

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

P.O. Box 10, Belgrade, MN 56312

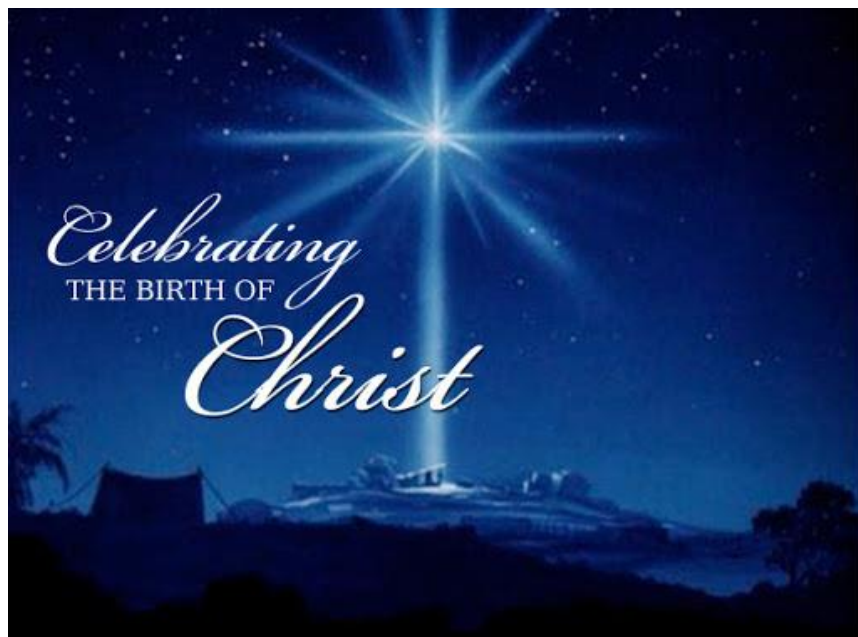
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December 24, 2021 – Christmas Eve

Welcome in Jesus' name.

We extend a special welcome to guests and visitors.



Interim Lead Pastor Lisa Meshke, pastorlisaanne@gmail.com

Interim Associate Pastor Matthew Garavalia, mattgaravalia@gmail.com

Parish Secretary – Aleisha Terhaar

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Prelude/Procession/Bells

Welcome

GATHERING

The Christmas Prophecy:

Isaiah 9: 2-7

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

L: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

C: Authority rests upon his shoulders;

L: And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

L: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

C: He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

***Processional Hymn:** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” ELW #283 (v.1-3)

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

2 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! **[Refrain]**

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: **[Refrain]**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Copyright: Public Domain

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

***Greeting:**

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

***Prayer of the Day:**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. **Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever, Amen.**

Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" ELW #279 (v.1,2,4)

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee 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.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth!

4 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 Emmanuel!

WORD

Scripture Reading:

Titus 2: 11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hymn: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

ELW #270

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born king!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the ever-lasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, the incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! **[Refrain]**

3 Hail the heav'n-born 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 each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. **[Refrain]**

Scripture Reading:

L: O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

C: Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

L: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

C: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

L: For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

C: Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

L: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

C: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

L: Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

C: Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."

L: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

C: let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

L: before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

Hymn: "Joy to the World"

ELW #267 (v.1,2,4)

1 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.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4 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.

"Joy to the World" Music by: English Melody
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Children's Message

Gospel Reading:

Luke 2:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O God.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Christmas Eve Homily

Pastor Lisa Meshke

Hymn: "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

ELW #290

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. **[Refrain]**

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. **[Refrain]**

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. **[Refrain]**

"Go Tell it on the Mountain" Copyright: Public Domain

Announcements/Offering

{Special Music}

***Prayers of Intercession:** (Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**)

MEAL

***The Great Thanksgiving:**

P: Glory to God in the highest,

C: and peace to God's people on earth.

P: Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

P: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

L: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

*Words of Institution

***The 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.

Communion Distribution: (wine = dark; grape juice = light)

Sing: #296

"What Child is This"

#282

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

#277

"Away in a Manger"

All are welcome to the Lord's Table. Tonight, we commune by continuous station. You will receive a wafer; gluten free wafers are available upon request. You may then choose the light colored grape juice or the dark colored wine. Children who have not received communion instruction are welcomed to come forward for a blessing.

"What Child is This?"

1 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!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

"What Child is This?" Copyright: Public Domain

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

1 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 the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3 And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow;
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,

and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" Copyright: Public Domain

"Away in a Manger"

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

2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

"Away in a Manger" Copyright: Public Domain

*Communion Blessing

*Communion Prayer:

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. **Amen.**

SENDING

*During the distribution of light, it is requested that **no lighted candle be tipped or tilted.**
Tip only the unlit candle when lighting your own candle from your neighbor.*

Candle Lighting:

L: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And God said, "Let there be light."

C: Jesus is the light of the world.

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: Jesus is the light of the world – the light no darkness can overcome.

L: Light has come into the world.

C: Glory to God in the highest! And peace to God's people on earth.

Closing Hymn: "Silent Night"
(please stand during the 3rd verse)

ELW #281

1 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.

2 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!

3 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.

"Silent Night" Copyright: Public Domain

***Dismissal:**

Go and ponder the peace of this glorious night. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude