

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Grafton, Iowa

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2020



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

C: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are gathered together on this Eve of Christmas to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, to meditate upon the mystery of that Incarnation by which we are redeemed, and to receive with joy the message of salvation. Come, let us worship our God.

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

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!

P: Sing to the Lord a new song for He has done marvelous things.
With his right hand and His holy arm has He won for Himself the Victory.

C: For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.

P: He remembers His mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,
And all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**C: His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P: Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.
Sing to the Lord with the harp and with the voice of song,
With trumpets and sound of the horn.

C: For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given;

P: Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy
In righteousness shall He judge the world and the peoples with equity.

**C: His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY: **Isaiah 7:14 & 15**

“Lo, How a Rose Is Growing”

*Lo, how a rose is growing, a bloom of finest grace
The prophets had foretold it: A branch of Jesse’s race
Would bear one perfect flow’r
Here in the cold of winter And darkest midnight hour*

*This flow’r, so small and tender, With fragrance fills the air;
His brightness ends the darkness That kept the earth in fear.
True God and yet true man,
He came to save his people From earth’s dark night of sin.*

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY: **Micah 5:2-5a**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see the 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.*

*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.*

“Love Has Come!”

*Love has come a light in the darkness! Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on High!*

*Love is born! Come share in the wonder; Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.*

*Love has come he never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us; Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas; Love! Love! Praise to you, God on High!*

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: **Luke 2:1-20**

SOLO: 4:00 p.m. Mary Jo Urbatsch - ***“Breath of Heaven”***
6:30 p.m. Crystal Wilde - ***“O Holy Night”***

SERMON: ***Bursting the Social-Distancing Bubble***

“What Child is This”

*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!*

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

“Away in a Manger”

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

“I am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

*I am so glad each Christmas Eve, The night of Jesus’ birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth, And angels sang on Earth
The little child in Bethlehem, He was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav’n above To help a world in need.*

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

*It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on earth, good will to all, From heav’n’s all gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.*

“The Bells of Christmas”

*The bells of Christmas chime once more; the heav’nly guest is at the door.
He comes to earthly dwellings still With new year gifts of peace, good will.*

*Oh, join with me, in gladness sing, To keep our Christmas with our king,
Until our song, from loving souls, Like rushing mighty water rolls!*

*Come, Jesus, glorious heav’nly guest, And keep your Christmas in our breast;
Then David’s harpstrings, hushed so long, Shall swell our jubilee of song.*

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE COLLECTION OF THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING:

*Please place your offering in the plates as you leave the sanctuary. \$1500 of our
Christmas offering will be added to our Benevolence Budget to be distributed locally,
nationally, and internationally. The remainder will benefit Emmanuel Lutheran.*

THE DISTRIBUTION OF LIGHT

*The ushers will light their candles from the Pastor and will, in turn, light the candle of
the worshipper in each pew nearest the center aisle. It is requested that no lit candles
be tipped to avoid candle dripping on the floor and pew cushions. Tip only the unlit
candle when lighting your candle from your neighbor.*

After all candles have been lit, we will sing Silent Night

*Verse one in German, followed by all verses in English
Arrows indicate raising/lowering candle*

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

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! 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 your holy face, ▼
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
▲ Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth. ▼

BENEDICTION

“Joy to the World”

*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 world, the Savior reigns! Let men 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 sin and sorrow 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.*

POSTLUDE

Please be seated...and wait to be ushered out from the back of the sanctuary. We ask that you leave the building via the double glass doors. Thank you.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2021 to all members and friends of Emmanuel Lutheran Church...We are sending our best wishes to each of you with praise and thanksgiving for another year of shared ministry. May these holy days be filled with the warmth of love and peace we seek and may we find blessings even in those moments that appear dark and hopeless. We greet you with words from an old Orthodox Liturgy spoken in preparation of the Nativity: *Today the virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth in a manner beyond understanding to the Word who is in all eternity. Rejoice, therefore, universe, when you hear it heralded, with the angels and the shepherds; glorify Him who chose to be seen as a new-born babe, while remaining God in all eternity.* Let us hear the proclamation once again, receive the Christ of God and live joyfully as the people of God we truly are.

-Merry Christmas, *Pastor Solveig and Michael Zamzow*

Poinsettia Gifts

Given by . . .

Jerry Navratil - To the Glory of God

Clarice Bartz - In honor of Loved Ones

Rod & Emi Kuntz - In memory of Loved Ones

Merlin & Lisa Bartz - In memory of Jane Buechele

Jane Dalluge & Family - In memory of Steve Dalluge

Phil & Gloria Hackbart - In memory of Loved Ones

Albert & Doris Ralph - In memory of Loved Ones

Charlotte Cole & Family - In memory of Loved Ones

Megan Rustad - In memory of Rufus & Doris Glassel

Richard & Ruth Neeley - In memory of Bernice Foell

Darren & Lori Marsh Family - In memory of Joanne Marsh

Mark Fredrickson - In memory of Ken & LaVerne Fredrickson

Randy & Sharon Hulshizer family - In memory of Olga Borchardt,
Bernice Foell, and Teri (Hulshizer) Bishop

Laurie Nack-Bublitz Family - In memory of Loved Ones
and Kuper Dean Malmin- Love you!

Michael & Solveig Zamzow - In memory of Neil & Audrey Zamzow
and Alfred & Gertraud Draeger

Teri & Mike Sorenson & Family - In memory of Rufus & Doris Glassel
and Bob & Louise Sorenson

Connie Rosenberg Family - In memory of Harper Grace Putz,
In honor of Olivia, Leighton, Nolan & Madelynn

**Thank you to all who shared plants to beautify our sanctuary!
You may pick up your poinsettias after Christmas Day Worship**

