



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



## Children's Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2022

4:30 PM

# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

WELCOME

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Chris Matthews

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Eden LaClair

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem – ELW 279



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

BLESSING

L: May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life. May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength. May the Word that the angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world. And may the blessing of almighty God, the Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you this night and always. **C: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World – ELW 267 vs. 1, 2, & 4



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in Peace. The Savior is born!

C: Thanks be to God!

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# All Are Welcome!

We live in a diverse world. We are hurting, broken and heavy hearted. We are loving, celebrating, and above all — we are welcoming. Regardless of the color of your skin or the color of your hair, regardless of your gender identity, sexual orientation, relationship status, or political affiliation — you are welcome here.

If you are a believer, a doubter or a seeker after Christ — you have a place here.

If you own, rent, or have nothing at all — you are welcome here.

If you are fully abled, disabled, or a person of differing abilities, if you have regrets, fears, addictions, or afflictions — you have a place here.

All who are wise and all who are confused, all who have found love and all who have lost it, all who celebrate this welcome statement and all who fear it — are welcome here.

For these are all of the things that make you who you are: the person God loves. Come as you are and be celebrated for who you are. The time is now. Your place is here. Bethlehem Lutheran Church is an all-inclusive church.



Reconciling in Christ



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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