

Child Song: "Night of the Father's Love"

Choir Song:

Child song: 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.

Child song: 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. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Nar. 1: As a gardener loves and cares for his plants, so our God loves and cares for each one of us. He showed his ultimate love by sending forth His only begotten Son, that Rose of Sharon, into this world that we might be saved through Him. Through Jesus' perfect life, innocent death, and victorious resurrection we are now grafted on to the Vine, Jesus. We are part of Him. Let us thank and praise our loving Savior for the life He won for us through His death on the cross.

Recessional: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Child song: Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of light;
Angels lifting praise before You Sing thro'out this holy night.
In a manger lies a Baby Child of Mary, Son of God.
Voices joined in joyful chorus Praise You for Your gift of love.

**Cong. Song: All Your works declare Your glory; All creation joins to sing.
Praise resounds as earth rejoices In the birth of Christ, the King.
Shepherds kneel before the Infant. Trumpets sound and anthems raise
As with joy our hearts are lifted, Joined in wonder, love, and praise.**

**Cong. Song: Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You, Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.**

A nnouncements

Special thanks to the children for presenting the Word of God to us this evening. We thank them for their hard work, and we praise the Lord for all their talents. We thank the choir for their beautiful singing this evening as well. Thank you to Megan Goodwinn and Pastor Rodebaugh for their help with the children. Thank you to Teresa Bernthal for recording and playing the music for the service. We praise and thank the Lord for willing servants to use their gifts to the glory of our Lord and Savior.

Join us tomorrow morning at 10:15 a.m. for the Christmas Day Service. We will be singing songs of praise to Jesus Christ who was sent to free us from the darkness of sin, death, and the devil.

The called workers (Goodwins, Rodebaughs, and Bernthals) would like to thank the congregation and everyone who gave the generous gift this Christmas season. We are truly blessed by your support. We thank the Lord for such a gracious gift and wonderful congregation to serve. Thanks again.

Thank you to all who donated candy and goodies for the children's Christmas bags.

The Wiffle Ball Tournament is this Saturday at 9:00 a.m. ages 7-16. Register at

www.winterhaven.clclutheran.org/wiffle-ball-registration

I need volunteers and supplies to help run the event. If you can help, please see Mr. Bernthal.



Processional: “Christmastime” adapted words

Child Song and Choir Song:

Children: Come see the Christ born tonight His salvation bringing
With humble thanks, see this wondrous sight.
Come see the Seed, Word foretold, Christ the Promised Offspring.
This Child of Old shines His love so bright.

Choir:
Children: Come see the Christ born tonight His salvation bringing
With humble thanks, see this wondrous sight.
Come see the Seed, Word foretold, Christ the Promised Offspring.
This Child of Old shines His love so bright.

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With humble thanks, see this wondrous sight.
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With humble thanks, see this wondrous sight.
Come see the Seed, Word foretold, Christ the Promised Offspring.
This Child of Old shines His love so bright.

Children: Sing gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Sing gloria in excelsis Deo!

Nar. 1: The title of our service tonight is “The Christmas Plant.” That may sound a little strange to you since we have all been used to hearing about a Christmas tree at this time of year. Tonight we will present to you a science lesson on plants.

Nar. 2: We are also going to take a look at God’s plan of salvation for all of us, which is why Christmas is so important. This is also the only reason there is to celebrate Christmas, because Christmas is the time when God’s plan of salvation begins to unfold.

Nar. 1: So please join with us as we again recall God’s wonderful plan of salvation for mankind through a science lesson about plants.

Cong. Hymn: “Joy to the World”

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King
Let every 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 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 sins and sorrows 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.**

Cong. Song: “Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”

**Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel’s word,
I come in half belief a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me.
But there is room and welcome there for me.**

**In that unlikely place I find Him as they said:
Sweet newborn Babe, how frail! and in a manger bed,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.**

**Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned
Its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,
To die, to live, and not alone for me,
To die, to live, and not alone for me?**

Nar. 1: Let us look once more at our Christmas Plant and the things for which it stands.

Child: The Seed

Nar. 2: God’s promise to fallen mankind that the seed of the woman, Jesus, would come as man’s salvation.

Child: The Root and Stem

Nar. 1: The continuing promise to God’s people that Jesus would come from the line of Abraham, Jesse, and David.

Child: The Flower

Nar. 2: The crowning glory of God’s salvation, Jesus, whose birth we celebrate tonight.

Child: The Fruit

Nar. 1: A reminder to all Christians to bear fruit pleasing to our Vine Jesus.

Child Song: “Hallelujah” adapted words

The angel came to the virgin mild And said she’d have the Savior child
This Son of God would rule the world like David His name will be great
The Christ, the Lord, the Lamb of God and the Great Reward The angel sang proclaiming Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah Hallelujah

Sheep were in the field that night When all around there was a light
“Peace on earth and love and mercy mild For unto you is born this day,”
They filled the sky and sang out to pray And from their lips they drew the Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah Hallelujah

This baby born is Christ the Lord He is the eternal Word
The wall of sin has been removed for all men To God the Lord on high be glory
This little child is salvation’s story And from their lips they sang an Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah Hallelujah

This little child from heaven above Mary wrapped in strips of love
In Him she saw great freedom from her sin The manger is His lowly bed
The Child in death will bow His head While Mary breathes a quiet Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah Hallelujah

Come sing to the Word made flesh And spread His name to all the rest
This Savior grants forgiveness, hope, and love And heaven’s doors have been opened again
Sin, death, and hell was His to win And now we sing a triumphant Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah Hallelujah

Offering, Prayer, Benediction, and Announcements

Cong. Song: "Salvation Unto Us Has Come"

**Since Christ hath full atonement made And brought to us Salvation
Each Christian therefore may be glad And build on this foundation.
Thy grace alone dear Lord I plead, Thy death is now my life indeed,
For Thou hast paid my ransom.**

**Faith clings to Jesus's cross alone And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known, With love and hope increasing.
Yet faith alone doth justify, Works serve thy neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.**

The Fruit

Nar. 2: In many plants, the part of the flower surrounding the seeds, called the ovule, develops into what we call a fruit. Many people grow plants for the purpose of collecting the delicious fruit which comes from the branches of the plant. Besides being good for food, the fruit is extremely necessary to the plants as it protects the developing seeds.

Nar. 1: God's plan of Salvation did not end with the birth of that Precious Flower, Jesus. What blessed fruit came from the birth! Jesus our Savior, whose work began there in Bethlehem, gave forth the greatest fruit of all, that of offering Himself for our sins on the cross. God, the master Gardener, wants everyone to hear this message of salvation and be saved. These last words of John the Baptist and Jesus should serve as both a warning and encouragement to all Christians.

Child: John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

Child: Matthew 3:8 and 10 "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,... And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

Child: Matthew 7:17-20 "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them."

Child: Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness."

Nar. 2: As faithful Christians, each of us needs to realize that Jesus, our Savior, is the source of all our nourishment. It is from Him that we draw our strength to bear witness to the world that we are God's offspring. As branches of our Savior, may each of us produce fruit as we spread forth that seed of God's Word which is part of us. Spread that seed that others may grow, strongly anchored in Jesus. In so doing, we will be able to join all of God's offspring in bearing fruit pleasing to our Savior. With joy let us spread this life sustaining message as the shepherds did that night after Christ's birth.

Child: Luke 2:15-20 "And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."

The Seed

Nar. 1: The first thing that you need to grow a plant is a seed. Inside a seed is a small plant called an embryo which will later grow into a new plant. The seed also provides nutrition to sustain the embryo in its early stages of growth. The seed then, is like a promise of a new plant to come.

Child: Genesis 2:16-17 "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Child: Genesis 3:6 "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate."

Child: Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Nar. 2: Even though Adam and Eve had sinned by disobeying God in eating from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, God still loved mankind and planted that promised seed of salvation. In the Bible the word "offspring" is sometimes used to stand for the word "seed." That offspring, that promised seed of salvation, was to be Jesus.

Child: Revelation 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

Nar. 1: In many places in the Old Testament, God nurtured and sustained His people with the promise of the coming Seed of the Woman who would destroy the serpent Satan and bring salvation to all mankind.

Child: Genesis 26:4 "And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed."

Nar. 2: Thus the promised Seed, Jesus, the Savior of the World, was planted by our Lord almost 6,000 years ago.

Cong. Song: "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord" TLH 91

**Let the earth now praise the Lord Who hath truly kept His Word
And the sinners' Help and Friend Now at last to us doth send.**

**Abram's promised Great Reward Zion's Helper, Jacob's Lord
Him of two-fold race behold Truly came as long foretold.**

**Bruise for me the Serpent's head That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cleave to Thee in faith, Safely kept through life and death.**

The Roots and Stem

Nar. 1: Once the seed has been planted and watered carefully, it begins to put out roots. The roots firmly anchor the plant into the ground and gather for the plant the life-giving water and nutrients from the soil. Soon a small sprout or shoot breaks through the ground. Later, branches begin to grow out from the main stem. For weeks the roots and stem and branches must work together at gathering water, collecting sunlight, and producing food. These jobs are essential in helping the plant grow strong and healthy.

**Cong. Song: "Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel"
Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Nar. 2: Throughout the Old Testament, God strengthened and sustained His people with continued promises about the coming Savior. These promises helped His people remain strongly anchored in God and nurtured their faith in the coming Savior.

Cong. Song: “Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel”
Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save And give them vict’ry o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Child: Isaiah 11:1 “There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.”

Child: Isaiah 11:10 “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious.”

Child: Isaiah 53:2 “For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.”

Child: Romans 15:12 And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope."

Child: Jeremiah 23:5 “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.”

Cong. Song: “Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel”
Oh, come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night And death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Nar. 1: God had promised the Seed of Salvation in the Garden of Eden and He continued to nurture that plant up to the time His promise would be fulfilled.

Cong. Song: “Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel”
Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come And open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Child Song: “Behold A Branch . . . For Unto Us”
Behold a branch is growing of loveliest form and grace.
As prophets sung, foreknowing, it springs from Jesse’s race.

Grant: The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up a righteous Branch from David’s line. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. Bethlehem, out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people.

Child Song: Isaiah had foretold it, in words of promise sure.
And Mary’s arms enfold it, a virgin meek and pure.

Mason: The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins, declares the Lord. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. I will be his father and he will be my son.

Child Song: For unto us, a child is born. For unto us, a son is given.
The government shall be upon his shoulders; his righteousness will rule forevermore.
The government shall be upon his shoulders; his righteousness will rule forevermore.

Child Song: His name, his name shall be called Wonderful; his name, his name shall be called Counselor.
The mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace through all eternity!
The mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace through all eternity!

The Flower

Nar. 1: The next stage in the life of a plant occurs when the plant produces buds which turn into flowers. The brightly colored petals and sweet smelling fragrance of the flowers help attract insects which pollinate the flower. Pollination and fertilization are processes which go on inside a flower to cause it to produce seeds to grow new plants. The flower then is the crowning glory of the plant because of its beauty and because of the part which it plays in reproduction in the flower.

Nar. 2: The beautiful flower of God’s plan of salvation, that crowning glory of God’s Christmas plant, is Jesus. His birth some 2000 years ago was both beautiful and necessary for the preservation of mankind.

Child: Luke 2:1-7 “And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David;) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”

Child Song: “O Come to the Manger”

Choir Song:

O come, little children, O come to the manger, O come to Bethlehem
O come to the manger in Bethlehem!

O come, little children, O come one and all, O come and adore him, the child born so small.
God’s gift of a Son comes to you on this night to be your redeemer, your joy and delight.
O come, adore the holy child, come, praise the Lord of Light!

Child: Luke 2:8-14 “And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Cong. Song: “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 ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic host 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 Godhead see, Hail th’ incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Nar. 1: As a flower lasts but a short time, then withers and is gone, so the birth, life, and death of our Savior Jesus lasted a few years. Yet as the seeds produced by the flower continue on in a never-ending growth cycle, so the fruit of our Savior’s work will last an eternity.