

December 24, 2025 - Christmas Eve
Worship Aid for Great Kills Moravian Church
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/352704864?pwd=V28wNGtRdXFESDBzRW9OSWdaQTZGZz09>
Call in number: 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 352 704 864
Password: 401272

Welcome

(Standing)

Gathering Hymn: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” MBW Page 283 verses 1, 3

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.

O sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing all ye citizens of heav’n above: glory to God, glory in the highest!

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

(Please remain standing if you are comfortable to do so.)

Candle Lighting of The Christ Candle: The Hallett Family

Tonight is the night we have been waiting for, through the weeks of Advent we have been anxiously awaiting this night and have lit the candles of **HOPE, LOVE, JOY & PEACE**, in preparation for this night.

Advent’s Holy Light (Responsive)

Reader: As we gather this sacred Christmas Eve, we light all the candles, including the center candle, the Christ candle. Together, these candles symbolize the Light of the World coming to dispel the darkness. As we light the Christ candle, may its flame ignite the warmth of God’s love within us and spread the message of joy and salvation to all.

Tonight we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the source of our hope.

(A) Let heaven and nature sing.

(R) The Prince of Peace has come to dwell among and within us.

(A) Let heaven and nature sing

(R) The source of our joy and our salvation is here.

(A) Let heaven and nature sing.

(R) The greatest gift of all, the gift of love, has been given.

(A) Let heaven and nature sing.

Let us Pray Together:

God, our hearts sing with joy and praise because of Jesus. At this happy season we rejoice that Jesus came among us. By his birth and life, he has shown us that we are your people and that we are greatly loved. Help us remember Christmas all year long by giving to others the gifts of life: hope, peace, joy and love, expressed in the works of our hands and hearts. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Sitting)

Gathering of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Hymn: "What Child Is This?" MBW Page 305

**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?**

***Refrain:* 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 ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is
pleading.**

***Refrain:* This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and
angels sing. Haste, haste to bring him laud, 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
and enthrone him.**

***Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and
angels sing. Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of
Mary!***

(Please stand if you are comfortable to do so.)

Doxology: "Praise God For Gifts of Hope" Sung to Tune 817

***Praise God for gifts of hope and peace. Praise God for gifts of
joy and love. Praise God for sending Christ to dwell. On earth
for us - Immanuel. Amen***

Prayer of Blessing - (Responsive Reading)

***Mighty God, we stand in your awe that you sent your only Son
to take us out of darkness into your marvelous light. We are so
grateful and thankful that you provided the light that has given
us grace and peace. Provide us, O God, with the knowledge of
how vast your love is for us. You sent Jesus to seek and save the
lost, to save us from our sins, to bridge the gap between us and
you, and to give us abundant life. The law was given through
Moses, grace and truth came through your son Jesus Christ. We
offer our gifts in thanksgiving, asking as apostles that you will
empower us to be ministers of your light and to spread your
love to all in the world. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen***

***Lord's Prayer: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy
name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is
the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.***

(Please remain Standing if able)

The Prophecy Isaiah 9: 2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness—a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation, and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as people rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midan's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

(Sitting)

Hymn of Response: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" MBW Pg 295 v. 1 and 3

Hark! The herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all you nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

***Refrain:* Hark! The herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King!"**

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

***Refrain:* Hark! The herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King!"**

***Litany of Praise - Psalm 96 Pew Bible Page 629
(Responsive Reading)***

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it;

Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy;

They will sing before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth.

(Please stand if you are able.)

Hymn of Praise: “Angels from the Realms of Glory” MBW Pg 293 verses 1,5

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 newborn king.**

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your voices rising to th’eternal Three in One.

***Refrain:* Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

(Please remain standing if you are comfortable.)

“The Birthday of a King” Rejoice/Worship Book Page 224

In the little village of Bethlehem, there lay a Child one day, and the sky was bright with a holy light o’er the place where Jesus lay.

***Refrain:* Alleluia! O how the angels sang. Alleluia! How it rang! And the sky was bright with a holy light, 'twas the birthday of a King.**

'Twas a humble birth-place, but O how much God gave to us that day; from the manger bed what a path has led, what a perfect, holy way.

***Refrain:* Alleluia! O how the angels sang. Alleluia! How it rang! And the sky was bright with a holy light, 'twas the birthday of a King.**

(Sitting)

Solo: “O Holy Night” Sister Barbara Pezzengrilli

(Please stand if you are comfortable doing so.)

The Birth of Jesus Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be

taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the town of David a Savior, has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

(Sitting)

Hymn of Response: “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” MBW Page 286 v. 1, 4

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from
angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all-gracious
King!” The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are has-t'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold,
when the new heav'n and earth shall own the Prince of Peace
their King and the whole world send back the song which now
the angels sing.**

Meditation: What Sign Are You Looking For? Pastor Jesus Lagurra

Youth Choir: "Be a Light!"

The Passing of the Light Titus 2: 11-14 (Responsive Reading)

*The Pastor will light a candle from the Christ Candle. The Ushers will receive their light from the Pastor's candle and move through the congregation, sharing the light with those seated on the end of each row. As you pass the light, ** Please keep the LIT CANDLE UPRIGHT, and TIP THE UNLIT CANDLE to receive the light. ***

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all,

**It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly
passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives
in this present age,**

while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great
God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness
and to purify for himself a people that are his very own,
eager to do what is good.**

"Angels We Have Heard on High" MBW Page 288 v. 1 and 2

**Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.**

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you
hear?**

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

“The First Noel” MBW Page 290 verses 1, 2, 4

**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.

**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: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel-born is the King of Israel.

**This star drew nigh 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: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel-born is the King of Israel.

“Once in Royal David’s City” MBW Page 292 verses 1,2

**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.**

“Away in a Manger” MBW Page 301 verses 1,3

**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.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus! I ask you to stay close by me forever and
love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” MBW Page 291

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: **Jesus Christ is born today; ox and
ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born
today! Christ is born today!**

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: **Jesus Christ was born for this! He
has opened heaven's door, and we are blessed forevermore,
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart, and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: **Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ
was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

(Standing)

“Morning Star, O Cheering Sight” MBW Page 281
(The congregation sings the words in bold type.)

Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere thou cam'st, how dark earth's night!

Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere thou cam'st, how dark earth's night!

Jesus mine, **in me shine**; In me shine, **Jesus mine**;
Fill my heart with light divine.

Morning Star, thy glory bright far excels the sun's clear light.
Morning Star, thy glory bright far excels the sun's clear light.

Jesus be, **constantly**; **Constantly**, Jesus be
More than thousand suns to me.

Thy glad beams, thou Morning Star, cheer the nations near and far.
**Thy glad beams, thou Morning Star, cheer the nations near and
far.**

Thee we own, **Lord alone**; Lord alone, **thee we own**,
Our dear Savior, God's dear Son.

Morning Star, my soul's true light, tarry not, dispel my night.
Morning Star, my soul's true light, tarry not, dispel my night.

Jesus mine, **in me shine**; In me shine, **Jesus mine**;
Fill my heart with light divine.

“Silent Night” MBW Page 297

(On the third verse, we lift our candles high as a sign of our willingness to share the light of Christ with the world.)

**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 your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

Benediction

(You may extinguish your candle)

(Please remain Standing if able)

****Sending Forth: “Joy to the World” MBW Page 294***

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her 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.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the
sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the
sounding joy.**

**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.**

**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.**

“Morning Star, O Cheering Sight” was a poem written by Johann Scheffler in 1657. In 1836 the Rev. Francis Florentine Hagen put the poem to music for the Christmas Eve service. It is customary for one or more children to lead the carol with the congregation responding antiphonally. This song is special to Great Kills Moravian as Pastor Hagen was Jane (Hagen) Neumiller’s grandfather. Jane (Hagen) and George Neumiller grew up in this congregation. We enjoy sharing this Moravian musical treasure with you this evening.

We would like to thank everyone who has participated in tonight’s service.