Opening Hymn # 55 - Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Opening Service:
P: Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
C: Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
P: Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.
C: For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.
P: In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.
C: The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.
P: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;
C: For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Christmas Message and Prayer - Pastor

Recitation

Part 1 - Perfect Peace

Narration and Recitation

Sunday School Song: God Loves Me Dearly

Part 2 - Peace Lost

Narration

Hymn # 23 vv 1-2 - Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

Part 3 - Peace Promised

Responsive Reading

P: In his great love for his lost children God promised a Savior who would restore perfect peace to men. The first promise was given in paradise after man fell into sin. God told Satan so that Adam and Eve could hear it:
C: “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”
P: Speaking of the coming Savior, God told Abraham:
C: “Through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed.”
P: About 700 years before the birth of Christ, Isaiah prophesied:
C: “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”
P: The prophet Micah even foretold the city in which Jesus was to be born:
C: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Hymn # 65 vv 1-2 - O Little Town of Bethlehem

Narration and Recitation

Hymn # 38 vv 1-3,5,15 - From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Part 4 - Peace Fulfilled

Narration and Recitation

Sunday School Song: Away in a Manger

Recitation

Choir Song: Cheerfully, We Sing His Birth

Part 5 - Peace Proclaimed

Narration
Hymn: #61 vv 1,3 - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Recitation

Hymn: #63 vv 1-2 - Angels We Have Heard on High

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

Narration

Part 6 - This Peace Is Ours

Responsive Reading
P: This message of perfect peace has been brought to us. We believe the message. We join the shepherds and wise men in worshiping the Christ Child. We confess this faith:
C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.
P: In this faith we live at peace with our God, harbor the hope of everlasting life and are content in our Savior. In this faith we kneel at the manger and say,
C: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

Hymn: #62 vv 1-2 - Joy to the World
verse 1 – children
verse 2 - congregation

Offering

Christmas Prayer and Blessing

Closing Hymn: #60 - Silent Night! Holy Night!
verse 1 – children
verses 2-3 – congregation

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We thank the teachers and students of our Sunday School and also the choir for bringing us the glorious news of our newborn Savior in word and song during tonight's Christmas service. We also thank our organist, LeAnn Marzinske.

We hope that you will join us for our joint Christmas Day service tomorrow here at St. John's at 10:00 am. That service will not be the same as this evening's service.

There will be no Sunday School classes next Sunday.

Trinity will have a joint New Year's Eve service at 7:00 pm. Holy Communion will be offered in this service.

Your 2019 offering envelopes are available in the basement of church.

Pastor, Carol and their family would like to wish all of you a joyous Christmas and a Christ-filled New Year!
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