

11:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Order of Service

Saint Michael Lutheran Church

3595 Broadway, Fort Myers, Florida 33901

"Printed music licensed under and copyright permission granted from one of the following: CCLI 3029154, OneLicense A716035, LSB Hymn License 100010088 or CPH 10000830, unless noted otherwise."

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2023

Prelude

"Joy to the World"

*arr. by Sondra Tucker
Dr. Bryan Edgett, trumpet*

Welcome

Opening Carol

"Angels We Have Heard on High"
(vs. 1 & 3)

368

Invocation

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

People: Amen.

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 9:2

Pastor: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

People: **On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**

Pastor: Jesus Christ is our life and light. In His name and in His power, let us worship God!

Carol

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

379

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, who has come into Your own creation, we praise Your eternal power and ask that You would mercifully grant us fallen creatures forgiveness of all our sins, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Special Music

"Away in a Manger"

*arr. by Dan Marvin
Dr. Bryan Edgett and Jacob Schwan, trumpet*



Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

"The Virgin's Son Will Be Called Immanuel"

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

arr. by Douglas Warner

offered by the Grace Notes Handbell Choir

Epistle Reading

"God Is Love"

1 John 4:7-16

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. ¹³This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Carol

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
(vs. 1, 3-4)

361

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1st chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel

"Immanuel Is Born; They Call Him Jesus"

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will conceive and

give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). ²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Lector: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Carol of the Day

*“Away in a Manger”
(vs. 1 & 3)*

364

Sermon

“Wondering to Bethlehem”

Pastor Dave Bass

Apostles’ Creed

inside back cover of hymnal

Offering

A special stewardship note to our guests: the ministries and work of Saint Michael Lutheran Church are supported by the generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends as they steward God’s gifts. You are our GUEST today. Please do not feel compelled or pressured to make a contribution.

Online contributions and donations can be made by clicking this link: tinyurl.com/SMLGiving.
You may also mail your offerings to the church office: 3595 Broadway, Ft. Myers, FL 33901.

Offertory

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

*arr. by Douglas Wagner
offered by the Grace Notes Handbell Choir*

Prayers of the Church and the Lord’s Prayer

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Candle lighting instructions: elders/ushers will come forward to receive their light from the pastor. They will pass the flame to every person seated at the end of their pew. To receive and then pass the light, 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, keep it upright at all times. Use caution and avoid hair, clothing and anything flammable. Children and those using electric candles may turn their candles on at any point during the candle lighting. When all the candles have been lit, we will continue with the closing sentences.

Service of Light

Closing Sentences

Pastor: On this most holy and silent night, Jesus shines with the brightness of the heavenly Father’s light. May we also shine and share this most holy light into the world around us.

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.

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.

*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.*

Blessing

Closing Hymn

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

380

Postlude

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

arr. by Jason Payne



Worship Assistants Today

11:00 PM

Elder: Darryl Bell
Lector: Richard St. Dennis
Ushers: Richard and Ardis Loeber

Merry Christmas



Christmas Poinsettias

The beautiful poinsettias have been provided both as memorials and testimonials by the individuals noted below.

May God's richest blessings attend all those who remember and those who are honored and remembered.

- Pat Ackerman in memory of Duane Ackerman
- Ric and Carol Anello in memory of Cole Anello
- Elaine Armour in memory of Rev. Elmer and Loraine Krentz, Mr. and Mrs. William Armour and William K. Armour, Jr.
- Renate Bass in memory of Bernhard Bass
- Nina Buell-Wolfarth in memory of Liston and Wilma Buell, Wayne Wolfarth and Bill and Edith Wolfarth and in honor of Pastor Jon and Joni Zehnder, Pastor Dave and Katy Bass and Emily Sloan and Quinton Wolfarth
- Patricia Cody in honor of the Grabill family (Jenn, Ethan, Hayes and Emmie) and the Hnatin family (Chris, Nichole and Rubi)
- Elizabeth Crone in memory of church workers who have passed in 2023
- Caroline Danielson in memory of Ken Danielson
- Ron and Dee Engel in memory of Harry and Ruth Kneedsen and Floyd and Fried Engel
- Phil and Susan Fabry in memory of Fabry family loved ones
- Ron and Margot Freitag in memory of Gerry Freitag
- James Fry in memory of Rosemary Fry
- Mary Griep in memory of Larry and loved ones in heaven
- Jan Grube in memory of Lee and Jeff Grube
- Debbie Hake in memory of Shirley Wayne and in honor of Robbie, Jackie, Raelee Castellano and Holly Teeter
- Dean Todd Hartman in memory of his father, Dean W. Hartman, his grandparents Peter and Emma Hartman and David and Dorothy Todd and in honor of his mother, Pat Hartman
- Pat Hartman in memory of her husband, Dean W. Hartman
- Henry and Grace Hildebrand in memory of Brauns family loved ones and Hildebrand family loved ones
- Warren and Susan Hillbush in memory of their sons, Richard and JJ
- Vic and Merle Huebner in memory of Huebner family loved ones
- Edwin and Beverly Jahn in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lambert and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Jahn, Sr.
- Kevin and Pam Kollmann in memory of Ernie and DeAnn Kollmann and Jan Pease
- Ronald Krugman in memory of Everett Krugman, Ellarae Wackenhut, Daryl Krugman and Clarke Krugman

- Linda Lang in memory of her husband, Mel Lang
- Ardis Loeber in memory of Teresa Ann Loeber
- Lee Matson in honor of the Matson family
- George Matzat in memory of Rowena Matzat, George and Eleanore Matzat (parents) and Pastor Roy G. and Willena Moeller (parents-in-law)
- Carolyn Mazzola in memory of Helen Rachal
- Kayla Miller in memory of Peggy Richmond, Bill and Millie Adams, Richard and Jeannette Rathbun and John and Elloise Miller
- Lisa Moding in memory of Dan Balensiefer and Clarence and Jeanne Hein
- Michelle Pearce in memory of Emerson Paul Scott, November 22, 2023
- Sylvia Piper in memory of John Piper
- Russell Prentice in memory of Tricia Prentice, Frank Irizarry, Mick Irizarry, Ian Irizarry and Richard and Shirley Prentice
- David and Jessica Radecki in memory of Genaro Gavilanes and Marjorie Radecki
- Dorothy Richardson in memory of John and Dorothy West, George and Agnes Richardson and Jennie Gaik
- Elizabeth Reynolds in memory of Grady Jackson Reynolds and Emerson Paul Scott
- Geoff and Robbie Roepstorff in memory of Alfred and Delores Roepstorff, Edith Briggs Bray and Gentry Briggs and Martin E. Roepstorff and in honor of Pastor Dave and family, the Zehnder family and the Saint Michael congregation
- Linda Schlachta in memory of Robert Schlachta and in honor of GG
- Gail Schultz in memory of Schultz and Carmichael family loved ones
- Paul and Sue Schwan in memory of Joe and Doris Yeck and Dave and Joyce Schwan
- Bret and Denise Smart in memory of Van and Emilie Smart and Marc and Clare Stanton
- Amber Truax in honor of Dr. Bill and Kathie Truax
- Dr. Bill and Kathie Truax in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Howard Truax and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Frew
- Jan Wann in memory of her husband, Chuck Wann
- Linda Wittenauer in memory of her mother, Frances McCune
- Jason and Julie Zehnder in memory of our grandparents
- Rev. Jon and Joni Zehnder in memory of Don and Kathy Zehnder, Carl and Dorothy Petri and Chuck Wann and in honor of Pastor Dave and family

Upcoming Services

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

10:00am – Christmas Celebration of our Savior's birth with Communion

New Year's Worship

Saturday, December 30 at 5:30pm

Sunday, December 31 at 10:00am