

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols

December 24, 2020 ~ 7:00 p.m.



MUSICIANS

Val Slaght, Vocals and Guitar
Denstaedt Family, Vocals and Guitar
David Delano, Vocals, Organ, Piano



For the traditional Silent Night and lighting of the candles, we invite you to gather your candles together (even flashlights) and place them around your room. As we darken the sanctuary, we invite you to darken your room and light your candles as we light the candles in the sanctuary and join us in the singing of this tradition.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 27TH - LESSONS AND CAROLS

This Sunday there will be a special Lessons and Carols Service that is being provided by our synod, the North/West Lower Michigan Synod ELCA that we will stream over our YouTube channel. As a gift to the congregations, our Synod has put this service together with contributions from churches around the synod including those who have the ability and technology to sing safely. It is another way the Synod has been supporting the churches during the pandemic and able to do something special that many churches could not do themselves. Join us at 9:30 am on Sunday morning by going to our website home page and then be directed to the service.

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707

Church Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gracelutheranalpena

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

P: Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh, the Power of the Most High, + one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

L: Gracious God,

C: **in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

L: I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To us is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Our sins are forgiven in + Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Text/Music: John F. Wade, tr. Frederick Oakeley. This selection is in the public domain.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray... Almighty God,

C: **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, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

A Reading from Isaiah 9:2-7

HYMN “Go Tell It On The Mountain”

Text/Music: African American spiritual, refrain: John W. Work, Jr. This selection is in the public domain.

A Reading from Titus 2:11-14

HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Text: Phillips Brooks/Music: Lewis H. Redner. This selection is in the public domain.

A Reading from Luke 2:1-7

HYMN “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. This selection is in the public domain.

A Reading from Luke 2:8-20

HYMN “What Child is This”

Text: William C. Dix/Music: English ballad, 16th cent. This selection is in the public domain.

Homily

HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Text/Music: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy. This selection is in the public domain.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

OFFERING

CHRISTMAS OFFERING PRAYER *Unison*

God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on a straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P: O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feasts; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: **Amen.**

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.**

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE AND CHRISTMAS CANDLES

P: We light the Christ candle to proclaim . . . May the Lord Jesus Christ take all darkness out of our hearts, now and forever. Amen.

C: **Jesus who is the Light, says that we are light also. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Let your light so shine in us O God that all may see your good works in us and give praise to You.**

HYMN "Silent Night"

Text: Joseph Mohr; tr. John F. Young/Music: Franz Gruber. This selection is in the public domain.

BLESSING

P: May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen**

HYMN "Joy to the World"

*Text: Isaac Watts/Music: English melody, 18th cent.: arr. Lowell Mason
This selection is in the public domain.*

DISMISSAL

L: Glory to God in the highest!

C: **Peace to God's people on earth!**

L: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God.**