

# *Christmas Day*

**Mount Olivet - Minneapolis Campus  
Thursday, December 25, 2025 ~ 10am  
Liturgist: Pastor MacLean**

## **The Harp Prelude**

**(please stand when invited)**

## **The Processional Hymn**

**O Come, All Ye Faithful 283:1, 4**

**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!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;**

**Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!**

**Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: Refrain**

# **The Invocation**

**Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.**

**Congregation: Amen. (please sing)**

# **The Confession of Sins and Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all  
desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of  
your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and  
worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ  
our Lord.**

**Congregation: Amen. (please sing)**

**Pastor: St. John writes, “If we say we have no sin, we  
deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we  
confess our sin, God who is faithful and just  
will forgive our sin and cleanse us from all  
unrighteousness” (1 John 1:8-9). And so we gather to  
confess our sin, not because we fear God thinks us  
unworthy, but because we trust God’s promise to receive  
us always in mercy and grace. Let us therefore pray  
together with confidence...**

**Congregation: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen. (please sing)**

**Pastor: Almighty God, in mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, God gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. All this is promised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

**Congregation: Amen. (please sing)**

# **The Hymn of Praise**

**Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

**270:1**

**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!”**

## **The Salutation and Prayer of the Day**

**Pastor: The Lord be with you.**

**Congregation: And also with you. (please sing)**

**Pastor and Congregation: Dear God, guide us by the  
light of Christ, the light the darkness cannot overcome.  
In Jesus’ name, Amen. (please sing)**

**(please be seated)**

# **The Hymn of the Day**

**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

**288:1, 2**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.**

**Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.**

**Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

# **The Scripture Reading**

**Luke 2:1-21**

**Glory to you, O Lord. (please stand as you are able and sing)**

**In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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 in the inn. Now in that same 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, and 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, just as it had been told them. When the eighth day came, it was time to circumcise the child, and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.**

**Praise to you, O Christ. (please sing)**

# **The Profession of Faith**

## **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**(please be seated)**

# **The Gradual Hymn**

## **The First Noel**

**The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

**Refrain:**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heav'nly Lord  
that hath made heav'n and earth of nought,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought. Refrain**

**The Welcome**

**Pastor Kalland**

## **The Offertory Anthem**

**Still, Still, Still**

**J. Michelson**

**Emily Gerard, harp**

**(please stand as you are able)**

## **The Offertory Prayer**

**What Child Is This**

**296:3**

**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!**

**(please be seated)**

## **The Pulpit Hymn**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**279:2**

**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 the earth!**

**The Sermon**

**Pastor Kalland**

# **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**(please stand as you are able)**

## **The 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.**

**(please be seated)**

## **The Distribution of Elements**

**Communion will be served by cup. Please follow the usher's directions to the altar communion rail. Both white grape juice and red wine are available as well as gluten free wafers. All are welcome.**

# **The Communion Solos**

**Emily Gerard, harp  
Susan Steincross, organ**

## **The Communion Blessing**

**(please stand as you are able)**

## **The Closing Prayer**

**We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The Benediction and Threefold Amen**

**(please pause for a moment of silent prayer)**

## **The Postlude**

**Toccatina on Joy to the World**

**Brenda Portman**

## *Christmas Welcome*

The picture most of us hold of the Christmas scene is so beautiful and calm that it's easy to forget that those gathered around the manger were a peculiar bunch. A young mother, chosen by God, likely experiencing a mix of fear, joy, and wonder in equal measures. A protective father, initially skeptical yet charged by angels to care for his wife and newborn. Lowly shepherds, unexpectedly summoned to witness the unfolding of God's salvation. Visiting foreign dignitaries, come seeking answers to their deepest questions. And angels, God's messengers sent to herald peace to all. High and low, wealthy and poor, skeptic and seeker, fearful and courageous, people from far away and right in the neighborhood: everyone was invited to gather around the Christ child, God's gift and promise of peace, love, and goodwill.

At Mount Olivet, we believe God is still inviting everyone to gather around that same gift and promise. And so we want you to know more than ever that, wherever you come from, whatever hopes and fears you may harbor, whatever gifts and needs you bring, whatever questions you hold and answers you seek, there is a place for you here. Our mission is simple: to continue to invite people to hear, learn about, and, most especially, experience the love of God. Join us – we've been waiting for you!

~ David J. Lose, Senior Pastor

# **Pastors**

**David J. Lose, Senior Pastor**

**Kurt P. Kalland, Monica M. Hammersten,**

**Mark J. Dixon, Rebecca W. Freeman, Benjamin M. Cieslik,**

**Jeni F. Grangaard, Jenna L. Olson Popp**

# **Worship and Music Staff**

**Beverly Claflin, Director of Worship and Music**

**Susan Steincross, Associate Organist**

**Emily Gerard, Harp**

# **Mount Olivet Christmas Fund**

**Thank you for your generous Christmas gift to support the  
ministries of Mount Olivet.**



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