



Bells

Quartet Sings: *Were You There*

Introduction: There is no Christmas without the Cross

Congregational Hymn 38: *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* V 1-3, 13-15

1 “From heav’n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev’ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:

2 “To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.

3 “This is the Christ, our God most high, Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
Within my heart, made clean and new, A quiet chamber kept for you.

14 My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradle song:

15 Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto us his Son has given!
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

I. The prophecies point to Christmas and the Cross

Isaiah 7:14. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a Son and you will call him Immanuel, which means, God with us.

Isaiah 9:6. For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Congregational Hymn 23: *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

2 Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free Your own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save, And bring them vict’ry o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

4 Oh, come, O Key of David, come, And open wide our heav’nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

II. The announcement to Mary points to the cross

Luke 1: 30-33. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He 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, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

Congregational Hymn: 47 Behold, a Branch is Growing V 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 announcement to Joseph points to the cross

Matthew 1: 20-23. 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. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

Congregational Hymn 36 : A Great And Mighty Wonder V:1,4

1 A great and mighty wonder, A glorious mystery:
A virgin bears an infant Who veils his deity.

Refrain:

Repeat the hymn again:

“To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men.”

4 Since all he comes to ransom, By all be he adored,
The infant born in Bethl'em, The Savior and the Lord.

Refrain

We read the words of Luke 2:1-7 together.

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.

Quartet sings: Peace Came to Earth

IV. The angels point to the cross

Luke 2: 10-11 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.

Congregational Hymn 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!”

Refrain:

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



2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!

Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain

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.

Refrain

V. The faith of the shepherds points to the cross

Luke 2:15 "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

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.

Congregation joins together to read the words of Luke 2:8-16

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."

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

The Offering. We pause to bring our offerings of thanks to the Lord for all the amazing things he has done for us of which we hear and sing. Please take a moment to sign the friendship register and hand it to those who are sitting with you this evening.

During the offering a soloist will sing: O Holy Night.

VI: There is no excitement and joy without the cross

Luke 2: 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.

Congregational Hymn 42: Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

1 Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing his love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.

2 See how God, for us providing,
Gave his Son and life abiding;
He our weary steps is guiding
From earth's woe to heav'nly joy.



5 Gracious Child, we pray you, hear us;
From your lowly manger cheer us.
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join th' angelic choir.

VII: There is reason to ponder with the cross

Luke 2:19. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Congregational Hymn 67: What Child is This?

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 Why lies he in such mean estate
Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the Son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings Salvation brings;



Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high;
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the Son of Mary!

Congregation reads Luke 2: 17-20 together.

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 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.

Congregational 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.

Prayer and Lord's Prayer



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!



VIII. There is no Christmas without the Cross



John 20 :31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Congregational Hymn 62: Joy To the World

Please rise as we sing our final hymn, proclaiming with joy that the baby in the manger is our Savior.

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.

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 sins and sorrows 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.





A very blessed and Merry Christmas to all family, friends and visitors this evening. We pray that the news of Jesus' birth might comfort you today and every day with the news that your Savior came for you, to forgive your sins and to bring all who believe in him to heaven.

Guests and visitors please take a gift bag as you leave this evening, compliments of Summerlin Lutheran Church. One bag per family please.

Members may take a candy cane from the table as they leave.

If you have any questions or thoughts, please give Pastor Buch a call (702) 254-8431 and he will be happy to speak with you.

Don't forget Christmas Day worship is tomorrow at 10:00 am.

Merry Christmas!!!!



Summerlin Evangelical Lutheran Church



There is no Christmas
Without the Cross

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2019