



## [CHRISTMAS EVE PRELUDE SONGS](#)

## [VIDEO OF WORSHIP SERVICE](#)

**\*Live-stream video is unavailable for December 24/20.** \*The worship service will be video recorded and will be available in the VIDEO LINK or on the “Bethel CRC Lacombe” Youtube channel after the Worship service at approximately 8:00 p.m. on Thursday.

There is an Audio Playlist of Christmas Eve prelude songs for you to enjoy. Just click on the CHRISTMAS EVE PRELUDE SONG LINK to listen.

## **WE ENTER INTO WORSHIP**

### **Call to Worship: Psalm 98:1-4 Litany**

*PASTOR: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things;*

**PEOPLE: his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

*PASTOR: The Lord has made his salvation known*

**PEOPLE: and revealed his righteousness to the nations.**

*PASTOR: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

**PEOPLE: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music**

**God’s Greeting: Revelation 1:4-5**

**Carol:**

***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*** LUYH 56

### **The Old Testament Prophecies of the Coming of Christ**

*We begin after the dawn of human history, in the Garden of Eden. There God made Adam; his wife,*

*Eve; and all humanity in his image “that they might rightly know God their Creator, heartily love him, and live with him in eternal blessedness.”*

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 6

*As image bearers of God, we were made in a covenant relationship with God but broke that bond of fellowship when Adam and Eve sinned by eating of the forbidden tree. Thus, the LORD God came to judge Adam, Eve, and the serpent for what they had done.*

*Yet in the midst of sin, disobedience, and the pronouncement of a curse, we hear the first news of Christmas: from the woman would come one who would crush the serpent and the sin and death he brought upon the human race.*

## **THE FIRST LESSON**

**Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15**

*PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!**

**Carol:**

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*** LUYH 80

*The plot of Christmas is unfolded throughout the generations: the promised seed, beginning with Abel and continuing through Seth, was dramatically saved from the flood in Noah and multiplied in the families of Shem, one of Noah’s three children. God was then pleased to choose Abram, one of these descendants, to bring the promised seed of the woman. Abram’s blessed seed would bless not only Abram’s family for generations to come, but the families of all people on earth.*

## **THE SECOND LESSON**

**Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18**

*PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!**

**Carol:**

***Hail to the Lord’s Anointed*** LUYH 109:1,4

*After receiving God’s steadfast love for generation after generation, the people of God rebelled like their first father, Adam. Jacob’s sons sold their brother into slavery, yet the LORD used Joseph to preserve Israel from famine in Egypt. Two Israelites caused Moses to go into exile for forty years in Midian, yet he was the Lord’s anointed*

*one who displayed signs and wonders and led the people out of Egypt.*

*Millions of Jews, stuck between the Red Sea and Pharaoh's chariots, forgot the LORD's salvation, yet in power and grace God split the sea in two and caused them to pass through on dry ground while destroying Pharaoh's armies in the sea.*

*The people complained about not having bread, water, or meat, yet the LORD sent them manna from heaven, water from a rock, and more quail than they could eat. The people built a golden calf to worship, yet the LORD forgave their sin. The spies did not believe they could overcome the inhabitants of the land, yet the LORD later led them, through Joshua, to destroy the enemies of God.*

*Generation after generation rebelled until the LORD allowed them to be enslaved again in a foreign land by their enemies, yet the LORD delivered them through judges.*

*In the seventh century B.C., the people broke their covenant with the LORD again. The ten northern tribes of Israel were sent into Assyria and the two southern tribes of Judah would be next by the Babylonians. Then the LORD promised disbelieving Ahaz that he would climactically save them again—this time by coming to his people.*

### **THE THIRD LESSON**

**Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-14**

*PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!**

**Carol:**

***O Come, O Come, Immanuel*** LUYH 61:1,4,6,7

*Immanuel, God with us, was to be the name of the virgin's Son. This surely would be the greatest and most mysterious sign and wonder God would do. What would Jesus' birth mean to God's people? What would he mean to God-fearers among the nations who dwelt in the darkness of ignorance, idolatry, and unbelief?*

### **THE FOURTH LESSON**

**Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7**

*LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!**

**Carol:**

***It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*** WHM 134

*Eve's offspring would be a King, and his kingdom would be one of peace, ending the serpent's reign over the Lord's people. Yet where was he to be born? Would it be in the palaces of royalty and aristocracy?*

### **THE FIFTH LESSON**

**Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a**

*PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!**

**Carol:**

***O Little Town of Bethlehem*** LUYH 88:1,3,4

### **The New Testament Fulfillment of the Coming of Christ**

*Promises, promises, so many promises; yet where was this promise of God coming in the flesh? Where was this seed of the woman to crush the serpent? Where was Abraham's offspring who would bless? Where was the virgin's Son, the King upon David's throne who was to reign forever? Where was this Lord, this shepherd of whom Israel sang?*

*You see, after the preaching of Isaiah and Micah, God's people languished for more than seven hundred years without these prophecies coming to pass! Yet now the strife is ended! Now God is no longer silent! Why so downcast, O Israel of God? Lift up your hearts and heads and hear the long-expected words of fulfillment.*

### **THE SIXTH LESSON**

**Lesson: Luke 1:26-38**

*LEADER: The gospel of the Lord.*

**PEOPLE: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**Carol:**

***Once in Royal David's City*** LUYH 87:1,2,5

*In the providence of God, Caesar Augustus called for a taxation of the land in the year in which Mary was to give birth to the Son of God, Jesus Christ, our Lord. So everyone had to return to their hometowns. Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. Listen to one commentator describing our next lesson:*

Throughout the centuries God had so led the course of history that everything was now prepared for the coming of his Son. The preparatory Old Testament revelation had been completed long ago; the weary, longing spirit of humanity was in dire need of his coming; his forerunner, John, had already been born; the “fullness of time” had arrived. And at last, the promised Redeemer, whose coming had been looked forward to with so much heartfelt yearning, is born. In a few verses—written simply, in a matter-of-fact and natural way—Luke . . . relates the tremendous and all-important event.

Norval Geldenhuys, *The Gospel of Luke*, 1951

## THE SEVENTH LESSON

**Lesson: Luke 2:1-7**

*PASTOR: The gospel of the Lord.*

**PEOPLE: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**Carol: *What Child is This*** LUYH 95

After this stupendous wonder of God, we see the true nature of Christ’s kingdom revealed in those who first beheld him and in the humble surroundings of his birth. He was not adored by throngs of millions, thousands, or even hundreds, but by some shepherds who happened to be in an adjacent field. He was not first visited by the powerful, the influential, the important, but by the least of this world. And when the angel told them where to find this child, it was not on a throne or in a palace, but “enthroned” in a trough, wrapped in the swaddling cloths of an ordinary baby! Truly, he who was rich became poor for our sake, so that we by his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

## THE EIGHTH LESSON

**Lesson: Luke 2:8-16**

*LEADER: The gospel of the Lord.*

**PEOPLE: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**Carol: *Glory to God (Erezij God)*** LUYH 84

After Jesus was born, he was visited by Magi, who were princely men from the East. In Scripture, going east is “east of Eden,” away from the presence of God. Here these Magi are going from east to

west as they approach the very Holy of Holies in the person of Jesus, in whom the “whole fullness of deity dwells bodily” (Colossians 2:9). The age-old strife between the two seeds, the woman and the serpent, Christ and Satan, the godly and the ungodly, is still active. Thus we see the reason Jesus came: to destroy the works of the devil.

John 3:8

**Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12**

*PASTOR: The gospel of the Lord.*

**PEOPLE: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**Carol: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*** LUYH 76:1-3

What an amazing wonder God has done in sending his eternal Son to become human, yet remain God: the birth of God in the flesh. For here we see that the seed of the woman, the seed of Abraham, the Son of the virgin, the Son given unto us, the one who was to be a ruler from Bethlehem, was in truth, God in the flesh. “Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail the Incarnate Deity!”

## THE NINTH LESSON

**Lesson: John 1:1-14**

*LEADER: The gospel of the Lord.*

**PEOPLE: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**Carol: *Joy to the World*** LUYH 92

This “grace” that “came through Jesus Christ” (John 1:17)—grace that forgives the sins of a misspent past, the struggles of the present, and the sins of the future—is offered to all who by faith unite themselves to the humiliation, lowliness, suffering, and shame of the One who came from heaven to earth, that we might rise from earth to heaven. Amen. Thanks be to God!

## WE DEPART FROM OUR WORSHIP

Prayer: from the Liturgy of Heidelberg, 1563

*Eternal and Almighty God, we give you most hearty thanks, that in your great love, you graciously pitied us, who were doomed to eternal death for our sins, and ordained your only begotten Son, before the foundation of the world was laid, to be our Mediator, Atonement, and Savior; that he was promised unto our first parents in paradise, after*

*their deplorable fall, and at the appointed time was sent into the world, that he assumed our flesh and blood, became our Brother, and in all things like unto, sin excepted. We praise you, that by his death he destroyed him who had the power of death, the Devil, and delivered us, who must otherwise have spent our whole life in bondage to the fear of death, from the kingdom of Satan and darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of light and eternal happiness.*

*We heartily beseech you to fill us with your grace, that we may rightly know this your love and mercy, and Jesus Christ your Son, whom you have made unto us for wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, and so love and honor him, as wholly to surrender ourselves up unto him, to confide in him, and esteem everything in the world as dross and dung, for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ. And may we cling unto this Savior with true faith, who forgives all our sins, and heals all our diseases, that we may rejoice in all the tribulations of this life, and sing with the heavenly host: "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and good-will towards men," and finally attain unto the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls.*

*We entreat you also for all the governments of the world. Grant unto our rulers grace and peace, that they govern those placed under them in your fear, and with your approbation, that righteousness may be promoted, and iniquity be checked and punished, that we may fulfill our days in quietness and peace, as becomes Christians.*

*Confirm all weak and disconsolate spirits, and send down upon us your peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who has taught us to pray:*

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us today our daily bread. Forgive our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.*

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us  
from evil.*

*For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the  
glory forever.*

*Amen.*

*During the singing of Silent Night, we will come forward and light our individual candles.*

**Carol: *Silent Night, Holy Night* LUYH 85**

**Benediction**