



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2019 • **3:30pm**

*Merry  
Christmas*



**The Dawn Draws Near**

# Welcome to Zumbro Lutheran Church!

CHRISTMAS EVE  
TUESDAY, DEC. 24, 2019, 3:30PM

We hope that our time together is an uplifting and meaningful celebration of our Lord's birth.

We celebrate communion as part of Christmas worship. Everyone is welcome at the table. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

On this special day we have a blessing of families. If you would like a family blessing and prayer, stop at one of the stations following communion and a pastor or staff person will pray with you.

Individual candles will be lit before we sing *Silent Night*. Please keep the lit candles upright and tip the unlit candle into it.

Young children are most welcome with us at worship. If needed, the nursery is available and staffed during all services. Please ask an usher for directions.

There is a monitor in the lounge for anyone to watch a live broadcast of the service.

Please silence your pagers and cell phones.

PRELUDE

DING! DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH  
CHRISTMAS JUBILATION  
BEL CANTO HANDBELL CHOIR

ARR. SANDRA EITHUN  
ARR. DAN EDWARDS

WELCOME

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

L: Prince of Peace, be born again into our world. Come with healing on your wings. Wherever there is loneliness, wherever there is fear of failing, wherever there is temptation too strong to resist, wherever there is bitterness of heart, come, O Blessed One, with healing in your wings. Savior, be born in each of us who look now to you. We know only that your love is never ending and that no one else has the power to make us whole. Come, Lord Jesus, to each who longs for you. Come with healing in your wings. Come quickly.

**C: Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

“FOR THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO TURN”

*entrance of the Christ Candle*

LITANY

L: This is the message we have heard from God and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all.

**C: O come, let us adore him.**

L: The darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

**C: O come, let us adore him.**

L: We have beheld Christ's glory: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

**C: O come, let us adore him.**

L: In him was life, and the life was the light of all.

**C: O come, let us adore him.**

*please stand as you are able*

CAROL

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

**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!**

**The highest, most holy,  
light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father  
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

**Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest. *Refrain***

*you may be seated*

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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 for them in the inn.

## CAROL

## AWAY IN A MANGER

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

## STORY TIME

PASTOR SHELLEY CUNNINGHAM

## ANTHEM

## WHAT CHILD

PAUL W. LOHMAN

ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHOIR

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

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!

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

*please stand as you are able*

CAROL

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

**Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.**

***Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song?  
*Refrain***

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
*Refrain***

*you may be seated*

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

THE DAWN DRAWS NEAR

PASTOR VERN CHRISTOPHERSON

CAROL

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**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!**

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

## PRAYER

L: In a world of heartache and pain, we long to hear the song of the angels.

**C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

L: With hope fleeting, with people afraid and nations at war, we pray to you.

**C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

L: Our candles illumine our story. Dawn invades midnight. The Light of the World has come.

**C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

L: And this light is a light for all; igniting a flame within the soul, warming us from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God-come-alive in human flesh, living among us now and always.

**C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace. Amen.**

## OFFERING

FANTASIA ON FOREST GREEN (O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM)

ARR. LLOYD LARSON

BEL CANTO HANDBELL CHOIR

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

L: God is with us in Jesus, our Emmanuel. Come to this table where God comes to us.

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

- *We invite to the table all who hunger for Jesus.*
- ***We will serve communion at stations; the ushers will direct you.***
- *If you prefer wine, take an empty cup from the serving tray and it will be filled from the pouring chalice.*
- *If you prefer grape juice, take a filled cup from the center of the serving tray.*
- *Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*
- *Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*
- *If you are unable to come forward to receive the sacrament and would like a server to bring it to you at your seat, please tell an usher when your row is invited to go forward.*

## BLESSING OF THE FAMILIES

*Families that would like to receive a blessing may do so. A pastor or staff person will bless you. God promises these gifts to us: God's presence in times of suffering, God's promise of peace, and God's love embodied in the community of the faithful.*

## CAROL

### I AM SO GLAD EACH CHRISTMAS EVE

**I am so glad each Christmas Eve, the night of Jesus' birth!  
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and angels sang on earth.**

**The little child in Bethlehem, he was a king indeed!  
For he came down from heav'n above to help a world in need.**

**He dwells again in heaven's realm, the Son of God today;  
and still he loves his little ones and hears them when they pray.**

**I am so glad each Christmas Eve! His praises then I sing;  
he opens now for ev'ry child the palace of the king.**

**And so I love each Christmas Eve, and I love Jesus too;  
and that he loves me ev'ry day I know so well is true.**

## ANTHEM

### CHRISTMAS NIGHT ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHOIR

JOHN RUTTER

Softly through the winter's darkness shines a light,  
clear and still in Bethlehem on Christmas Night.  
Round the stable where a virgin mother mild  
watches over Jesus Christ the holy child.

Shepherds kneel in adoration by his bed;  
seraphim in glory hover round his head.  
Wise men, guided by the leading of a star,  
bring him gifts of precious treasure from afar.

Choirs of angels sing to greet his wondrous birth:  
Christ our Lord in human form comes down to earth.  
Glory to God in highest heaven their joyful strain:  
'Peace on earth, goodwill to men' the glad refrain.

Lullaby! The child lies sleeping: sing lullaby!  
Safe in Mary's tender keeping: sing lullaby!  
Guardian angels keep their watch till break of day:  
Lullaby! Sweet Jesus sleeps among the hay.

Alleluia! Let the earth rejoice today!  
Christ is born to take our sins and guilt away.  
Praise the Lord who sent him down from heaven above:  
Holy infant, born of God the Father's love.

CAROL

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

**Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing,  
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you!  
Christ the child was born for you!**

CAROL

IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,  
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

**And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:  
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!**

**For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

PRAYER

L: We give you thanks, O God, for this bread and cup of Jesus, your Son. You give us light for our darkness and hope for our journey of faith. As you led the shepherds to come and worship, lead us now in the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## CAROL

## SILENT NIGHT

*As your candle is lit, please light the candle of the person sitting next to you. Be sure to keep the lit candle upright and to tip only the unlit candle.*

**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 your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

## PRAYER

L: Almighty God, you have 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.**

## BLESSING

L: 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 Wise Men, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*you may extinguish your candle*

*please stand as you are able*

CAROL

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.**

POSTLUDE

ON THIS DAY EARTH SHALL RING  
(PERSONENT HODIE)

ARR. ROBERT J. POWELL

## WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

**PROCLAIMER**-Vern Christopherson; **WORSHIP LEADERS**-Jason Bryan-Wegner, Shelley Cunningham; **FAMILY BLESSINGS**-Vern Christopherson, Shelley Cunningham, Jason Bryan-Wegner, Jen Gruendler, Janette Reeves; **STORY TIME**-Shelley Cunningham; **ORGANIST**-Kristy Giere; **SINGING**-Zumbro Lutheran Choir, Bob Giere, director; **SONGLEADER**-Janette Reeves; **HANDBELLS**-Bel Canto Handbell Choir, Kristy Giere, director; **INSTRUMENTALIST**-Bob Giere, guitar; **GREETERS**-Dorey and Chuck Johnson, Wanda Rasch; **USHERS**-Janet and Chuck Carstensen, Jennie and Kirk Gill, Mary Jo and Dan Kelly, Todd Lichty, Sandy Nieland, Milt Tostrud; **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**-Maggie Bartels, Marie Dokken, Krista Jacobson, Dorey Johnson, Ann and Noel Peterson, Lori Windhorst; **HOLY FAMILY**-Tiffany, Cyle, Ryan, Josh, Ellery and Bennet Erie

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Join us for worship on Christmas Day at 10am and  
on Sunday, Dec. 29, at 8:30am and 10:30am.  
The nursery is not available on Christmas Day.



Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace,  
to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus.

(507) 288-2649 | [www.zumbrolutheran.org](http://www.zumbrolutheran.org)  
624 Third Ave. SW | Rochester, MN 55902



Poinsettias given in memory and honor  
of friends and loved ones

Doris and Gary Hansen in memory of  
Jeannette and Jim Hansen, Lenora and  
Art Jonas

Diane and Earl Kinneberg in memory of  
their parents and brother

Eleanor Christeson in memory of her  
husband Ken

Deb and Gene Nelson in memory of  
John Steck

DeWaine Silker in memory of his wife  
Norma

Katie Kabes in celebration of her parents  
Judy and Dan Rose 51<sup>st</sup> wedding  
anniversary

Rebecca and Rob Nesse in memory of  
Rebecca's father John Carlsen

Ruth Johnson and Phil Quanbeck in  
memory of Helen Johnson

Teresa and Mike Jensen in memory of  
their son Andrus Jensen

Martha and Jim Limburg in honor of their  
grandchildren: Kai, Mara, Elin, Ben,  
Laney

Jan and Ed Bailey in memory of their  
parents

Sisters Gretchen Logan, Nancy Haglof,  
and Betsy Dartt in memory of their  
loved ones

Connie and Kent Dalzell in memory of  
Loraine Dickinson, Robert Dalzell,  
Rex Dalzell

Alice and Allen Durst in celebration of  
teachers and children

Karla and Bob Brunett in memory of  
Robb Brunett and in honor of the  
Donovan Family

Elaine Brandt in memory of her husband  
D. Willie Brandt

Mary Lou Linn

Bill Kolling in memory of Judy Kolling

Melissa and Todd Christensen in memory  
of her mom Gerri Hicks

Karla Dexter in memory of  
uncle Mel Frederick and  
aunt Betty Williams

In memory of Ila Uptagrafft from her  
loving family

Marge and George Klee

Sandy Tschida in memory of her husband  
Tony Tschida, Sr.

Maxine Sims in memory of Duane Lee  
Ann and Chuck Beatty in honor  
of Zumbro's staff and pastors

Sue and Bob Jenkins in memory of  
Lorraine Williams and Paul Jenkins  
Judy and Jim Anderson in memory of  
Richard Palmer, Dorothy and  
Andy Anderson

Sara and Jeff Staab in memory of their  
grandparents

Linda and Sheldon Edd in memory of  
their parents

Megan and Matthew Wagner in memory  
of their grandparents

Sandy Simonson in memory of Walt  
Simonson

Jennie and Kirk Gill in memory of Bob Gill  
Sandra and Paul Krueger in memory of  
mother Virginia Schiro

Dianna and Lester Horntvedt

Leah and Mike Holmes in memory of  
Jeanne and William Holmes,  
Garfield Ross

Mary Jo and Dan Kelly in memory of their  
parents

Beth and Darin Napton in memory of  
Rev. Dr. Dennis Napton

Ann and Noel Peterson in memory of  
Bertha and John Peterson, Helen and  
Ralph Brazelton

*Our thanks to Jack Hawkins and Carousel Floral Gifts  
and Garden for the poinsettia display.*