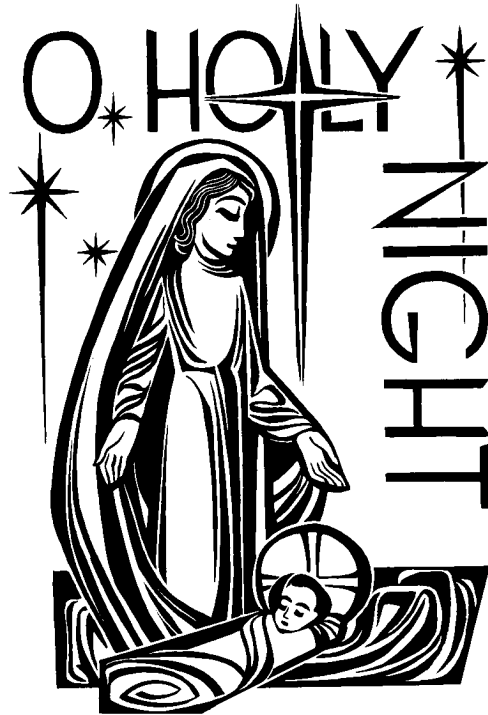


CELEBRATING THE PROMISES OF GOD

December 24, 2023 ... 8:00 PM



GLORIFY HIM ...
GROW IN HIM ...
GO WITH HIS GOSPEL

We are St. Mark's Church & School

A WELST[†]NorCal Ministry ... Other Locations

Foundation – Folsom, Hope – Penryn, Christ – Lodi, St. John – Vacaville

Carols Around The Fire - A Christmas Celebration

*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.*

God's Timing ... from Galatians 4

(Pastor speak)

"But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons."

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful – 55

all 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.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

all God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
Only begotten Son of God the Father.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

all Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

The First Noel

all The first noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep
NOEL, NOEL, NOEL, NOEL,
BORN IS THE KING OF ISRAEL.

**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!**

The Christmas Account ... from Luke 2

(Pastor speak)

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

(Ladies speak)

⁴ 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. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ 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.

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We – 46

all **Your little ones, dear Lord, are we
And come your lowly bed to see;
Enlighten ev'ry soul and mind
That we the way to you may find.**

all **With songs we hasten you to greet
And humbly fall before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night
That gave you birth, our souls' delight.**

(Men speak)

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

(All speak)

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – 61

all **Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all you nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

ladies ***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 God-head see,
Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!***

all ***Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"***

all **Hail, the heav'nly 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 we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

The Christmas Account ... from Luke 2 cont

(Pastor speak)

¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

O Little Town of Bethlehem – 65

all **O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep And dreamless sleet 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.**

all **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!**

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child – 56

men ***Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place – Can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found his favor.***

What Child Is This – 67

ladies ***What child is this who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the Son of Mary!***

Go, Tell It on the Mountain – 57

all **Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev’rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.
While shepherds kept their watching O’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. ...**

**The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. ...**

**Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. ...**

The Christmas Account ... from Luke 2 cont

(All speak)

**²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard
and seen, which were just as they had been told.**

Angels We Have Heard on High – 63

all **Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains.
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
*Glo ... ri-a in excelsis Deo; Glo ... ri-a in excelsis Deo.***

all **Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?**
all ***Glo ... ri-a in excelsis Deo; Glo ... ri-a in excelsis Deo.***

all **Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
*Glo ... ri-a in excelsis Deo; Glo ... ri-a in excelsis Deo.***

***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.***

God's Love To You & Through You ... from 1 John 4

(Pastor speak)

Dear 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.

Peace Came to Earth – 303N

See page 9

(All speak)

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Joy Has Dawned – 352N

See page 10

(Pastor speak)

¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice – 34

all 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!

To God Be the Glory – 399

all To God be the glory; great things he has done!
 He so loved the world that he gave us his Son,
 Who yielded his life an atonement for sin
 And opened the life-gate that all may go in.
 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth his voice!
 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
 Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son
 And give him the glory – great things he has done!

Joy to the World – 62

all 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.

all **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.**

all **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.**

We pray ...

(Pastor speak) Almighty God, we are thankful that you fulfilled your promise and sent us a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord. He became our brother so that through him we might become your children. We are indeed rich, for we have peace with you and access to your throne in every need. Dear Savior, give us a simple, childlike faith that sees your glory even in your lowliness. Help us all to rejoice in your birth. May the truth, love, and redemption that you have brought dwell in our hearts and lives. Help us share the good news of great joy we have in you. As you have shown us your glory on this holy evening, so one day bring us into your glory in heaven, where we will take our places among the saints and angels. There we will forever praise and glorify you for the grace and mercy you have shown to us.

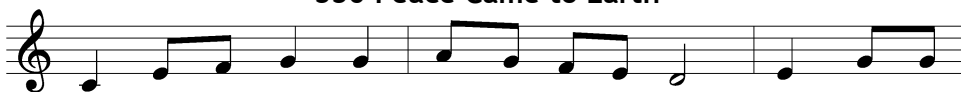
(All speak) **In your name, O Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

(all sing)

**Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give him the glory – great things he has done!**

***Merry Christmas!
God's peace to you through Jesus.***

330 Peace Came to Earth



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night when an - gels
 2 And who could be the same for hav-ing held the in - fant
 3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen, in flesh and
 4 How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could



clove the sky with song and light and God em - bod - ied
 in their arms and lat - er felt the wound - ed hands and
 blood you bore our griefs and pain, in bread and wine you
 I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em -



love and sheathed his might— Who could but gasp: Im-man-u - el!
 side, all doubts dis-pelled— Who could but sigh: Im-man-u - el!
 vis - it us a - gain— Who could but see: Im-man-u - el!
 brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im-man-u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

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352 Joy Has Dawned



1 Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion—
 2 Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels
 3 Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry.
 4 Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.
 as the might - y Prince of life shel - ters in a sta - ble.
 Gifts of men from dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the sto - ry:
 rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ, our might - y cham - pion!



Not with fan-fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,
 Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark - ness,
 gold— a king is born to - day; in - cense—God is with us;
 What a Sav - ior! What a friend! What a glo - rious mys - t'ry!



but a hum - ble gift of love— Je - sus born of Mar - y.
 cling now to a moth - er's breast, _ vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.
 myrrh—his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us.
 Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, _ now the Lord of his - t'ry.

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