



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2024 4:30pm & 7pm

**REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER,
PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ THROUGH THIS
WORSHIP FOLDER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.**



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Grape Juice is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Brochures can be found at each door. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you "desire" a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

Welcome and Announcements

A CHRISTMAS TREAT – Kaufmann Family Concert December 27th 6pm-9pm right here!
Please invite neighbors, friends, co-workers, family... Musical fun and treats.. Sign-up in lobby.

LADIES EPIPHANY TEA – Saturday late afternoon, January 11th – Invite someone!

All ladies welcome regardless of church affiliation. Doors open at 3:45pm.

Special Reading *by Kim Cook*

Tonight’s Christmas Eve Message *will be interwoven through the responsive readings, prayers, hymns, and songs.*

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world! The Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

3. 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

Invocation and Opening Words

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen. Rejoice, for God is with us — Emmanuel.**

P In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.

C **There is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.**

P God is truly with us. We are not alone.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

P Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

C **the light no darkness can overcome.** [*John 8:12; John 1:5*]

Introduction *by Pastor Rennie*

O Come All Ye Faithful

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

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
O sing all ye citizens
of heav'n above
Glory to God all
Glory in the highest **REFRAIN**

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

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

Reading *Matthew 1:18*

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

“Be Born In Me” *sung by Esther Kaufmann... a song from Mary's perspective*

1. Everything inside me cries for order
Everything inside me wants to hide
Is this shadow an angel or a warrior
If God is pleased with me why am I so terrified
Someone tell me I am only dreaming
Somehow help me see with Heaven's eyes
And before my head agrees
my heart is on its knees
Holy is He
Blessed am I

***Chorus 1: Be born in me
Be born in me
Trembling heart somehow I believe
That You chose me
I'll hold You in the beginning
You will hold me in the end
Every moment in the middle
Make my heart Your Bethlehem
Be born in me***

2. All this time we've waited for the promise
All this time You've waited for my arms
Did You wrap Yourself inside the unexpected
So we might know that love would go that far

Bridge: I am not brave I'll never be
The only thing my heart can offer is a vacancy
I'm just a girl nothing more
But I am willing I am Yours

***Chorus 2: Be born in me
Be born in me
I'll hold You in the beginning
You will hold me in the end
Every moment in the middle
Make my heart Your Bethlehem
Be born in me***

Bernie Herms, Nichole Nordeman
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Reading *Luke 2:1–14*

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

C ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Refrain
Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

- P** Emmanuel means God is with us.
When time began and the world was shaped, God is with us.
When the first stars shone, and the waters were gathered to one place,

C **God is with us.**

- P** When the firstborn fell, and walked away, God is with us.
Through the darkest of nights, and the brightest of days,

C **God is with us.**

P No matter how far you wander, or how far you run,
as we repent and trust in Christ, God is with us.
Through sickness and health, In poverty and wealth,
Through pain and delight, In blindness and sight,
Through Joy and sorrow, Yesterday, today, and tomorrow,

C **God is with us.**

P Emmanuel, God is with us.
To ransom his people, and comfort those who mourn.

C **To heal our brokenness and set us free.**

P To separate the clouds of night and shine light in the shadows of death,

C **To bring unity where there is discord,**

P To bring peace where there is war.

C **To direct our paths, and lift us on high.**

P To bring us to Him.

To repent and surrender our hearts to Him in awe.

C **Emmanuel, God is with us.**

O Come O Come Emmanuel

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

3. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come thou day-spring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

4. O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Creed/Catechism *The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed and its meaning from Luther's Small Catechism*

ALL – And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P What does this mean?

ALL – I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Reading *Luke 2:15-20*

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Solo – "Breath of Heaven" (Mary's Song)

I have traveled many moonless nights
Cold and weary with a Babe inside
And I wonder what I've done
Holy Father You have come
And chosen me now to carry Your Son

I am waiting in a silent prayer
I am frightened by the load I bear
In a world as cold as stone
Must I walk this path alone
Be with me now be with me now

**CHORUS: *Breath of Heaven hold me together
Be forever near me
Breath of Heaven
Breath of Heaven lighten my darkness
Pour over me Your holiness
For You are holy
Breath of Heaven***

Do You wonder as You watch my face
If a wiser one should have had my place
But I offer all I am
For the mercy of Your plan
Help me be strong help me be help me

Ending

Breath of Heaven
Breath of Heaven
Breath of Heaven

Christmas Devotional Message

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at www.RisenChrist.info – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a **Worship Card** so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

Christmas Devotional Message *continued...*

Penitential Prayer and Forgiveness

P When we allow darkness to overcome the light, forgive us, Lord.

MEN – When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel, have mercy on us, Father.

WOMEN – When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and hearing and touching the needs of others, let your grace consume us, O God.

MEN – When the wars around us are of no concern, forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion for those who suffer.

WOMEN – When our caring is not extended to action, move us to seek justice for our fellow man.

ALL – **We come to confess our sinfulness before You and before each other. Remove all barriers that divide us and let there be no obstacle to our love for You and for one another. Amen.**

All pray in silence.

P People of God, through the coming of Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate, the Lord has comforted and redeemed us! Recall the words of the angels: Good news... Great joy... All people... In Christ we receive the salvation of our God. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

C **Glory to God in the highest!**

Lift Up Your Hearts

P The Lord be with you **C** And also with you

P The Lord be with you **C** And also with you

P Lift up your hearts

All Sing

*We lift them to the Lord
Let us give thanks
To the Lord our God
It is right to give Him
Thanks and praise*

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Steve Hindalongo Terry Scott Taylor
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Prayer

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Jesus the eternal, endless light of life has shined to give all who believe eternal, endless life. Let His saving light shine in us this night and all our days. By His body and blood make us heirs in the family of God.

G **Amen.**

Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

G **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

G **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.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G **Amen.**

Communion

Away In a Manger

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

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

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

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 the earth!

3. How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us to day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the-angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
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 the-incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

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 man to nore may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth,
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Prayer

P Lord, thank you for meeting us where we are to come set us free.
Heal us from our past and direct our steps as we walk into the future.
Please restore our families and protect our children.
Overcome all the ways we dishonor You and invade us with Your forgiveness and love.

Let us see You.
Give us vision and faith to live lives of purpose.
Drive a passion for the lost deep within the hearts of Your people.
Let Your grace and mercy flow from us into all our relationships and to all those we encounter.
May we always and ever honor and worship the Saviour, Jesus Christ.
The living Son of God, the Baby in the Manger, the Risen and Conquering King!
Come let us adore Him!

C **O Come let us adore Him!**

Reading *Isaiah 9:6-7*

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Closing Devotional Thought

Lighting of the Candles (*During following song*) “Here With Us”

1. It's still a mystery to me
That the hands of God could be so small
How tiny fingers reachin' in the night
Were the very hands that measured the sky

***CHORUS: (Oh) Hallelujah hallelujah
Heaven's love reaching down to save the world
Hallelujah hallelujah
Son of God Servant King here with us
(You're here with us)***

2. It's still a mystery to me
How His infant eyes had seen the dawn of time
How His ears had heard an angel symphony
Still Mary had to rock her Savior to sleep

Interlude

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel

Bridge

Jesus the Christ
Born in Bethlehem
A Baby born to save
To save the souls of man

Ending

Here with us
Here with us
Here with us

Ben Glover, Jason Ingram, Joy Williams
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(After Candles are lit)

Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!

(in German first, the original language in which it was written)

Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft. Eynsam wacht
Nur das traute heilige Paar.
Holder Knab' im lockigten Haar,
'Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!'

Silent Night, Holy Night

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.

Benediction

P "The Lord your God is with you,
He is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you,
He will quiet you with his love,
He will rejoice over you with singing." (Zephaniah 3.17)

May the hope and the love and the joy and the peace be with you now and forever.

G **Amen.**

Carefully place hand in front of candle and gently blow it out.

Merry Christmas. Go with God.