



December 27, 2020
8:30am

Welcome to Zumbro Lutheran Church!

With the season of Advent we read from the Gospel of Luke. We followed the story of Jesus through the calling of disciples, to his ministry in Galilee, to the drama and passion of Holy Week. Over and over the characters in the story were encouraged to “not be afraid.” It’s a word we need now as much as ever.

The Christmas story may culminate with the birth of Jesus, but of course it doesn’t stop there. The extraordinary events of that night forecast a life marked by holy encounters, divine intervention, and love beyond human imagination. Today we see the next step in this life: Jesus’ first visit to the temple, where two sage servants of God can see that this is no ordinary child.

PRELUDE

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH
WILL BRYAN-WEGNER, PIANO

ARR. JAMES BASTIEN

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

LOVE IS COME



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C: We rejoiced with the angels and celebrated with the shepherds when you came into our world. Yet we know your birth is just the beginning of your impact on our lives. Like Simeon and Anna, open our eyes to your holy presence, even when it appears in unexpected places and people. In your name we pray. Amen.

HYMN

YOUR LITTLE ONES DEAR LORD

**Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.**

**With songs we hasten you to greet,
and kiss the ground before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night
that gave you birth, our soul's delight.**

**Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,
and to us all your grace accord;
true faith and love to us impart,
that we may hold you in our heart.**

**Until at last we too proclaim,
with all your saints, your glorious name;
in paradise our songs renew,
and praise you as the angels do.**

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

SCENE 1:	WHEN THE WORLD FEELS SCARY	THE COZINE FAMILY
SCENE 2:	MARY, JOSEPH, AND AN ANGEL	THE AHRENS FAMILY
SCENE 3:	JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL	THE AHRENS FAMILY
SCENE 4:	WAIT A MINUTE...	THE COZINE FAMILY
SCENE 5:	SHEPHERD, SHEEP, AND ANGEL	MCLAUGHLIN, PEDERSEN, BEATTY, CLARKSON, AND THOENDEL FAMILIES
SCENE 6:	INTRODUCING THE MAGI!	JOE, JENS, AND DECLAN AHRENS AND JERROD BREHM
SCENE 7:	THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING	THE COZINE FAMILY
ANTHEM	SILENT NIGHT ZUMBRO CHORISTERS AND FRIENDS	

HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 2:25-38 NRSV

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

L: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

JESUS IS PRESENTED IN THE TEMPLE

PASTOR SHELLEY CUNNINGHAM

WHAT CHILD IS THIS



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

JOY TO THE WORLD

ARR. JAMES BASTIEN

ELLIE BRYAN-WEGNER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy.

After each petition the congregation responds:

L: Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

L: Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.

C: Amen.

HYMN

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE



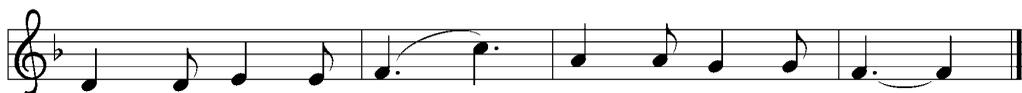
1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

SENDING

L: People of Zumbro, what is our mission?

C: 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. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

HE WHOM SHEPHERD MEN CAME PRAISING (QUEM PASTORES)
RALPH SCHORNACK, ORGAN

ARR. PAUL MANZ

PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

Marion Alborn June Davis Donna Hanson Duane Hoven Liam Kiefer
Cathy Rehfeldt Mavis Scheurle Laura Schmalz Florence Schubert

SYMPATHY TO:

Emily (Bill) Buck on the death of her sister, Kristy Karau

TODAY'S RADIO BROADCAST IS GIVEN IN CELEBRATION OF THE:

15th wedding anniversary of Judy and David Clayton. They were married at Zumbro Lutheran Church on December 30, 2005, and the

25th wedding anniversary of Amy and Matt Northrop. They were married in Litchfield, MN on December 29, 1995.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

PROCLAIMER-Pastor Shelley Cunningham; **LECTOR**-Noel Peterson; **ORGANIST**-Ralph Schornack;

PIANISTS-Ellie Bryan-Wegner, Will Bryan-Wegner; **SONGLEADER**-Janette Reeves; **FAITH FORMATION**

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM-Janette Reeves, director; Todd Christensen, video production



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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.

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