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**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**  
**DECEMBER 19, 2007**

**Pastor:** John P. Hein  
**Organist:** Janelle Hein

**Web:** www.CLC Grace Lutheran Church.org  
**Phone:** 763-784-8784

**Reactions to Jesus' Coming**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**.....*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

**OPENING DIALOG:**

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.  
**C: The Light no darkness can overcome.**  
P: Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.  
**C: For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.**  
P: Announcements ... Prayer ...

**HYMN:**.....*TLH 90: Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising*

- 1. **Come, your hearts and voices raising,  
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing His love amazing,  
Worthy folk of Christendom.**
- 3. **See how God, for us providing,  
Gave His Son and life abiding;  
He our weary steps is guiding  
From earth's woe to heavenly joy.**
- 4. **Christ, from heaven to us  
descending  
And in love our race befriending,  
In our need His help extending,  
Saved us from the wily Foe.**
- 8. **Gracious Child, we pray Thee, hear us,  
From Thy lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join th' angelic choir.**



**NINTH READING:**.....*1 John 1:1-7*  
*Our reaction to God made flesh is to be that of declaring how He has been manifest to us.*

**HYMN:**.....*TLH 707: On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*

- 1. **On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
News of great joy, news of new mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.**
- 3. **[Women]** When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place,  
**[Men]** When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place,  
**[ALL]** **Angels and men with joy may sing,  
All for to see the newborn King.**
- 4. **[Women]** All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night,  
**[Men]** All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night,  
**[ALL]** **'Glory to God and peace to men,  
Now and for evermore. Amen.'**

**CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING:**

**HYMN:**.....*God Rest You Merry Gentlemen*

- 1. **God rest you merry gentleman,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ our Savior  
Was born on Christmas Day;  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray: (Refrain)**
- 4. **Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All others doth deface: (Refrain)**



**Refrain:** O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

CHILDREN:.....*Away in a Manger*

SEVENTH READING:.....*Luke 2:15-20*

(15) So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." (16) And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. (17) Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. (18) And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. (19) But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart. (20) Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. (NKJV™)

## Reactions to Jesus' Coming

### SHEPHERDS: EAGER WITH NEWS

HYMN:.....*WS 706: Go Tell It On the Mountain*

**Refrain:** Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

1. **[Men]** While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. (**Refrain**)
2. **[Women]** The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. (**Refrain**)
3. **[ALL]** Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. (**Refrain**)



EIGHTH READING:.....*Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11*

*The wise men react to the Savior's birth with adoration.*

OFFERING HYMN:..... *TLH 127: As With Gladness Men of Old*

1. As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee!
2. As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before Thee whom heaven and earth adore,  
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy-seat!
3. As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King!

FIRST READING:..... *Genesis 3:8-15*

*The first reaction to God's coming following the fall into sin was one of shame. God thus promises the solution to shame.*

HYMN:.....*TLH 62: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

1. **[Women]** Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

**ALL:** **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

2. **[Men]** Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave.

**ALL:** **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

3. **[All]** 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.**

SECOND READING:..... *Genesis 22:15-18*

*Abraham's reaction to the promise of the coming seed was one of faith, trusting that God would bless all families of the earth.*

HYMN:.....*TLH 71: Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

Note: Women in bold, men in italics.

1. **Watchman, tell us of the night,  
What its signs of promise are.**  
*Trav'ler, o'er yon mountain's height,  
See that glory-beaming star.*

**Watchman, doth its beauteous ray  
Aught of joy or hope foretell?**  
*Trav'ler, yes; it brings the day,  
Promised day of Israel.*

2. **Watchman, tell us of the night;  
Higher yet that star ascends.**  
*Trav'ler, bless-ed-ness and light,  
Peace and truth, its course portends.*  
**Watchman, will its beams alone  
Gild the spot that gave them birth?**  
*Traveler, ages are its own;  
See, it bursts o'er all the earth.*



**3. Watchman, tell us of the night,  
For the morning seems to dawn.**  
*Trav'ler, darkness takes its flight;  
Doubt and terror are withdrawn.*  
**Watchman, let thy wand'rings cease;  
Hie thee to thy quiet home.**  
*Trav'ler, lo, the Prince of Peace,  
Lo, the Son of God, is come!*

**THIRD READING:**.....*Micah 5:2-5a*  
*The LORD promises that His Son would be born in the town of  
Bethlehem where God's people can react to the birth with peace.*

**HYMN:**..... *TLH 103: To Shepherds as They Watched by Night*

- 1. To shepherds as they watched by night  
Appeared a host of angels bright;  
Behold the tender Babe, they said,  
In yonder lowly manger laid.**
- 2. At Bethlehem, in David's town,  
As Micah did of old make known;  
'Tis Jesus Christ, your Lord and King,  
Who doth to all salvation bring.**
- 3. Oh, then rejoice that through His Son  
God is with sinners now at one;  
Made like yourselves of flesh and blood,  
Your brother is the eternal God.**
- 6. Ye shall and must at last prevail;  
God's own ye are, ye cannot fail.  
To God forever sing your praise  
With joy and patience all your days.**

**FOURTH READING:**.....*Isaiah 7:10-16*  
*Expecting that His people will not react by testing Him, the  
LORD gives the sign of His coming Son, born of a virgin.*

**CHOIR:**..... *Come, O Long-Expected Jesus*

1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.
2. Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
3. Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
3. By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.



**FIFTH READING:**..... *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*  
*Christ, the Light of the world, will come*

**HYMN:**..... *TLH 106: The People that in Darkness Sat*

- 1. The people that in darkness sat  
A glorious light have seen;  
The light has shined on them who long  
In shades of death have been. ... (repeat line)**
- 5. His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
The Everlasting Lord,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor,  
The God by all adored. ... (repeat line)**
- 6. His righteous government and power  
Shall over all extend;  
On judgment and on justice based,  
His reign shall have no end. ... (repeat line)**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES:**

*Note: The pastor will light the Christ candle (the white candle in the middle of the Advent wreath). Once the Christ candle is lit, the congregation is invited to come forward and light a candle from the Christ candle. Your candle will be presented to you by the usher. You may light your candle by tipping it to another lighted candle, but please do not tip a lighted candle. We ask that only children ages 5 and older hold their own candles.*



**SIXTH READING:**..... *Luke 2:1-11*  
*Christ, as the Light of the world, is born.*

**Note:** After singing the first stanza of Silent Night, please sing "oo" for two stanzas during the reading. Afterward the congregation may then again join in singing stanza 3:

- 1. 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.**

**NOTE:** TWO STANZAS OF "oo"

- 3. 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.**