

***New Life Ev. Lutheran Church
Lake Zurich, IL***

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

*Pastor Andrew Bauer
(847) 438-5018*

www.newlife-wels.org

+ + + + +

A Children's Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2020

6:30 PM

LIGHT FOR OUR DARKNESS

A Children's Christmas Service concerning Jesus, the Light of the World

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us this evening. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church. The bathrooms are located in the basement of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way or fill out the visitor slip found in this bulletin and place it in the offering plate on the table in the entryway on your way home.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon. The service will also be broadcast in the café for those who feel more comfortable there.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

Covid-19 Precautions / Reminders:

1. Every other pew will be taped off to create social distance.
2. Weather permitting, the windows will be open to create as much airflow as possible.
3. The hymnals have been removed from the pews. The hymns will be sung out of the bulletin or off the projector screens.
4. Worshippers are asked to pick up their own bulletin and take it home with them.
5. Offerings will be placed in the plate on the podium before or after the service.
6. The church council asks everyone to wear a mask, if possible. Masks are available in the entryway.
7. The pastor won't shake hands after the service.

Before Service Christmas Eve Prayer: Thank You, Lord Jesus, for making this holy night so beautiful. The sparkling lights, the joyful carols and the beaming faces of family and friends and children cheer my heart every year, even this year of pandemic. With the angels I glorify You; with the shepherds I kneel before You and adore You. With Mary I treasure up the wonders of Your birth, and all year long I will ponder such unfathomable love that made You, both the Son of God and a human child, my Savior. Amen.

Processional Hymn: “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful” (CW 55)

**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.**

**God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth He comes,
Only begotten Son of God the Father. [Refrain]**

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
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. [Refrain]**

Invocation:

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Psalm 89 (selected verses, read responsively)

P: I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;

C: with my mouth I will make Your faithfulness known through all generations.

P: I will declare that Your love stands firm forever,

C: that You have established Your faithfulness in heaven itself.

P: You said, “I have made a covenant with My chosen One,

C: I have sworn to David My servant, ‘I will establish your line forever

P: and make your throne firm through all generations.’”

C: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;

P: love and faithfulness go before You.

C: Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim You,

All: who walk in the light of Your presence, LORD.

The Prayer for Christmas Eve:

P: Almighty God, You made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold Him in all His glory in the life to come; through Your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sermonette

Hymn by the Congregation: “O, Little Town of Bethlehem” (CW 66)

**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.**

**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.**

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.

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!

1. WE ARE LOST IN DARKNESS

Narration

Confession

P: By nature, we all find ourselves in the darkness of sin, hiding from God's light. Let us join together in confessing this to God.

C: Almighty God, You created us to enjoy the light of Your truth and life, but we have loved the darkness of sin. We have filled our lives with all kinds of evil. We cannot even count our sins, and by our inherited nature we try to hide from You. For these sins we are guilty and deserve to be condemned. But we appeal to Your mercy. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus our Savior.

Absolution

P: God knew that we were lost in the darkness of sin and death. But He did not leave us lost, hopeless, and terrified. He sent light to shine in our darkness that we would be forgiven and saved. The light from heaven is Jesus Christ, God's only Son. He came into our world to be the light of God's forgiveness. Because of Jesus' perfect life and death for us, God declares that we are not condemned for our sins. Rejoice! Your sins are forgiven!

C: Amen.

Hymn by the Congregation: “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice” (CW 34)

Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!

Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to Thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee!
Draw me unto Thee!

Now through His Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine.
Death o'er us had reigned
Through sin and vanity;
He for us obtained
Eternal joy on high.
May we praise Him there!
May we praise Him there!

Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing
In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there!
Oh, that we were there!

2. THE LIGHT COMES INTO THE DARKNESS

Narration & Recitation by Level 1

Hymn by the Congregation: "The People that in Darkness Sat" (CW 90)

**The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shone on them who long
In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.**

**To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulders ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.**

**His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored,
The God by all adored.**

**His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.**

**Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Yours alone,
For You are with the Father and
The Spirit ever one,
The Spirit ever one.**

3. GOD SENT CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Narration & Recitation by Level 2, and then Levels 1 & 2

Hymn by the Congregation: “Angels We Have Heard on High” (CW 63)

Congregation sings the verses, children sing the refrain.

**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.

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song? [Refrain]**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]**

Narration & Recitation by Level 2

Song by the Children: “Here in the Darkness”

*Into darkness, into shadows, into gloom so dark and deep,
Came the Son of God the Father—tiny child; we watch Him sleep.
Baby Jesus Son of heaven, shine Your love so true!
Here in the dark the only light is you.*

*Into darkness, into shadows, to the world the Savior came.
Hearts were waiting on the promise—life would never be the same.
Light would shine in hearts so blinded; love would come to be.
Here in the dark the baby Jesus see.*

*Bright-ened darkness, fleeing shadows greet the dawning of the day!
Watch in wonder, watch in silence; Jesus came to be the way.
Hear the promise of the ages; see Him in the stall!
Here in the dark He came to save us all.*

4. WE TOO ARE LIGHTS

Narration

Hymn by the Congregation: “Joy to the World!” (CW 62)

**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.**

**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.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**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.**

Responsive reading from John chapter 1:

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

C: He was with God in the beginning.

P: Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.

C: In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

P: The light shines in the darkness,

C: and the darkness has not overcome it.

P: There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

C: The true Light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

P: The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.

C: We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(Christmas Eve offerings can be placed in the plate on the table in the entryway either before or after the service.)

Prayer

P: Shine forth, dear Jesus, Light of the world, on all who walk in darkness. Grant us Your grace to be Your torchbearers telling the world of Your love. Open the eyes of all to see Your light and follow You to eternal glory. We ask this for Your love's sake, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen

Benediction:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

Candle Lighting Instructions: The pastor will light a candle from the Christ Candle on the altar and will light the candles of two assistants. Those assistants will come to each pew to share the light of Christ. To receive and then pass the light of Christ through candle lighting please only tilt the unlit candle towards the flame of a lit candle which is held straight up and down. Once your candle is aglow with the flame, then keep it upright at all times. Resist the impulse to tilt your candle to light the next person's candle. The person next to you will then tilt their unlit candle to your candle. Use caution and avoid hair, clothing, and other flammables. Also use caution with the hot melted wax. Parents, or other adults, please assist small children. Battery powered candles are available for little children.

Closing Hymn by Congregation: "Silent Night" (CW 60)

(Please sing the first verse in English and then in German!)

**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.**

**Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!**

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

(When you are ready to depart, please usher yourself out of the chapel this evening. Be careful in extinguishing the candle and place it in the basket on your way home. Safe travels and Godspeed as you return home knowing that even in this dark world, Jesus is the Light of the World!)

Announcements

Christmas bags will be handed out to the children following this evening's service.

The Christmas Day Service will be held tomorrow morning at 10:30 AM—one hour later than our normal service time.

Thank you to tonight's narrators, Truman Dexter, Kailyn Dundore and Jack O'Mara.

Thank you to the Sunday school teachers, Susan Sarvady and Rachel Andrews for working with the Sunday School children on their Christmas Eve recitations. Thank you also to Joan James for teaching the kids the theme song for this service.