

# Christmas Season



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## Pastoral Welcome

### Prelude

Annette Nolan & Jennifer Frisina

### Lighting the Christ Candle

L: We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives,  
and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—  
born of Mary,  
experiencing the fullness of human life  
and showing us the ways of peace, love, and the justice of God.  
His voice still undimmed by the centuries;  
his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago.  
Come to us, Lord Jesus,  
Be born in us, in our hearts, our minds, our lives.  
May the light of your life be kindled in us,  
And lead us to the shining truth,  
of God with us, God for us, God in us.

C: **Amen.**

### Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who sends the word with angels,  
who is made flesh among all peoples,  
and who breathes peace on all the earth.

C: **Amen.**

L: In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: Holy God,

C: **we confess our sin before you.  
We replace compassion with competition.  
We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.  
We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.  
Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.  
Swaddle our hearts with your peace,  
that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born in us.  
Amen.**

L: I bring you good news of great joy for all people:

God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.

In Christ all your sins are forgiven and through baptism you have been clothed in love and peace.

C: **Amen.**

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## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### Christmas Announcement

L: Alleluia! Christ is born for us!

C: **Oh, come, let us adore him!**

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

C: **And also with you.**

### Prayer of Illumination

L: God is telling a story in our lives. It's quite a story – full of the promises God makes and our struggles to trust; full of mystery and angels with surprising news; full of hard endings and unexpected new beginnings.

Come, hear the story and pay attention to the angels' message in your heart in this place and time.

Then join all creation in worshipping the God who tells it full of grace and truth; who comes in Jesus, the Word made flesh, and makes our story holy.

C: **Amen.**

### The First Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

### The Gospel Acclamation

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"* (v. 1)

Kristin Nysten

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

The Message

Song of the Day

“What Child Is This”

Kristin Nysten



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!

L: Lord Jesus, you were born to share with us in all experiences of life. We come to you now, trusting that you know the needs of the world, your church, and the people for whom we pray. In your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

*A brief silence.*

L: Lord Jesus, “Prince of Peace”, speak of your wisdom and give guidance to the leaders of nations in ways they can hear and understand. Speak and may your kingdom of peace, justice and righteousness be established on earth. In your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: Lord Jesus, “Mighty God”, speak of your holiness to your church throughout the world. Speak and let your people celebrate your birth with a new commitment. Let us joyfully proclaim your glory so that the whole earth is filled with the sound of praise and thanksgiving. In your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Lord Jesus, “Everlasting Father”, speak to your children of your love. Speak and be born again in our hearts today. Speak and let your love surround us and those with whom we share this Christmas. Help us to see you in others so that by loving and serving them we may also love and serve you. In your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Lord Jesus, “Wonderful Counsellor”. Speak words of comfort, love, and compassion to those who are suffering bereavement, loneliness or sickness of body or mind. Speak and let them find peace and reassurance in knowing the light of your presence with them in their darkness.

We especially pray for:

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| ▪ Val Allred        | ▪ Vickie McCombs   |
| ▪ Lemont Bell       | ▪ Trey O’Quinn     |
| ▪ Marinell Bostian  | ▪ Leo Peeler       |
| ▪ Steve Bowers      | ▪ Joyce Quigley    |
| ▪ Charliese Eichler | ▪ Shannon Roberson |
| ▪ Gary Emblar       | ▪ Richard Schulz   |
| ▪ Connie Erks       | ▪ L.D. Shockley    |
| ▪ Amy Hill          | ▪ Leni Taite       |
| ▪ Donnell Horton    | ▪ David Townsend   |
| ▪ Waylon Kuklantz   | ▪ Laura Tucker     |
| ▪ John Lewis        | ▪ Herbert Watson   |
| ▪ Susan Lewis       | ▪ Velia Watson     |
| ▪ Ray Matthews      | ▪ Renate Wilson    |

L: And for the deepest hopes of our hearts, we pray now.

*Time for the community to pray.*

L: We pray for our guests at Room in the Inn this past Monday: Christopher, Roger, Elliott, Fred, Arlasha, Terry, Donnell, Teresa, Paul, Jeffrey

L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially:

- Veronica Caldwell Jordan, sister of Tim Caldwell, who died on December 11.
- Mark Navtaril, step-father of Tony Poovey, died December 13.
- Calvin Roberson, member, died on December 15.

L: By your Holy Spirit, comfort their families, and all who grieve, give peace to those who mourn, strengthen all through the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

L: We give thanks:

- For the marriage of Jim Hintz and Mercedes Aragon on December 18.
- For the marriage of Meredith Allen and Zach Campbell on December 18.
- For the marriage of Bobby Marsico and Erica Payne on October 16.

L: In your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Lord Jesus, hear our prayers. Use them, and us, to bring new peace, joy, love, and hope into the lives of those for whom we have prayed. For you are born to bring salvation to all through the grace of God our Father.

**C: Amen.**

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## SHARING THE MEAL

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### The Words of Institution

Kristin Nysten

*This is the air I breathe  
This is the air I breathe  
Your holy presence living in me  
And I . . . I'm desperate for you  
And I . . . I'm lost without you*

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.

*This is my daily bread  
This is my daily bread  
Your very word spoken to me  
And I . . . I'm desperate for you  
And I . . . I'm lost without you*

P: 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.

*This is the living Lord  
This is the living Lord  
Your very blood given for me  
And I . . . I'm desperate for you  
And I . . . I'm lost without you  
This is the air I breathe  
This is the air I breathe  
This is the air I breathe*

### **The Lord's Prayer (*spoken*)**

**C: 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.**

### **Post-Communion Blessing**

L: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us now and forever.  
C: **Amen.**

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## SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

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### **Christmas Benediction**

L: 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 wisemen, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – bless you now and forever.  
C: **Amen.**

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

**Dismissal**

**C: Thanks be to God.**