

From Heaven Above

A Children's Christmas Service for All Ages

Opening Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High

(Introduction by the children and youth tone chime choir)

Congregation:

**Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.**

***Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain***

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

The Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Responsive Reading

Pastor: From heaven above,

Congregation: The angels sing.

Pastor: On earth below,

Congregation: Our praises bring.

Pastor: Our Lord has come,

Congregation: With us to dwell.

Pastor: Now we go out:

Congregation: Good News to tell!

Hymn: What Child Is This

Congregation:

What child is this, who, laid to rest,

On Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet

While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the king,

Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud,

The babe, the son of Mary!

**Why lies He in such mean estate
Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!**

The Christmas Meditation

JACOB LILLO: And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Hymn: Away in a Manger

Children:

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

SPEAKER:

Coming down from heav'n above,
Jesus came to us in love.
God Himself became a child,
Mary's Baby, sweet and mild.

Speaker: From heav'n above,

Congregation: To earth in love!

Hymn: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Children:

"From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;

Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

Congregation:

**“To you this night is born a
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.”**

OLIVER HERD: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Luke 2:8–14

Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

Congregation:

**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!**

**Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

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

SPEAKER:

Angels filled the sky with light,
Singing out into the night:
God has sent His Son for all:
Find Him in a cattle stall.

Speaker: From heav'n above,

Congregation: To earth in love!

Hymn: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Children:

"These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

Congregation:

**How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.**

DALTON BREEDEN: And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

KALVINH KNIGHT: And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. *Luke 2:15–20*

Hymn: Where Shepherds Lately Knelt - Shalk

Children and Choir:

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me,
But there is room and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find Him as they said:
Sweet newborn babe, how frail! And in a manger bed:
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart, I stare:
A Child, a Son, The Prince of Peace for me,
A Child, a Son, The Prince of Peace for me.

Can I, will I forget how Love was born and burned
Its way into my heart; unasked, unforced, unearned,
To die, to live, and not alone for me,
To die, to live, and not alone for me.

SPEAKER:

The shepherds marveled at the Word.
Their minds were shocked; their hearts were stirred.
They ran to see this wonder new:
The Savior born for me and you!
And when they saw the promised Lord,
Their joy and adoration soared.

They spread the news both far and wide:
Across the quiet countryside!

Speaker: From heav'n above,

Congregation: To earth in love!

Hymn: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Children:

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

Congregation:

**My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong.**

The Apostles' Creed

Congregation:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven
and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and
was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He
rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and**

sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SPEAKER:

From heav'n above, our Lord came down
To wear for us a thorny crown.
He died to save us from our sin;
He rose again, our life to win!

The angels came, great news to tell.
The shepherds saw Immanuel.
Now, we can share the truth we know
As messengers, where'er we go.

Speaker: From heav'n above,

Congregation: To earth in love!

Hymn: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Congregation:

**Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.**

Responsive Reading

Pastor: From heaven above,

Congregation: The angels sing.

Pastor: On earth below,

Congregation: Our praises bring.

Pastor: Our Lord has come,

Congregation: With us to dwell.

Pastor: Now we go out:

Congregation: Good News to tell!

Pastor: The angels gave

Congregation: Good News to tell!

Pastor: The shepherds ran

Congregation: Good News to tell!

Pastor: Now we go out:

Congregation: Good News to tell!

Offering

Choir

Choir

Prayer

Pastor: We pray:

All: Father in heaven, You sent Your Son to earth to be our Savior. You sent the angels down to tell the Good News. You sent the shepherds out to tell the Good News. And You send us now to tell the Good News.

Help us share the message of Your love throughout the world.

Pastor: Savior of all, hear our prayers and praises, and hear us now as we pray in Your name...

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Pastor: The Lord above is with you wherever you go. May the peace of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you every day as you tell of His love to others.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you
and give you peace.

Congregation: Amen. Amen. Amen.

Announcements

Candle Lighting

Hymn: Silent Night

Congregation:

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,
Heav'nly 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.**

Thank you to our children for bringing us the Christmas message this morning and to our musicians who helped make our worship service possible. May the joy that is found in Jesus, God's greatest Gift, fill your hearts and lives this Christmas season, and always!

Organist/Pianist: Sue Slattengren, Mark Breeden

Students: Jacob Lillo, Kalvin Knight, Oliver Herd, Dalton Breeden, Clark Breeden, Katie Lillo, Scott Lillo

Directors: Kristen Breeden, Kirsten Gullerud, Rebecca Lillo

St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School

A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)
320 Moorpark Way – Mountain View, California 94041

Pastor: Luke Bernthal

Email: lbernthal@live.com **Cell:** (402) 389-2147

Church office: (650) 964-5915 **Church Website:** sslcwest.org

Teachers: Kirsten Gullerud (Principal), Rebecca Lillo

School Office: (650) 960-2071

School Website: ssls.org

Christmas Season Worship Schedule

Christmas Day – Mon. Dec. 25th

11 am – Joint-Parish Christmas Day Worship (Hayward)

(Worship location: Grace Lutheran Church 1836 B St., Hayward)

Stockton Worship – Tues. Dec. 26th

1:30 pm – Communion at Niblett's Residence

2:30 pm – Worship Service at Atria Assisted Living

Villa Fontana Worship – Wed. Dec. 27th 11 am

Wedding Service – Fri. Dec. 29th 11 am - Pastor Luke Bernthal and Julia Anderson

Noon (Mountain View) Refreshments following the service

New Year's Eve – Sun. Dec. 31st – Pastor Mark Bernthal (guest preaching)

10 am (Mountain View) No Bible Class & No worship in Hayward