

**Summerlin Evangelical Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2017**

Jesus The Light of the World



Pastor Introduction and Welcome

Congregational Hymn: It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

**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, goodwill to men
From heaven's all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.**

Please rise

Invocation:

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

C: Amen

Responsive Reading:

P: Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has truly kept His word.

C: And the sinner's help and friend now at last to us does send.

P: What the fathers most desired, what the prophets' words inspired,

C: What they longed for many a year, stands fulfilled in glory here.

P: Welcome, O my Savior now. Hail! My Lord and King art Thou.

C: Here too, in my heart, I pray, O prepare Thyself a way.

P: King of Glory, enter in; clean our hearts from every sin,
C: As Thou hast so often done; they belong to Thee alone.

P: And when Thou dost come again as a glorious king to reign,

C: We with joy will see Thy face, freely ransomed by Thy grace.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

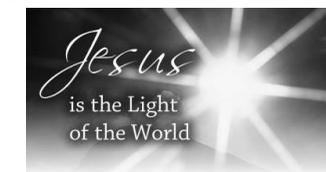
Prayer:

P: O Lord Jesus, as you came into the darkness of the world on that first Christmas, so come to us tonight through Your Word to bring both light to our sin darkened hearts and rays of eternal hope to our troubled souls. Fill us with your light and joy that we may reflect it in all that we do and say. In Your Name we pray!

C: Amen

Please be seated

Children Sing: Jesus the Light VI



I. Jesus Is Pointed to as The Light Of The World. John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning.

³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Children Sing: Jesus the Light V2

The Light of the Advent Wreath Points to the Light of the World



II. The Candle of Prophecy: Genesis 3:8-15

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity (hatred) between you (the devil) and the woman (Eve), and between your offspring (sin and death) and hers (the life and forgiveness that Jesus brings); he (Jesus) will crush your (the devil’s) head, and you (the devil) will strike his (Jesus) heel.”

Congregational Hymn 47: Behold A Branch Is Growing Verses 1 & 2



**1 Behold, a Branch is growing Of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sang, foreknowing; It springs from Jesse’s race
And bears one little flow’r In midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.**

**2 Isaiah had foretold it In words of promise sure,
And Mary’s arms enfold it, A virgin meek and pure.
Through God’s eternal will This child to her is given
At midnight calm and still.**



III. The Candle of Preparation: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling in the desert, “Prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry out.”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

“All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.

⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.”

⁹ You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!”

¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him.

See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Congregational Hymn 11: Comfort, Comfort, All My People V 1,3

**1 “Comfort, comfort all my people; Speak of peace,” so says our God.
“Comfort those who sit in darkness, Groaning from their sorrows’ load.
Speak to all Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, That their warfare now is over.”**

3 John the Baptist’s voice is crying In the desert far and near,

Calling people to repentance For the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him.

IV. The Shepherd's Candle: Jeremiah 23: 3-6

"I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. ⁴ I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the LORD.

⁵"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.

Congregational Hymn 54. Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

**1 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.**

**2 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.**

**3 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.**



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4 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?

V. The Angel Candle: Part 1: Isaiah 9: 2-7

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. ³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴ For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. ⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.



Congregational Hymn 90. The People that in Darkness Sat

**1 The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shone on them who long
In shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.**

**2 To us a child of hope is born,
To us a son is giv'n,
And on his shoulders ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.**

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3 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,

**The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored, The God by all adored.**

**4 His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end, His reign shall have no end.**

**5 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us yours alone,
For you are with the Father and
The Spirit ever one, The Spirit ever one.**

VI. The Angel Candle: Part 2. St. Luke 1:26-36 & St. Matthew 1: 18-25

²⁶In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."



³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month.

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¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child

through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.



²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

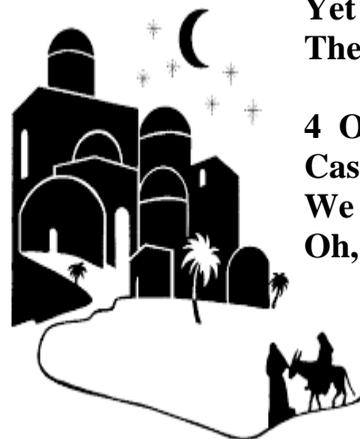
²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us."

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Congregation Hymn 65: Oh Little Town of Bethlehem V 1,4

**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.**

**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, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**



Please rise

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Congregation Reads Together: Luke 2: 1-7

In those days / Caesar Augustus issued a decree / that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place / while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to his own town to register.

⁴ 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. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him / and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths / and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Please be seated

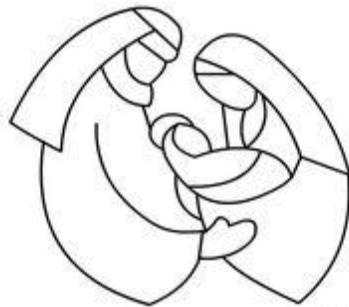
During the singing of Silent Night, the Jesus Candle will be lit.

Congregation Hymn 60: Silent Night

**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.**

**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.**

**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!**



Please Rise

9

Congregation Reads Together: Luke 2: 8-14

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Today / in the town of David / a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths / and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

Congregational Hymns 61: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing!

**1 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!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**3 Hail, the heav’nly 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.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**



Congregation Reads Together Luke 2: 15-20

¹⁵ 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.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off / and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these

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things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Offering

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

All: 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.



VII. The Light Shines in Our Lives Matthew 5: 14-16

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Children sing: Jesus the Light verse 3

Benediction:

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Sing: **Amen, Amen, Amen**

Closing Hymn 62: Joy to the World

**1 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.**

**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.**



Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Summerlin Evangelical Lutheran Church wish you and your family a Merry Christmas with the Christ-Child and a blessed New Year in the Lord's blessings.

Hear the Shepherd Tell His Story

CHRISTMAS
day
SERVICE

Please join us tomorrow morning at 10:00 am.

Thank You

Thank you to the congregation for all of their cards, gifts and prayers throughout this special time of year. We truly appreciate the special notes and the faith that is expressed through them. The Lord has blessed this congregation richly. Thank you again for your expressions of kindness.

In Christ,

Pastor, Kelley and the Kids

SUMMERLIN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2017
6:30 PM