

**Order of Service – December 25, 2016 - Service of the Word
Nativity of Our Lord**

Music: Elaine Knudtson

Speaker: Pastor Paul Knudtson

Good morning and welcome to our service.

If you need increased volume for the service, please see one of our ushers for an audio headset.

If you are visiting St. Peter's today, please tell us about yourself by filling out one of the brochures in the seat pocket in front of you and leave it in the offering tray.

For the parents, if you need to use a Cry Room for your children you are welcome to use the walkway area. The television there displays our service.

Wednesday Morning Prayer Group meets at 10:00 am here in the walkway.

"The Power of a Whisper" Study will continue in the New Year at the church with Pastor Bart.

The Acts Bible study led by Bob Peters will continue on January 12, 2017 here at St. Peter's. New people are welcome to attend.

Slovakia Mission is tentatively scheduled for August 16-28, 2017. Running an ESL VBS program for children/youth, with the help of Slovak translators. Possibly doing an adult women's book study. Possibly prayer ministry. Staying with billets or in a Bible school dorm. Estimated cost including flights, food and accommodation: \$2500.00 per person.

Interested in Hosting a small Group Study. Talk to Pastor Bart.

Interested in Teaching Sunday School. Talk to Pastor Bart.

Prelude Hymn: Go Tell It On The Mountain

LBW 70

Chorus

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.
Chorus

The shepherds feared and trembled
When, lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.
Chorus

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.
Chorus

Greetings and Announcements

Opening Song: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

LBW 45

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:

(Chorus)

Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy,
Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing!

Chorus

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens
of heav'n above!
Glory to God
In the highest:
Chorus

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
Chorus

Bringing in the Light and Opening Prayer

Responsive Prayer (p162 LBW)

Leader: O Lord, I cry to you for help.

Congregation: In the morning my prayer comes before you.

L: Give me the joy of your saving help again.

C: and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

L: Let my mouth be full of your praise

C: and your glory all the day long.

L: Every day will I bless you,

C: and praise your name forever and ever.

L: Awesome things you show us in your righteousness,

C: O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

C: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

L: He redeems my life from the grave,

C: and crowns me with mercy and lovingkindness.

L: Lord, hear my prayer,

C: and let my cry come before you.

Prayer of the Day

All: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Hymn Sing

Once in Royal David's City

WOV 643

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all;
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and meek, and lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child, so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heaven above:
and he leads his children on
to the place where he has gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable
with the oxen standing by
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LBW 41

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 the earth!

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.

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, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 52:7-10

7 How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
8 Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
9 Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
10 The Lord has bared his holy arm

before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Psalm 2

1 Why do the nations conspire,
and the peoples plot in vain?
2 The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the Lord and his anointed, saying,
3 "Let us burst their bonds asunder,
and cast their cords from us."
4 He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord has them in derision.
5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
6 "I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill."
7 I will tell of the decree of the Lord:
He said to me, "You are my son;
today I have begotten you.
8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.
9 You shall break them with a rod of iron,
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."
10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
11 Serve the Lord with fear,
with trembling 12 kiss his feet,
or he will be angry, and you will perish in the way;
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Happy are all who take refuge in him.

Epistle Lesson Hebrews 1:1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. 3 He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. 5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? 6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." 7 Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." 8 But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." 10 And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; 11 they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; 12 like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

This is the Word of the Lord

Children's Message – Elaine Knudtson

Gospel Lesson John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Baptism - Grayson Lawrence Knudtson

Song: Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

LBW 52

Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.

With songs we hasten you to greet,
and kiss the ground before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night
That gave you birth, our soul's delight.

Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,
and to us your grace accord;
true faith and love to us impart,
that we may hold you in our heart.

Until at last we, too, proclaim,
with all your saints, your glorious name;
in paradise our songs renew,
and praise you as the angels do.

Sermon

Song: Angels We Have Heard on High

LBW 71

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 heavenly 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

Sharing of God's Peace

Offering

Special Music: Knudtson Family

Offertory Prayer

(p. 67 LBW)

All: Blessed are you,
O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers for the Family of God

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Closing Hymn: Go, My Children, with My Blessing

WOV 721

"Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone,
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

"Go, my children, sins forgive, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story, here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."

“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go my children fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

“I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.
I the Lord will smile upon you, and give you peace.
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter and Brother.
Go my children, I will keep you, and give you peace.”

Postlude