



## **First St. John Lutheran Church**

2471 Seaman Street - Toledo, Ohio 43605  
Phone: 419-691-7222 - [www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com)  
Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve

### **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Prelude Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician

11:00 pm: Additional Prelude by Dr. Pattin and FSJ Bell Choir  
"Tidings" arr. D. Wagner

#### ***Ringing of the Bell***

#### ***Opening Hymn "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 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.

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.

#### **Invocation**

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

**C: And also with you.**

#### **Lighting the Christmas Candle**

P: The four candles have now been lit. The four weeks of Advent  
preparation have passed. This evening we light the center candle  
on the wreath. The light it gives reminds us of the One who is the  
True Light of the World, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: For unto us is born in the city of David a Savior who is Christ  
the Lord.**

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

**C: The light no darkness can overcome.**

P: Stay with us Lord, for it is evening,

**C: and the day is almost over.**

P: Let your light scatter the darkness,

**C: and illumine your church.**

P: Tonight is the night of the Son's in-breaking! Come to his light!  
Receive his light into your hearts! Celebrate his light and so live  
forever in his glory! Rise, shine, for your light has come.

**C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Special Music* (7:00 pm)

*"Christmas Angel Medley"* arr. B. Weishaupt  
Cheri Sergeant, Bells

*Special Music* (11:00 pm)

*"Ding Dong Merrily on High"* arr. L. Larson  
FSJ Bell Choir

**Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: 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 rightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Special Music* *"Away in a Manger"* J. Raney  
FSJ Chancel Choir

*Children's Message* (7:00 pm) Pastor Rayl

*Hymn* (7:00 pm) *"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord"*

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.

With songs we hasten you to greet,  
And kiss the ground before your feet.  
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night  
That gave you birth, our soul's delight.

Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,  
And to us all your grace accord;  
True faith and love to us impart,  
That we may hold you in our heart.

**Christmas Gospel in Word and Song**

**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 & Luke 1:26-38

**Hymn**

*"Once in Royal David's City"*

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

**Scripture Reading**

Philippians 2:5-11 & Luke 2:1-7

**Praise Song**

*"Light of the World"*

A. Bergthold

Praise Team - Carol Haar, soloist

**Scripture Reading**

Colossians 1:15-20 & Luke 2:8-14

*Hymn* (7:00 pm) *"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"*

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 angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

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, incarnate deity!

Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

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.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

*Special Music* (11:00 pm) "*Joy to the World*" arr. R. Mallory  
FSJ Bell Choir

**Scripture Reading** Micah 5:2-5 & Luke 2:15-20

*Special Music* "*Star-Led and Wonder Bound*" M.K. Beall  
FSJ Chancel Choir

*Christmas Message* Pastor Jerald K. Rayl

*Message Hymn* "*Go Tell It on the Mountain*"

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.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!  
The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!  
Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

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

### *The Offering*

*Musical Offertory* Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician

*Intercessory Prayer* (Please stand. Each petition concludes with:)

P: Hear us good Lord.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

P: Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C: 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.**

*Special Music* (11:00 pm—please be seated)

"*Christmas Angel Medley*" arr. B. Weishaupt  
Cheri Sergent, Bells

### *Closing Prayer*

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

**C: Amen.**

### *Hymn* "*Silent Night*"

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, heavenly host 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.

### *Christmas Benediction*

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace, Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude*

Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician

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*We joyfully greet our members, loved ones and visitors  
on this Christmas Eve! We remember with awe and gratitude  
how God shone His light into our darkness on that first Christmas.  
May we share with others the light that shines  
from our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**RECORDING THE SERVICE:** The worship service will be recorded and will be available on the church website at [www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com)

**ELDERS**

7:00 pm: Dick Haar, Jeff Smith

11:00 pm: Darold Henninger, Jeff Ladd

**READERS**

7:00 pm: Carol Haar

11:00 pm: Bob Haar

**SOUND BOARD**

7:00 pm: Mark Ackerman

11:00 pm: Dave Wilbarger

**2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available in the lounge.

**POINSETTIA PICK UP:** The poinsettias will remain for worship on Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. They can be picked up after church that day or you can stop by the church during the week—Tuesday, December 28<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP NOTICE:** On December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup> we will have only one service at 10:30 am. We will resume our two-service schedule (8:00 & 10:30 am) on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

***December 24, 2021***

***CHRISTMAS EVE***

**Born for You**

To frightened shepherds on the edge of town, an angel makes a startling announcement: To you is born a Savior. One who saves. Saves from what? In the gentle glow of our Christmas celebrations, we might pause for a moment to ponder this question. Jesus came to destroy the power of sin and death, to save us from our slavery to sin and from the spiritual death that accompanies separation from God.

To you is born a Savior. This announcement is made not just to the shepherds, but to all who hear these words in faith. This word is a plural "you." This good news is for *all* people: for *all* of God's favored ones in every time and place. It is for all of you gathered in this room to hear the Christmas story. It is for all who marvel in astonishment, who laugh and rejoice that Christ is born in their hearts and in their lives over and over again. It is for all of those who have not yet heard the story, but whose lives cry out for a strand of hope, a word of healing, a promise of peace.

To you is born a Savior. This is also a singular "you." Jesus comes to save each one of us, each unique individual. To you is born a Savior. You reading these words. You the expectant parent. You the laid off employee. You the addict. You the one weighed down by doubt. You the one wearied by loneliness. You the one giddy with joy. You the one driven by anxiety. You the sinner. You the believer. Jesus is born for you. Jesus died for you. We--all of us together and each one of us individually--need this Savior, this Jesus. His birth means new life for us. Glory to God in the highest!