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**Christmas Eve Worship- 4 PM - December 21, 2025**

*Presiding: Rev. Dr. Paul Steinberg*

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# Welcome: Pastor Paul Steinberg



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The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.  
**Amen.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
to sing praise to your name, O Most High,  
to herald your love in the morning,  
your truth at the close of day.

## 52 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

st. 1



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the  
an - gels bring, on Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing to  
hear the news the an - gels bring, news of great joy, news  
of great mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**the maker of heaven and earth.**

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for personal reflection*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
**we have sinned against you**  
**in our thoughts,**  
**in our words,**  
**in our deeds,**  
**and in all that we have not done.**

**Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**  
**Deliver and restore us,**  
**that we may rest in peace.**

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ,  
and in him we are forgiven.

Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun,  
when we shall serve him in newness of life.

**Amen.**

## 52 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

st. 2

2 When sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then life and health come  
in its place, when sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then  
life and health come in its place; an - gels and saints with  
joy may sing, all for to see the new - born King.

Text: English, abr.

Tune: English

Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

Christmas Eve

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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

*The prophet foretold that a person would come from a little town called Bethlehem to bring peace to the world.*

<sup>2</sup>“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,

out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times."

<sup>3</sup>Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.

<sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.

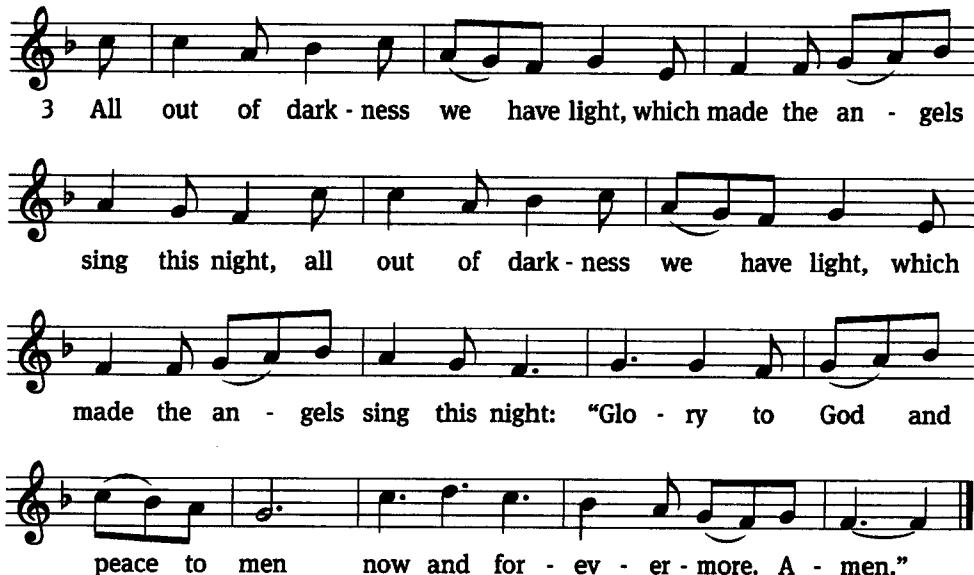
<sup>5</sup>And he will be our peace

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 52 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

st. 3



3 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an - gels sing this night, all out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God and peace to men now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

*This child's birth changed the relationship of human beings and God.*

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## **37 All My Heart Again Rejoices** (words from CW-21)

sts. 1-2, 5-6

1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear  
 2 Hear! The con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe,  
 5 Soft - ly from his low - ly man - ger Je - sus calls  
 6 Come, then, ban - ish all your sad - ness! One and all,

far and near sweet est an - gel voic - es.  
 sin and woe, death and hell are bro - ken!"  
 one and all, "You are safe from dan - ger.  
 great and small, come with songs of glad - ness;

"Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing till the air  
 God is man, man to de - liv - er, and the Son  
 Chil - dren, from the sins that grieve you you are freed;  
 we shall live with him for - ev - er there on high

ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.  
 now is one with our blood for - ev - er.  
 all you need I will sure - ly give you."  
 in that joy which will van - ish nev - er.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain

## New Testament Reading (Sermon Text)

*Titus 2:11-14*

*The grace God showed us in sending his Son changes not only our present lives but also our eternal destiny.*

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup>It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon -- What Christmas Teaches Us

*Titus 2:11-14*

**Hear my prayer, O Lord;  
listen to my cry.**

**Keep me as the apple of your eye;  
hide me in the shadow of your wings.**

**In righteousness I shall see you;  
when I awake, your presence will give me joy.**

## 65 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-dring love.  
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless-ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893, abr., alt.

Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

Text and tune: Public domain



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## **Responsive Prayers for Christmas Eve**

Gracious Father, when the time had fully come, you sent your Son to carry out your plan to save the world from the tyranny of sin, the threat of death, and the power of Satan. On this holy night, strengthen our faith as we ponder the depth of your divine love.

**Lead us to quiet awe as we remember your gracious compassion.**

Impress on us the poverty and pain your Son endured in our place, how he willingly set aside his power and place and assumed the weakness of an infant and the starkness of a stable. Lead us to acknowledge the sins which compelled his humiliation and the love which accepted his lowliness.

**Forgive us and move us to trust in his mission to save us.**

Take away our fears and fright and fill us with joy as we hear the message that Jesus was born for us and that he came to restore peace with you and mend the bond broken by sin. Move us to sing our carols and hymns not with passing pleasure but with the depth of praise for his extraordinary love.

**Let our songs and hymns reflect our faith in the redemption gained by Christ.**

Lead us to kneel at his manger with hearts of faith and to see there the God-man who takes away the sins of the world. Guide and guard us so that the happiness shared with family and friends does not delay or discourage our journey to his holy crib.

**Make the birth of Christ our highest priority and deepest pleasure.**

Fill us with an eager joy that moves us to share the good news with others, especially those who may have forgotten or dismissed the love of God in Christ. Give us faith-filled maturity to recognize that the best gift we can give to children is the story of Jesus who was born as a baby and died on a cross to save them for heaven.

**Move us to tell the good news we have seen and heard.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

During this hectic holiday, provide us with quiet times to remember what the birth of Jesus really means for us and all people, that he came to free us from the evil forces that separated us from your love, that he lived and died to forgive our sins, and that he rose in triumph to prepare a place where we will live with you forever.

**Move us to sing with hearts of faith, “Glory to God in the highest!”  
Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit—  
bless us and keep us.

Amen.

## 60 Silent Night, Holy Night

sts. 1-3

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,  
  
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face  
  
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy  
  
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

**Acknowledgments:** Prayer at the Close of Day from Christian Worship

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