



# ST. JOHN'S

*St. John's exists as a new family to embody God's reality & hope in our world.*

## CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION 2008 4<sup>30pm</sup>

*In the sound of gentle stillness, let the grace of Christ's Spirit dispel our faithlessness, unwillingness and fears, and set our hearts aflame with the joy of adoration.*

OPEN	<p>A Medley of Carols                  (* please stand as able, in praise of God, as we sing.)</p>	
SING*	<p>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!</p>	<p>2. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,                  Born this happy morning,                  Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;                  Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing                  (refrain)</p> <p>3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!                  Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above,                  Glory to God, all Glory in the highest! (refrain)</p>
WELCOME* Theresa Cho	<p>one: After walking in darkness we have seen a great light; living in a land of deep darkness, light has shone on us. Let the heavens be glad, the earth rejoice and the sea roar, for he is coming and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace.</p>	
	<p><b>all: <i>This is no normal night, when we rest or dream. This is the night when the Dream in God's heart took flesh and was born like us, with pain, water, blood, tears and struggle. God, creator of all life, you made us and sent your Son to share our flesh. Tonight as we celebrate Jesus' birth, we pray that your love may be reborn in us. Help us respond to your great love by sharing it with others. Amen</i></b></p>	
SING*	<p>(refrain) Go, tell it on the mountain                  Over the hills and everywhere,                  Go, tell it on the mountain                  That Jesus Christ is born!</p>	<p>1. While shepherds kept their watching                  O'er silent flocks by night,                  Behold through-out the heavens                  There shone a holy light. (refrain)</p> <p>2. Down in a lowly manger,                  The humble Christ was born,                  And God sent us salvation,                  That blessed Christmas morn. (refrain)</p>
STORY	<p>Matthew 1.18-25</p>	

SING\*

1. Said the night wind to the little lamb,  
 "Do you see what I see?  
 Way up in the sky little lamb,  
 Do you see what I see?  
 A star, a star, Dancing in the night,  
 with a tail as big as a kite,  
 With a tail as big as a kite."

2. Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,  
 "Do you hear what I hear?  
 Ringing thru the sky, shepherd boy,  
 Do you hear what I hear?  
 A song, a song, high above the trees,  
 With a voice as big as the sea,  
 With a voice as big as the sea."

3. Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,  
 "Do you know what I know?"  
 In your palace warm, mighty king,  
 Do you know what I know?  
 A Child, a Child shivers in the cold;  
 Let us bring Him silver and gold,  
 Let us bring Him silver and gold."

4. Said the king to the people everywhere,  
 "Listen to what I say!  
 Pray for peace, people everywhere,  
 Listen to what I say!  
 The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night;  
 He will bring us goodness and light,  
 He will bring us goodness and light!"

STORY

Luke 2.1-20

SING\*

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. 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;  
 O come to us, abide with us,  
 Our Lord Emmanuel!

3. How silently, how silently,  
 The wondrous gift is given!  
 So God imparts to human hearts  
 The blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming,  
 But in this world of sin,  
 Where meek souls will receive him, still  
 The dear Christ enters in.

LIGHT

Cindy  
 Harris

one: We light the Christ candle to proclaim that, out of love for the world, God dispelled darkness forever through the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

all: ***May Jesus Christ take all darkness out of our hearts, now and forever.***

SING\*

1. 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!

2. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
 Come, one and all, to own Him.  
 The King of kings salvation brings;  
 Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
 This, this is Christ the King,  
 Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
 The babe, the Son of Mary!

STORY

Matthew 2.1-11

SING\*

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|---|--|
| <p>1. Hark! the herald angels sing,<br/>         "Glory to the new born King;"<br/>         Peace on earth and mercy mild,<br/>         God and sinners reconciled!<br/>         Joyful all ye nations rise,<br/>         Join the triumph of the skies,<br/>         With the angelic host proclaim,<br/>         "Christ is born in Bethlehem."<br/>         Hark! the herald angels sing,<br/>         "Glory to the new-born King."</p> | <p>2. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!<br/>         Hail the Son of Righteousness!<br/>         Light and life to all he brings,<br/>         Risen with healing in his wings;<br/>         Mild he lays his glory by,<br/>         Born that we no more may die,<br/>         Born to raise us from the earth,<br/>         Born to give us second birth.<br/>         Hark! the herald angels sing,<br/>         "Glory to the new-born King."</p> |
| <p>3. Christ, by highest heaven adored;<br/>         Christ, the everlasting Lord;<br/>         Late in time behold him come,<br/>         Offspring of the Virgin's womb.<br/>         Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;</p>  | <p>Hail the incarnate Deity,<br/>         Pleased as man with man to dwell;<br/>         Jesus, our Emmanuel!<br/>         Hark! the herald angels sing,<br/>         "Glory to the new-born King."</p>  |

MESSAGE

Your Story

SING\*

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|--|---|
| <p>1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,<br/>         The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.<br/>         The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,<br/>         The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.</p> | <p>2. The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,<br/>         But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.<br/>         I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,<br/>         And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.</p> |
| <p>3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask You to stay<br/>         Close by me forever and love me, I pray.</p>  | <p>Bless all the dear children in Your tender care,<br/>         And fit us for heaven to live with You there.</p>  |

FAITH  
RESPONSE

- one: I seek Jesus Christ and the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.
- all: *I seek the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world in towns both large and small.***
- one: I seek the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I admit that my heart wants to exclude him from my life today.
- all: *I seek the one who earthly powers ignore and the proud never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.***
- one: I seek the one who proclaimed the invincible love of God.
- all: *I seek the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose home had love as its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought us back to purity, and lifted our weakness up to meet the strength of God.***
- one: I admit my everlasting need of God.
- all: *The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.***
- one: I seek God who gives us the best.
- all: *I seek Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.***

SING\*

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|---|---|
| <p>1. Joy to the World! The Lord is come:<br/>Let earth receive her King:<br/>Let every heart prepare Him room,<br/>And heaven and nature sing,<br/>And heaven and nature sing,<br/>And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.</p> | <p>2. Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:<br/>Let us our songs employ;<br/>While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains<br/>Repeat the sounding joy,<br/>Repeat the sounding joy,<br/>Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> |
| <p>3. He rules the world with truth and grace,<br/>And makes the nations prove<br/>The glories of His righteousness,</p>  | <p>And wonders of His love,<br/>And wonders of His love,<br/>And wonders, wonders of His love.</p>  |

PRAY\*

LIGHTS\*

*(You're invited to share the "Light of Christ" with another.)*

SING\*

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|---|---|
| <p>1. Silent night, holy night!<br/>All is calm, all is bright,<br/>'Round yon virgin mother and child,<br/>Holy Infant, so tender and mild,<br/>Sleep in heavenly peace,<br/>Sleep in heavenly peace.</p>    | <p>2. Silent night, holy night!<br/>Shepherds quake at the sight,<br/>Glories stream from heaven afar,<br/>Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;<br/>Christ the Savior is born,<br/>Christ the Savior is born."</p> |
| <p>3. Silent night, holy night!<br/>Son of God, love's pure light<br/>Radiant beams from Thy holy face,<br/>With the dawn of redeeming grace,<br/>Jesus Lord, at Thy birth,<br/>Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.</p> | <p>4. Silent night, holy night!<br/>Wondrous star, lend thy light;<br/>With the angels let us sing,<br/>Alleluia to our King;<br/>Christ the Savior is born,<br/>Christ the Savior is born.</p>               |

BLESS\*

*(As you depart, please return your candle to the back.  
Give a gift using the Christmas Joy Offering envelope if you wish.)*

CLOSE

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