

AUGUSTANA CHRISTMAS EVE 2023, 8 PM
A CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Prelude & Welcome

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Reader A: In God's house, there is hope— For God loves us too much to leave us just as we are.

All: We light the candle of hope.

Reader B: In God's house, there is peace— For all that separates us from God falls away.

All: We light the candle of peace.

Reader A: In God's house, there is joy— . . . God's house surely exudes joy.

All: We light the candle of joy.

Reader B: In God's house, there is love— Because God is love, from start to finish, and that love exists for us all.

All: We light the candle of love.

Readers A&B: And in the center of our hope,
In the center of our peace; In the center of our joy;
In the center of our love, is God—who came to this earth to dwell among us.
So tonight, we light the Christ candle, for God's love just could not stay away.

All: Amen.

(illustratedministry.com)

Gathering Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

#283 ELW

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| 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! |
| 2) 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 | 3) Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven
above!
Glory to God in the highest: Refrain |
| 4) Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: Refrain | |

A Reading from Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

Choir Anthem: "Christmas Peace" by Joel Raney

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-20

All: Glory to you O Lord.

The Gospel of our Lord. **All: Praise to you O Christ.**

Meditation

Hymn: "In a Far-Off Place"

#908 ACS

- 1) In a far-off place, Jesus comes to earth.
Sheep and cattle grace the site.
As the angel songs begin, like the whisper of the wind,
nature's hope awakes again; Jesus comes.
- 2) For the poor in heart, Jesus comes to earth.
Humble shepherds start the news.
For each homeless infant born, for the meek and those who mourn,
for the weary and the worn, Jesus comes.
- 3) In our deepest night, Jesus comes to earth:
radiant star to light our way.
Summer's heat or winter's chill, with a warm and loving will,
to a world that needs him still, Jesus comes.

Offering & Prayer of Dedication

We give thanks for all who wish to partner with us in the ministry of this place.

There are several ways you can do this: By including cash or cheque in an envelope provided in the back of the seat in front of you and place in the offering plate;

By using the QR code to link to give online through Canada Helps; By e-Transfer to augustana@sasktel.net; Note that tax receipts are given out to donations of at least \$15.

Please provide your contact information including email address.

If you would like to know about what work we are engaged in, please visit our website www.augustanasaskaton.net or just ask!

Leader: Gracious God,
Your story is one that forever invites us to be our full selves, to take up space,
to go where we feel called, and to allow this community to feel like home.

**All: So use these gifts to keep building your home here.
With gratitude as tall as the ceiling, we pray. Amen.**

(illustratedministry.com)

Prayers of the People

God among us . . . **hear our prayer.**



Great Thanksgiving

Leader: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

#289 ELW (v.1 & 3)

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

Refrain:
Glo-ri-a, in excelsis De-o;
Glo-ri-a, in excelsis De-o.

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

Thanksgiving at the Table & Invitation to Communion

Songs during Communion:

Hymn: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" #282 ELW

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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!
- 4) For lo! the days are hast'ning on, by prophet 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.

Hymn "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" #270 ELW

- 1) 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 the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
- 2) Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the Everlasting Lord,
late in time behold Him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as Man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! **Refrain**
- 3) Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace
Hai the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die.
born to raise each child of earth
born to give us second birth. **Refrain**

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutherans and Anglicans Worshiping Together

CHRISTMAS EVE 2023, 8 PM
A CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



Unto you is born this day in the city of David
a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord

Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church
1201 Broadway Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7H 2A4
(306) 242-9553 augustana@sasktel.net
www.augustanasaskatoon.net

Pastor: Kirk Tastad
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Worship at 10:30 am
YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCua4E9ZVxlZ4Wfmct0ZLnBA>

Augustana Lutheran Church

Lutherans and Anglicans worshipping together

A CANDELIGHT SERVICE (continued)

8 PM, December 24, 2023

Hymn “Joy to the World”

#267 ELW

- 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.
- 3) No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4) He rules the earth 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.

Prayer after Communion

Leader: Bread of heaven, let us not be unchanged by tonight. Let us . . . know your deep, deep peace, and share it with the world.

***All:* Fill us with your love and illuminate new possibilities.**

**May the light that pierces the darkness
shine brightly in our hearts and in our world.**

(illustratedministry.com)



Sharing the Light

During this time, the pastor, taking a large candle, lights it from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel (John 1:1-5) speaks. The ushers light their candles from this candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted but is always held upright when giving light to another. Parents, please supervise small children closely.

Leader: We share the light of Christ with one another

Song: “Night of Silence” by Daniel Kantor

(after 2 verses we join in singing Silent Night)

- 1) Cold are the people, Winter of life
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night,
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, Flowers that will echo the sunrise,
Fire of hope is our only warmth, Weary, its flame will be dying soon.
- 2) Voice in the distance, Call in the night
On wind you enfold us You speak of the light,
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly, Rumours of a dawn so embracing,
Breathless love awaits darkened souls, Soon will we know of the morning.

Hymn: “Silent Night, Holy Night!”

#281 ELW

- 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.
- 2) 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!
- 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.

Blessing (*Candles are extinguished*)

***All:* Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

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Thank you to all those who assisted with this service: lectors Pat Blakley and Chris Martin, our acolyte, communion asst Pat B., musician & choir director Deb Buck, and ushers Echo Fettes and Tyrel Rink. Thanks also to the Augustana St. Timothy Choir and Elsa & Hannah Lissel-DeCorby for their musical talents.

Thank you for joining us in this time of celebrating the birth of the Christ King.
Peace be with you and yours during this season.