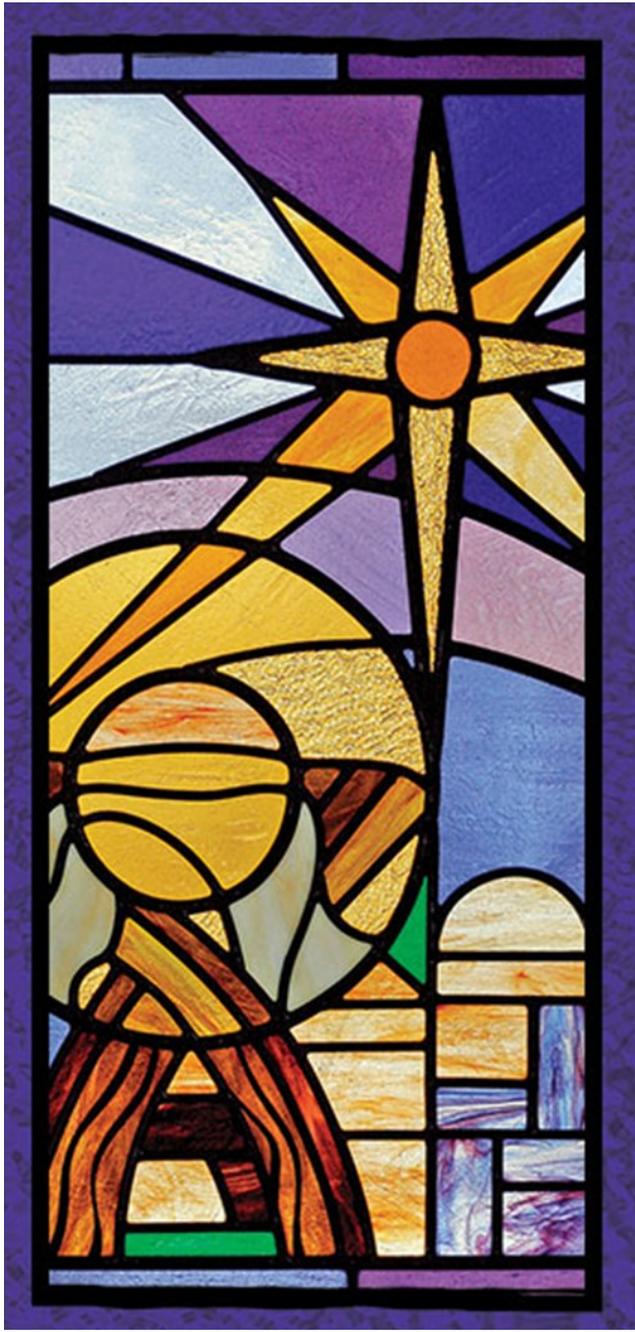


Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020 ~ 7:00 pm





WORSHIP AT HOME

All are Welcome at Pilgrim Lutheran Church!

*We've been expecting you, because we are always expecting pilgrims —
the people of God on the journey of faith and life!*

Welcome to Worship at Home!

In this extraordinary time in our world, as we follow public health guidelines, for the care of the neighbor and ourselves, we are keeping our physical distance. But we are still connected in the body of Christ. As a Pilgrim community, we will not be gathering in the flesh for worship for an unknown period of time, but we are seeking ways to provide support for worshipping at home, for caring for one another, and for nurturing our journeys of faith.

This online bulletin is a guide to what we are offering to support you in worshipping at home on this Christmas Eve. Regarding upcoming Pilgrim events, we commend you to Pilgrim community emails (always posted on the Pilgrim website in the Covid section), as well as the Pilgrim monthly newsletter (posted on the Pilgrim website), where we will continue to share updates.

In these challenging days in our world, we are grateful for the gift of worship, that invites us to bring the fullness of our personal and community sorrows and joys to the God who holds us all, in all, through all.

PILGRIM is...

*...A Home for Hungry
Minds and Souls*

*...An inclusive Christian
worshipping community
that seeks, nurtures, and
empowers hungry minds
and souls to live gener-
ously in response to God's
love.*

*...A Reconciling in Christ
Congregation*

*...A Caring for Creation
Congregation*

...An ELCA Congregation

*Before the service,
speak to God;*

*During the service,
let God speak to you;*

*After the service,
speak to one another.*

L: = Leader
Regular Print

C: = Congregation
Bold Print

PRELUDE text on pg. 11.
Do You Hear What I Hear?
(arr. Harry Simeone)
Sing We Now of Christmas
(arr. Brant Adams)
All Earth is Hopeful
(Arr. Thomas Keesecker)

GATHERING HYMN
Text: attr. John Francis
Wade, 1711-1786; tr.
Frederick Oakeley, 1802-
1880
Music: attr. John Francis
Wade

LITANY
*Adapted from a
traditional Arab
Christian carol*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE Do You Hear What I Hear? (*Choral Scholars and Choir members*)
Sing We Now of Christmas (*Matthias Baese, French Horn*)
All Earth is Hopeful (*virtual ensemble*)

SILENCE *The singing bowl invites us into a few moments of silence and reflection.*

GATHERING PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN **O Come, All Ye Faithful** ELW № 283

1 **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!**

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

LITANY

L: On the Eve of Christmas,
C: Hatred will vanish.
L: On the Eve of Christmas,
C: The earth blooms.
L: On the Eve of Christmas,
C: War is buried.
L: On the Eve of Christmas,
C: Love is born, for everyone.
L: God is with us -- Emmanuel.
C: Happy Birthday, Jesus!

PRAYER OF THE DAY
*adapted from Terry
MacArthur/Worship
Concern Group,
Evangelical Lutheran
Church of Geneva,
Switzerland, 2012*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The darkness gathers round us, O God.

C: The ancient fears still grip and hold.

L: The terror of the night does not easily give way to the promise of light.

C: Much we do not understand.

L: We need stars to brighten the barren hills,

C: angels to sing words of joy which don't suddenly disappear, and all of us to ponder what all these things mean.

L: Shine on our world and in our lives,

C: so we reflect your love, living your peace, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: Holy wisdom, holy word.

C: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

ELW № 272

Vss. 1-2

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth,
 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4

Music: ES IST EIN ROS. *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-18

In the beginning there was the Word; the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God. ²The Word was present to God from the beginning. ³Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light—⁵a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken. ⁶Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, ⁷who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe.⁸He himself wasn't the Light; he only came to testify about the Light—the true Light that illumines all humankind. ⁹The Word was coming into the world—¹⁰was in the world—and though the world was made through the Word, the world didn't recognize it. ¹¹Though the Word came to its own realm, the Word's own people didn't accept it. ¹²Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God—¹³children born not of natural descent, nor urge of flesh nor human will—but born of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us; we saw the Word's glory—the favor and position a parent gives an only child— filled with grace, filled with truth. ¹⁵John testified by proclaiming, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, The one who comes after me ranks ahead of me, for this One existed before I did." ¹⁶Of this One's fullness we've all had a share-gift on top of gift. ¹⁷For while the Law was given through Moses, the Gift—and the Truth—came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; it is the Only Begotten, ever at Abba's side, who has revealed God to us.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Carol Tomer

SERMON HYMN Before the Marvel of this Night



PRAYER

We give thanks for the Word proclaimed and for all the gifts of God, and we pray for all of God's creation

PEACE

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING INVITATION

*During this time, we invite you to share of your God-given blessings.
Consider going to "donate" on the Pilgrim website or mail a check to us at
Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1935 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul, MN 55105.
<https://tinyurl.com/pilgrimstpaul>*

OFFERING HYMN **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** ELW No 270

OFFERING HYMN
*Text: Charles Wesley,
1707-1788, alt.
Music: Felix
Mendelssohn, 1809-
1847; arr. William H.
Cummings, 1831-1915*

**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!"**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE — after each petition:

L: God of mercy,
C: **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER Sung to "Away in a Manger"

LORD'S PRAYER:
*paraphrased by an
anonymous source*

**To You, God, in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels. O come, reign alone;
O hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver your children most dear.**

**For yours is this wide world; o'er all things you reign.
And yours is the power, all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

CAROL

Joy to the World

ELW Nº 267

CAROL

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

**1. 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.**

**2. 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.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

*You are invited to light a candle for singing "Silent Night"*CANDLELIGHTING
HYMN*Text: Joseph Mohr,
1792-1849; tr. John
F. Young, 1820-1885
Music: Franz Gruber,
1787-1863*

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.

3 **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.

CANDLELIGHT PRAYER and BLESSING

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace...

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard On High arr. Anne Krentz Organ

*Virtual choir with over 1000 musicians, organized by the national
Association of Lutheran Church Musicians*

Music Notes and Permissions: All hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-703909
 Unless otherwise noted, scripture texts are from The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian
 Translation. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2007

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preaching Minister — Pastor Carol Tomer

Presiding Minister — Pastor Jen Rome

Music Director, Organist, and Pianist — Paul Stever

Musicians — Choral Scholars and Choir members; Pilgrim member prelude musicians

Prayers — Timothy Bell-Kemp

Readers — Kurt Schultz, Kris Hogquist

Zoom Technical Support — Will Mitchell



*Pilgrim Lutheran Church
1935 St. Clair Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105
651-699-6886
PilgrimStPaul.org*

PRELUDE text by Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne (Do You Hear What I Hear?)

1. Said the night wind to the little lamb, “Do you see what I see?
‘Way up in the sky, little lamb. Do you see what I see?
A star, a star, Dancing in the night, with a tail as big as a kite.”
2. Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy, “Do you hear what I hear?
Ringing through the sky shepherd boy. Do you hear what I hear?
A song, a song high above the tree, With a voice as big as the sea.”
3. Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king, “Do you know what I know?
In your palace warm, mighty king. Do you know what I know?
A Child, a Child, shivers in the cold, let us bring him silver and gold.”
4. Said the king to the people everywhere, “Listen to what I say:
Pray for peace people everywhere! Listen to what I say:
The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night, he will bring us goodness and light.”



PILGRIM STAFF

Lead Pastor	The Rev. Carol Tomer
Pastor of Next-Generation Ministries.....	The Rev. Jen Rome
Pastor-in-Residence.....	The Rev. Lynn Peterson
Organist, Music Director and Chancel Choir Director	Paul Stever
Director of Children’s Choirs.....	Maggie Priola
Composer-in-Residence	Dick Hensold
Interim Director of Shared Ministry	Pamela Erwin
Director Of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries	Alex Theship-Rosales
Business Manager	Cathy Salin
Office Coordinator	Mary Brodd
Communications Specialist.....	Denika Anderson
Custodian.....	Chuck Regal
Custodian/M@P Support.....	Mike Schulze
Nursery Attendants.....	MeeAe Kim, Ella Boelke, Aly Xiong, Bethany Mollman, Jimmy Gerding