning and we're glad you are here. May God bless our time together and may you feel renewed and refreshed as we celebrate God's unconditional love for the world. Thank you for joining us today and we hope you will return again soon.

Children's Sunday School meets on the 2nd & 4th Sundays during worship, and Children's Service project on the 5th Sunday during the School year. As a courtesy the congregation does not stand during worship unless instructed to do so.

Introduction

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that they have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh - in Christ's body and blood - so that we may be bearers of divine light to all people who walked in darkness.

WELCOME

PRELUDE - A Quiet Time for Reflection

Entering into God's Presence

Advent Wreath Lighting CHRISTMAS EVE - WELCOME HOME Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-20

Reader: This night, this night is a night to remember. A night when home broke in on us. A night when we were not forgotten or alone or abandoned. This night. This night is the night when here and there became one, when past and future combined in a breathless present. This is a night when we are home, in ourselves, in this family, in the God who loved us enough to walk beside us.

Reader: We gather in the night to proclaim the light. We shrug off despair and embrace hope. We set aside conflict and choose peace. We push away despair by claiming joy. We overcome hate by rising into love. Because this night we know, even in the shadows of our doubts, we know that we are loved. That's what it means to be home.

Reader: We light these candles, hoping to become the light, hoping to radiate light by how we live. We light these candles to create a space called home in this place, in our place, in inner places. We light these candles to declare that unto us a Savior is born, who is Christ the Lord. Welcomed home by angels singing and shepherds kneeling. Welcomed home by those like us who have worshiped for thousands of years. Welcomed home again tonight, right here, right now, in us.

Reader: It's time to be home.



CHOIR ANTHEM

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

L: Let us pray together.

ALL: 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

HYMN

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

**Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the king of angels:**

Refrain

**Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come,
let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

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

Refrain

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation.

P: Amen

L: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Everlasting God,

**P: you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.
We choose comfort over courage.
We are careless with creation's bounty.
Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world.
Amen.**

L: Hear these words of assurance:
God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.
In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.

P: Amen

HYMN “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**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!"**

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son 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: **Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**



God's Word for Us Today

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

LECTOR

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

*2The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.*

*3You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.*

*4For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.*

*5For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.*

*6For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named*

*Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*7His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.*

*He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.*

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.



The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:96

LECTOR

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)

1Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**2Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

3Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

**4For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

5As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

**6Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

7Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

**8Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**

9Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

**10Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king! The one who
made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the
peoples with equity."**

11Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea
thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is
therein.

**12Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your
coming, O Lord, for you come to judge the earth.**

13You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

LECTOR

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

11The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, 12training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, 13while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

The Holy Gospel According to St. Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

1In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2**This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3**All went to their own towns to be registered. **4**Joseph 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. **5**He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6**While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7**And 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. **9**Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10**But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11**to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12**This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." **13**And 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!"

[**15**When 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." **16**So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. **17**When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; **18**and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. **19**But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **20**The 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**

Sermon

Rev. Brown

Christmas Message Rev. Brown

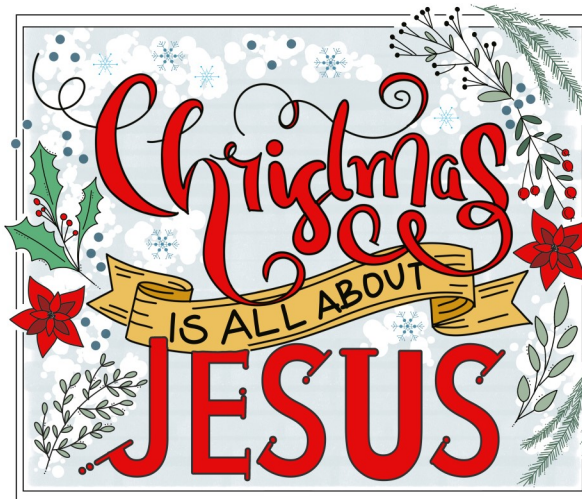
Hymn “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er
the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their
joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth
the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ
the Lord, the newborn king.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo



Together We Say What We Believe

APOSTLES CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**



We Offer Our Prayers and Thanksgiving

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

At the end of each intercessory prayer the Pastor says:
"Merciful God," and the people respond
"receive our prayer."

OFFERING SONG Vs. 1 & 3

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What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be - borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



OFFERING PRAYER

**God our provider, by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.**

Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.

Let them be a sign of your steadfast love

and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

AMEN

Offering Plates are Located by the doors to the Sanctuary or

You may mail your financial gifts to the church.

Attn: Pat Hogan

5615 Palmyra Rd SW, Lordstown 44481

HYMN “The First Noel”

**The First Noel, the Angels 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.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!**

**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.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!**

The Great Thanksgiving

This Table of Christ welcomes all without exception. Join us and experience the love of Christ as we come together to share in this sacred meal.

AT LORDSTOWN LUTHERAN CHURCH, ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE OF GOD'S LOVE FOR THE WORLD. FOR TONIGHT'S COMMUNION YOU MAY COME FORWARD FOR INTINCTION IN COMMUNION OR RECEIVE A BLESSING FROM THE PASTOR AT THEIR FAMILY'S DISCRETION.

DIALOGUE

L: The Lord be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

PREFACE OF THE DAY

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (tune: *Holy, holy, holy*)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!
Heav'n and earth embrace your glory
Praise we cry to you.
Blessed is the One who comes in your name.
Hosanna, hosanna, praise forevermore.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. We bless you for creating the whole world; for your promises to your people Israel, and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells.

Born of Mary, he shares our life. Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Guiding his children, he leads us. Visiting the sick, he heals us. Dying on the cross, he saves us. Risen from the dead, he gives new life. Living with you, he prays for us.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord. Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, and inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory.

We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, in the holy and life-giving Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
**ALL: 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 TO COMMUNION

L: Glory to God in the highest!
Come to the table of peace.

For those sharing Communion by Intinction, please dip your wafer into the cup.
Ushers will dismiss you by the center aisle and please return to your seat by the
side aisles. Thank you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Through the great Comforter, Advocate, and our faithful Guide, we
have become a part of God's holy love. And so we pray to the eternal
one

**ALL: God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
AMEN**

The Candles of Christmas

For your safety, only tilt your unlit candle into the flame. All lit candles should remain straight up. Ushers will light the candles of the worshippers sitting nearest the center aisle. Your lit candle is never tilted but is always held upright when giving light to another.

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION: John 1:1–14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him, not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.



HYMN “SILENT NIGHT, HOLY 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,
heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.
(Please extinguish your candles)

Going Forth To Serve

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you,
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
And the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
Now and forever.

AMEN



SENDING HYMN “Joy to the World”

**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.**

**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.**

DISMISSAL

**L: Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
ALL: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*We wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and
a New Year filled with the blessing of a loving God!*

**Thank you for filling our sanctuary with the spirit of your love
tonight. We’d love to worship with you again soon.**

As a mainline Christian denomination, our church uses the common lectionary as a source for Scripture readings each Sunday. Forty-nine, worldwide denominations and thousands of churches follow this same three-year cycle of scripture readings. Together, with these churches we also participate in celebrating the seasons of the Church Year. The liturgical colors being used today, gold, purple and blue, celebrate the season of Advent. Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003393. Sundays & Seasons. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved

Lordstown Lutheran 2023



Poinsettia Display

**In Memory of Steve and Betty Lerch
In Honor of Bob and Helen Falatic
Given by Mark and Linda Falatic**

**In Memory of Dean and Phyllis Bailey
Given by their Children**

**In Memory of Earl & Dorotha Bailey
Given by their Grandchildren**

**In Memory of George & Joyce Lehto
Given by George Lehto**

**In Honor of All Veterans
Given by Chuck Thomas**

**In Memory of Loved Ones
Given by Chuck and Margaret Thomas**

**In Memory of Behner Grandparents
Given by the Tallmans**

**In Memory of Loved Ones
Given by Lois and Dick Dorazio**

**In Memory of Teddy Radtka
Given by Fredia Radtka**

**In Memory of Steve and Betty Lerch
Given by Kathy Lerch**

**In Memory of Steve and Betty Lerch
Given by Karen Lerch**

**In Memory of Parents
Given by Dave and June Harrison**

**To the Glory of God
Given by Patty and Jeff Housel**

**In Memory of Our Son, Phil Paxson
Given by Ted & Sarah Paxson**

**In Memory of Our Parents
Given by Ted & Sarah Paxson**

**In Memory of Our
Dad & Grandpa – Bob Housel,
Our Grandpa – Abe Radtka,
Our Grandma – Ora Radtka,
Our Uncle – Ted Radtka
Given by the Lutz Family**

**In Honor of Family
Given by Don & Phyllis Knox**

**In Memory of Hogan & Gifford Families
Given by The Hogans**

**In Memory of Jeffrey A. Vesey
Given by Johnny, Marilyn, & Einsele**

**In Memory of John F. Einsele
Given by Johnny, Marilyn, & Einsele**

NEXT SUNDAY, Sunday, December 31, 2023
First Sunday of Christmas
First Reading: Isaiah 61:10—62:3
Psalm: Psalm 148
Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

