**PRELUDE** *4:30 – Tricia, Brayden, Brooklyn Grimm*

*6:30 – Claire & Luke Crocker, Emma Zwirschitz*

*Stand*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN:**

**Angels from the Realms of Glory** *LBW #50*

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,

Wing your flight o’er all the earth;

Once you sang creation’s story;

Now proclaim Messiah’s birth:

*Refrain*

*Come and worship, come and worship,*

*Worship Christ, the new born king.*

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,

Watching o’er your flocks by night;

God with us is now residing,

Yonder shines the infant light. *Refrain*

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,

Brighter visions beam afar;

Seek the great desire of nations,

You have seen his natal star. *Refrain*

4 All creation, join in praising

God, the Father, Spirit, Son,

Evermore your voices raising

To the eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

*Be Seated*

**WELCOME – INVOCATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**CONFESSION/ABSOLUTION**

**P:** To long for a Savior is to confess our need to be saved. Let us confess our sin, and our need of the Savior’s forgiveness.

*Silent reflection on our need of forgiveness*

**P:** Merciful heavenly Father;

**C: we have no deeper need than forgiveness, for without it, we would quickly and surely perish. For the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins; and grant us the faith that makes us righteous. Amen**

**P:** God sent his only Son, not to condemn us, but to save us. In Jesus’ death, your sins die; and in his resurrection, you live.

**C: Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!**

*Stand*

**PEACE**

**P:** May the Prince of Peace grant you peace this holy night.

**C: May He also grant you peace.**

*Greet those around you with the peace of God*

**HYMN: The First Noel** *LBW #56, v.1-4*

1 The first Noel the angel did say

Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;

In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,

On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

*Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.*

2 They looked up and saw a star

Shining in the east beyond them far;

And to the earth it gave great light,

And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

3 And by the light of that same star

Three Wise Men came from country far;

To seek for a King was their intent,

And to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

4 This star drew near to the northwest,

O’er Bethlehem it took its rest;

And there it did both stop and stay

Right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

*Be Seated*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-14**

**R:** The first reading is from Isaiah, the 7th chapter.

**10**The Lord spoke to [king] Ahaz: **11**“Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” **12**But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” **13**And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? **14**Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

**R:** The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

**SR. CHOIR**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*Stand*

**1st GOSPEL READING: Matthew 1:18-25**

**R:** The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 1st chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord**

**18**Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19**And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. **20**But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21**She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” **22**All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

**23**“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

**24**When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, **25**but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**P:** The Gospel of our Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

*Be Seated*

**SR. CHOIR**

*Stand*

**2nd GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:1-18**

**P:** The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

**1** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2**This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3**And all went to be registered, each to his own town. **4**And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, **5**to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. **6**And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. **7**And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**8**And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9**And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. **10**And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. **11**For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12**And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” **13**And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

**14**“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace

among those with whom he is pleased!”

**15**When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” **16**And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. **17**And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. **18**And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

**P:** The Gospel of our Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

**HYMN: O Little Town of Bethlehem** *LBW #41*

1 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.

2 For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above

while mortals sleep, the angels keep

their watch of wond’ring love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,

And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

3 How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv’n!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav;n.

No ear may hear his coming; But, in this world of sin,

where meek souls will receive him,

still the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

Oh, come to us, a bide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

*Be Seated*

**SERMON**

*Stand*

**HYMN: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful** *LBW #45*

1 Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him Born the king of angels;

*Refrain*

*Oh, come, let us adore him,*

*Oh, come, let us adore him,*

*Oh, 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*

**NICENE CREED**

**P:** Together with the saints of every time and place, we confess the one, true faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father; God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God; begotten, not made; of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit; the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

*Be Seated*

**OFFERING** *Special Music: Claire & Luke Crocker*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P:** Let us pray. God, giver of every good gift;

**C: receive our offerings in your mercy, and for the working of your will on earth, that we may rejoice with you at the harvest in the last day; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

**PRAYERS**

*Stand*

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**HYMN: Silent Night, Holy Night!** *LBW #65*

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!”

*Raise candles for the third verse*

3 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.

*Candles may be put out*

**BENEDICTION**

**P:** The Almighty God – Eternal Father, Incarnate Son, Indwelling Spirit – keep you in His light, His truth, and His love, tonight and always.

**C: Amen**

**HYMN: Joy to the World!** *LBW #39*

1 Joy to the World, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive its 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 world 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.

**DISMISSAL**

**P:** Jesus is this dark world’s light.

**C: Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus!**

**P:** We go in the peace of the Christ-child,

**C: to bless the world with His love!**

**POSTLUDE** *4:30 Ericka Shelton – 6:30 Ann Crocker*

A stone church with a cross on the front

Description automatically generated ***Christus Lutheran Church***

120 N. Main St. Clintonville, WI 54929

(715) 823-6521 ● [christus@charter.net](mailto:christus@charter.net) ●

[www.christusclintonville.org](http://www.christusclintonville.org)

Office Hours: 8:00am – 12:00pm; 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Pastors: Brian Crocker & Shelly Klemp

Organists: Ann Crocker, Nancy Netzel, Ericka Shelton

*Our mission is to invite people of all nations*

*into fellowship with Jesus Christ,*

*and to make them His disciples*

*through preaching and teaching Christ crucified, risen*

*and coming again as the only hope of eternal salvation.*

**Upcoming Worship Schedule:**

Sun. Dec. 25 – 10:00am Service of Lessons & Carols

w/Communion

Sun. Dec. 31 – 10:00am Service w/Communion

6:30pm New Year’s Eve Service w/communion

Sun. Jan. 7 – return to regular 8am & 10:30am services

A black and white logo with a cross

Description automatically generated