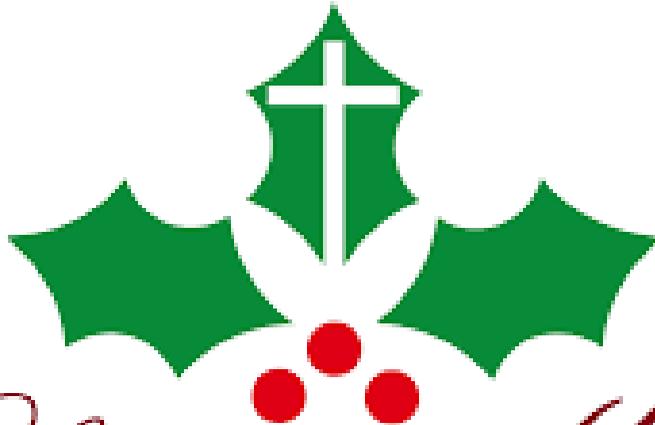


Christmas Eve
December 24, 2022



*Christmas Eve
Worship*



MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
“SHARING CHRIST, SERVING THE COMMUNITY”
320 Montrose Drive, Folsom, CA 95630
916-985-2984 or www.mountolivefolsom.com

God Fulfills His Promises

As We Gather

The original title of the Christmas carol “In dulci jubilo” (*LSB* 386, “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”) was interpreted by the famous French organist and composer Marcel Dupre as “In Quiet Joy.” Another familiar hymn tells of the birth of the Savior in the words “How silently the wondrous gift is given!” (*LSB* 361:3). Though there were moments of rage and loud opposition through His earthly ministry, many of our Lord’s activities happened in the quiet and stillness of His presence. Indeed, even as He accomplished His goal, He entered Jerusalem in quiet humility, suffered obediently, closed His eyes and breathed His last in death, and finally was laid in the stone-cold silence of a tomb. There are times for loud praise and rejoicing, but this night let us gather in quiet joy contemplating the mystery that, in this little babe in the little town of Bethlehem of Judea, fulfilled God’s ancient promise of redemption and peace for all who would be drawn in the silence of the Spirit of God through His Word and blessed Sacraments.

PREPARATION

Hymn

What Child Is This

Hymn #370

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Habakkuk 2:20

- P** In dulci jubilo! In quiet joy! In quiet joy, we gather this evening, this very special night.
C **The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.**
- P** We gather from our busy lives, our hurried routines, the loud noises of life,
C **in quiet joy.**
- P** We bring our wearied bodies, our troubled hearts, our restless souls in hope,
C **in quiet joy.**
- P** God is here, the LORD is in His holy temple;
C **let all the earth keep silence before Him.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** In the silence of this moment, let us prepare ourselves, and confess our sin to God.

Silence for reflection.

P Holy and gracious God,

C **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

Silence for reflection.

P In the silence of this night, by the mercy of God, we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and in quiet joy.

C **Amen.**

Hymn

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Soloist: Karen King

Introit

Psalm 2:1–2, 4–6; antiphon: Liturgical Text

When all was still, and it was midnight,
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

**Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?**

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and against his anointed.

**He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.**

Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,

**“As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.”**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

When all was still, and it was midnight,
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2–7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶ For 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.
⁷ Of 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Verse

Luke 2:11

P Alleluia.

C Alleluia.

P For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
Alleluia.

C Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22–40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

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,

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles 'Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Hymn
Sermon

Away In a Manger

Hymn #364

Offering

Offertory

Lighting of the Candles

Silent Night

Instrumentally

(The pastor will light the usher's candles, who will in turn light the first candle in each row. Hold lit candles upright; tilt only unlit candles.)

Gospel of the Incarnation: John 1:1-14

¹In 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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Prayer of the Church

P For ears to hear and trust the Word of God...

C **Christ the Lord, reveal your Word among us.**

P For caring hearts to shelter those for whom there is no room...

C **Christ the Lord, show your love through us.**

P For the spread of the joyful news that the Savior has come...

C **Christ the Lord, bring your joy to the world.**

P For peace among the nations and in our daily lives...

C **Christ the Lord, pour out your peace on earth.**

P For the promise of our Savior to shine into the darkness...

C **Christ the Lord, give to us your light and truth.**

P Trusting in your mercy and rejoicing in your birth, we lift our prayers to you, the Light of the World, And in your name, O Christ, we commend all for whom we pray.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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.**

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Hymn

O Holy Night

Soloist: Janet Betts with Krista Hess

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Serving Him this week as...

Worship Leader	Pastor Daniel Vang
Elders	Eric Baer, Bruce Betts , Gary Kilbourne, Kyle Swan, Jim Rowe and Roger Zittel
Musician	Gospel Group
Reader	Gary Kilbourne , Bruce Betts, Eric Baer, Norma Ceccardi, Kyle Swan, Amy Swan and Krista Hess
Ushers	
Altar Guild	Karen Fontaine

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