



Christmas Eve
Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church
December 24, 2018 • 11:00 PM

Pastor Ryan Boes

Team: Joe Yunkman, Sarah Peterson

Christmas Eve • 11:00 pm
The Vigil of the Messiah

Prelude

Welcome

adapted from *Feasting on the Word*

Good news of great joy!

People who walked in darkness now live in great light.

Good news of great joy!

Oppression and war will not have the last word.

Good news of great joy!

A Savior is born, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Good news of great joy!

Once we were not a people and now we are God's people!

***God's Greeting**

***Song:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Red Hymnal 76

Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Song: *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding*

Words: Red Hymnal 478

Prayer

***Song:** *Creator of the Stars of Night*

Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all,
we pray you hear us when we call.

Come, oh come, Come, oh come, Come, oh come to us.

When this old world drew on toward night,
you came but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child
of Mary, blessed mother mild.

Come, oh come, Come, oh come, Come, oh come to us.

Reading: Isaiah 40:3-11

Silent Response

Prayers of the People

from *Feasting on the Word*

Glory to you, O God, for good news of great joy that you give to all people. Thank you for Jesus Christ, the Messiah, who lived among us and now reigns on high. Thank you for his light that shines in the darkness. With the angels, we sing praise to you, celebrating your glory in all the earth, in the Son given to us, and in your promised salvation.

Gathered as a community on this Christmas Eve, we pray for your church in every place, that we may make known to others what has been told to us about this child.

Help us to bear Christ's light in every place of need.

Draw near to those who spend this night apart from community: travelers and those far from home, people who live alone, one who waits in a hospital room, one who sits in a prison cell, one who is working deep in the night, one estranged from family or friends.

Comfort those who are poor and vulnerable: the child at risk, the homeless on the streets, the family that is hungry, and those contending with prejudice and scorn.

Restore those who have lost faith, lost hope, or simply lost their way.

End the hostilities and wars we construct

by ushering in the endless peace of your design. Establish your reign of justice and righteousness. You are the Lord of hosts who, with zeal, will do this; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

***Song: Oh Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light:
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and Peace to all on earth.

Invitation to Communion

***Passing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

And also with your spirit.

Share this sign of peace with one another.

Institution

Communion

Tonight we celebrate communion. All who love Jesus Christ, trust in him alone for their salvation, and agree to be his disciple are invited to join with us in this celebration

With thanks and joy, take the bread and dip it into the cup. If you are unable to proceed to the front of the sanctuary to partake of communion, remain seated and the elements will be brought to you.

Communion Song: *What Child Is This* (Instrumental) Red Hymnal 95

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, Holy One,
for the world of wonder you have made—
forest and field, sea and sky,
and for the gift of grace that you have given—
a little child, lying in a manger.

We praise you for the gift of new life extended to us in our Lord.
And now as your Holy Spirit has fed us, by word and sacrament,
grant O Lord, that we may go forth into the night:
Renewed with Wonder! Captivated by your Love!
Eagerly awaiting the morning! Telling of your precious gift! Amen.

*Blessing

***Song:** *Silent Night! Holy Night!*

Red Hymnal 85

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.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!"

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!

*Postlude