



*Christmas Eve at  
Christ Our Redeemer  
The Brightest Light*



# Christ Our Redeemer

December 24, 2017

Pastor Mark Voss



## The Brightest Light

### Opening

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

**C: Amen.**

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

**C: The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

P: Of those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned.

**C: We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

P: Heavenly Father, Jesus was with you in the beginning, but we did not recognize him. He came into our world, but we did not welcome him. He came to his own, but we did not receive him. We are sorry for the sins of the world, and more sorry for our own sins.

**C: Forgive us for not making room in our hearts for Jesus. Pardon our rejections of him and of those filled with his light. Grant that we might spread his light and grace to give life to our world.**

P: As the angels told the shepherds that first Christmas Eve: "Do not be afraid. We 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." Rejoice! Through Christ we have peace with God.

**C: Amen.**

*Opening Carol*

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove,  
How si - lent - ly, how si - len - tly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep And dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go  
While mor - tals sleep, The an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring  
So God im - parts To hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his  
Cast out our sin And en - ter in; Be born in us to -



by. Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
love. O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
heav'n. No ear may hear his com - ing, But in this world of sin  
- day. We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
And prais - es sing To God the King And peace to all the earth.  
Where meek souls will Re - ceive him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.  
Oh, come to us, A - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

## *Prayer of the Day*

P: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## *Musical Selection - Senior Choir*

## *"Can This Be the Child"*

Words by Don Besig & Nancy Price Music by Don Besig ©1997 Harold Flammer Music

# *The Word*

## *Isaiah 9:2-7 - The Brightest Light*

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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.

## *Verse of the Day*

P: Alleluia. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you, he is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

## *Musical Selection - Duet*

## *"No Eye Had Seen"*

Words and Music by Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant. Arranged by Lloyd Larson ©2009 Age to Age Music, Inc.

## Luke 2:1-7 - The Christmas Gospel

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to his own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>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.

### Carol

### "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

CW 56 Text and Tune: public domain. Setting: ©1993 Elfred Bloedel. Used by permission.



Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
An - gels sang a - bout his birth; Wise men sought and found him.  
Gen - tle' Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There he lay, the un - de - filed, To the world a stran - ger.  
Heav - en's star shone brigh - tly forth, Glo - ry all a - round them.  
He is still the un - de - filed, But no more a stran - ger.



Such a babe in such a place - - Can he be the Sav - ior?  
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing.  
Son of God, of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found his fa - vor.  
All the plains were lit that night; All the hills were ring - ing.  
Praise his name in all the earth, Hail the King of glo - ry!

## *Luke 2:8-20*

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

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

<sup>15</sup>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."

<sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.





Carol

*"The People That in Darkness Sat"*

CW 90 Text, Tune, Setting: Public domain



The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious light have  
 To us a child of hope is born, To us a son is  
 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er - last - ing  
 His right - eous gov - ern - ment and pow'r Shall o - ver all ex -  
 Lord Je - sus, reign in us, we pray, And make us yours a -



seen; The light has shone on them who long In  
 giv'n, And on his should - ers ev - er rests All  
 Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The  
 - tend; On judg - ment and on jus - tice based, His  
 - lone, For you are with the Fa - ther and The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.  
 pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.  
 God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.  
 reign shall have no end, His reign shall have no end.  
 Spir - it ev - er one, The Spir - it ev - er one.



# The Brightest Light

Isaiah 9:2-7 - on page 5

## Offering

## Lighting of the Candles

Parents, please use your discretion on whether your child should have his or her own candle. We suggest at least 8 years old. Do not tip a lighted candle! Tip only an unlit candle to receive the flame.

## Carol

*"Silent Night"*



Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight.  
Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light



Round yon vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so  
Glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far; Heav'n-ly hosts sing,  
Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re-



ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace,  
Al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
- deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

## *Extinguishing and Gathering of Candles*

Please cup the flame with your hand as you blow the flame out and return the candle as they are gathered.

## *Christmas Eve Prayer*

P: On this holy night, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

**C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**

P: What a great mystery of our faith is this: that God has become fully human for our salvation. Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

**C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.**

P: In the midst of our joy, we grieve, for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

**C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.**

P: Hear us Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

P: As the angels sang out their praise, move us to sing out our praise to you, today and everyday as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

**C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

## *The Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen**

## *Benediction*

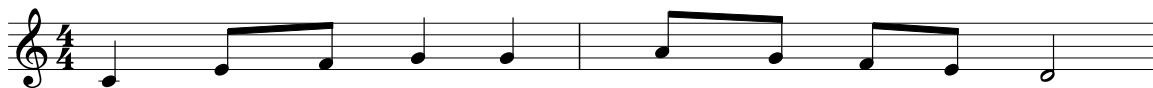
P: May God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, shine in your hearts, and may the simple message of his birth give you joy all your days.

C: Amen.

## *Closing Carol*

## *"Peace Came to Earth"*

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Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night  
And who could be the same for hav - ing held  
You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,  
How else could I have known you, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light And God em - bod - ied  
The in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt The wound-ed hands and  
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, In bread and wine you  
How else could I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em -



love and sheathed his might Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!  
side, all doubts dis - pelled Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!  
vis - it us a - gain Who could but see: Im - man - u - el!  
- brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!



# Christ Our Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church and School

17700 East Iliff Avenue  
Aurora, CO 80013  
corchurch.com

Worship services Sundays  
at 8 and 10:30a (Summer  
Worship at 9a) and Thursdays  
at 7p

Bible Study and Sunday School  
at 9:15a



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- A warm welcome to our visitors. May the Lord bless your worship with us today. We ask that you please sign the friendship register located at the end of the pew.
- Children – Activity bags are available in the coat room, off the narthex. Our nursery is located straight ahead and to your left as you exit the sanctuary. While we encourage young children to be in the service, families may like to use the nursery and are invited to do so.
- Please let an usher know if you require a larger print bulletin.
- Our services can also be viewed online. Go to our website [corchurch.com](http://corchurch.com) and click on Video Broadcast.
- As a member of Christ Our Redeemer we are connected to each other through our unity of faith and the public confession of that faith in Lord's Supper. To read what our profession of faith is, go to [www.corchurch.com](http://www.corchurch.com) and click on "Our Beliefs" or take a copy of the tract "What We Believe" in the Visitor Information Center kiosk. To become a member of our church family, please speak with the pastor.