

# ORDER OF SERVICE

December 24, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Kristine Isder

*Welcome to Kviteseid Lutheran Church...* “Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright” (Joseph Mohr). Silent and calm, until a newborn wails and angels illumine the fields! Holy indeed. Merry Christmas, and welcome to worship!

**PRELUDE** “O Holy Night” *Bruce Olson, Trumpet*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE

**HYMN** “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve” ELW #271  
*Sing Norwegian verse first, then continue in English.*

## CHRISTMAS DIALOG AND GREETING

**P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**P** Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**C** **We have beheld Christ’s glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

**P** For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C** **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

**P** May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

## OPENING PRAYER

**P** Let us pray. *(Brief silence.)* Almighty God,

**C** **you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**READING** Isaiah 9:2-7

**HYMN** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (vs. 1 & 3) ELW #270

**GOSPEL** Luke 2:1-4

**HYMN** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 1, 2 & 4) ELW #279

## PROCESSION OF THE CHRIST CHILD

<b>GOSPEL</b>	Luke 2:5-7		
<b>HYMN</b>	“Away in a Manger”	(vs. 1 & 3)	ELW #277
<b>GOSPEL</b>	Luke 2:8-14		
<b>HYMN</b>	“Angels We Have Heard on High”	(vs. 1 & 3)	ELW #289
<b>GOSPEL</b>	Luke 2:15-20		
<b>HYMN</b>	“Go Tell It on the Mountain”	(vs. 1 & 3)	ELW #290
<b>CHRISTMAS MEDITATION</b>			
<b>HYMN</b>	“Once in Royal David’s City”		ELW #269

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

- P Gracious God, you come from heaven above into the midst of our world.
- C Fill our hearts with the joy of the angels at your birth.**
- P You come from heaven above to the lowliest of human conditions.
- C Watch over those in need, the sick, the hungry, the grieving.**
- P You come from heaven above to walk the way of the cross.
- C Guide us to follow your path of forgiveness, mercy, and peace.**
- P You come from heaven above to become flesh and live among us.
- C May we see your glory, full of grace and truth. Amen.**

<b>OFFERING</b>	“The Holy City”		<i>Bruce Olson, Trumpet</i>
<b>OFFERTORY HYMN</b>	“What Child Is This”	(vs. 1 & 3)	ELW #296

**Holy Communion**

*We invite all those who are baptized to share this special meal of forgiveness and renewal. Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Gluten free wafers and apple juice are available.*

*Communion will be distributed continuously. Please follow the direction of the ushers.*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

<b>DISTRIBUTION HYMNS</b>	“O Come, All Ye Faithful”		ELW #283
	“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”		ELW #282
	“The Bells of Christmas”	(vs. 1-4)	ELW #298
	“The First Noel”		ELW #300

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- P God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life.

**C** As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace.  
Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **CANDLE LIGHTING**

**THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION:** John 1:1-5, 14

*The minister lights a large candle from the Christ candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world, of whom John's gospel speaks.*

*Please hold your lit candle upright while others tip their unlit candle to light them, in order to minimize wax drips. We ask that if small children hold candles that it be done under the close supervision of their parents.*

**HYMN** "Silent Night, Holy Night!" ELW #281

*Please extinguish your candles.*

### **BLESSING**

**P** May the Lord God, who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. In the name of Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN** "Joy to the World" (vs. 1) ELW # 267

### **DISMISSAL**

**P** Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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