

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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December 24, 2023 ✝ Christmas Eve
Children's Program – 7pm

OPENING HYMN: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful
(the congregation stands)

**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!**

**The highest, most holy,
Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin,
A mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing.
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens
Of heaven above:
Glory to God
In the highest!
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

INVOCATION

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has come and kept his Word to set his people free!

C: **He has kept his promise to our fathers in his holy covenant and raised up for us from the house of David the stunning salvation he promised by his prophets long ago.**

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has come and kept his Word to set his people free!

C: **Free from all who hate us, everyone and everything that would oppose us; free to serve him fearlessly and faithfully and righteously each day that we live in his presence.**

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has come and kept his Word to set his people free!

C: **Now we see the brilliant dawning of his great salvation: sins forgiven by his mercy, peace to guide us on our way, and even death itself made bright with his eternal light!**

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has come and kept his Word to set his people free!

Opening Hymn Concludes

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born on earth to save us;
Jesus, to thee be
Glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing;**

**Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

(The congregation is seated.)

The First Day of Christmas – A Baby in Bethlehem

The Second Day of Christmas – Two Parents Proud

The Third Day of Christmas – Three Fine Kings

CONGREGATION HYMN:

**Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

**Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.**

**Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion,
Fragrance of Edom and off*erings divine,
Gems from the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?**

The Fourth Day of Christmas – Four Prophets Bold

The Fifth Day of Christmas – Five Candles Bright

The Sixth Day of Christmas – Six Shepherds Shouting

The Seventh Day of Christmas – Seven Stars a-Shining

The Eighth Day of Christmas – Eight Doors a-Slamming

The Ninth Day of Christmas – Nine Gifts of Glory

The Tenth Day of Christmas – Ten Words of Wisdom

The Eleventh Day of Christmas – Eleven Children Singing

JOY TO THE WORLD

(Congregation sings)

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its 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.**

**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 of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

The Twelfth Day of Christmas – Twelve Angels Praising

**On the great Day of Christmas
My dear Lord gave to me:
Twelve angels praising,**

Eleven children singing,
Ten words of wisdom,
Nine gifts of glory,
Eight doors a-slaming,
Seven stars a-shining,
Six shepherds shouting,
Five candles bright,
Four prophets bold,
Three fine kings,
Two parents proud,
And a baby in Bethlehem.

THE OFFERING is presented

THE BENEDICTION

The Lighting of the Candles

*(Individual candles in the congregation are lit from the Christ Candle,
please carefully tilt unlit candles to the lit one)*

THE CLOSING HYMN "Silent Night! Holy Night!"

**Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Alles Schlaf, einsam wacht
Nur das heilige Elternpaar,
das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war,
Bei dem himmlischen Kind,
bei dem himmlischen Kind.**

**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 Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

Please extinguish candles carefully and be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS (and candy)