

2025 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE



**TRINITY MARBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH
AELC**

Sunday, 14 December 2025 - 7:00pm

HOPE. PEACE. JOY. LOVE.

This service—with its four themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love—draws on a traditional interpretation of the Advent wreath. We will light each candle throughout the program, culminating with the lighting of the centre white Christ candle with the reading of John chapter 1.

Children's names & ages: Connor Murphy (14), Grace Richardson (13), Lachlan Steinhardt (13), Bryce Murphy (12), Logan Telford (11), Harvey Telford (9), Kane Doyle (9), Ethan Murphy (9), Jack Richardson (8), Eden Doyle (7), Hayden Steinhardt (6), Charlotte Seng (5), Emily Steinhardt (4), Luke Seng (3), Max Dickinson (2).

***Bell rings – Congregation to sing Processional Hymn
while Pastor leads children into the church***

Processional Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of angels.

*ref O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*
2. God of God,
Light of light,
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created: *Refrain*
3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
Glory to God
In the highest: *Refrain*

Stand

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Responsive Psalm: (*excerpts from Psalm 33*):

P: Shout for joy to the Lord, you righteous people! Praise is appropriate for upright people.

C: For the Word of the Lord is upright, and everything that He has done is reliable.

P: The Word of the Lord made the heavens, and the Breath of His mouth made their entire starry host.

C: Let the whole earth fear the Lord, and let all the inhabitants of the world be afraid of Him!

P: The plan of the Lord will stand firm for ever. The purposes of His heart will stand firm through all generations.

C: Our souls have been waiting for the Lord. He is our Help and our Shield.

P: For our hearts rejoice in Him, because we trust in His holy name.

All: Let Your mercy, O Lord, be on us, even as we hope in You!

Prayer

Pastor: Heavenly Father, our hearts again rejoice this night as we hear sweet angel voices proclaiming "Christ is born!" Softly, Jesus calls from His lowly manger, saying, "You are safe from danger. Children, from the sins that grieve you, you are freed; all you need I will surely give you." Come, then, banish all our sadness! Accept our songs of gladness. Fix our eyes on the day when we shall live with You forever on high in that joy which will never vanish; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Be seated

Hymn: **Angels from the Realms of Glory**

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
 Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 Ye who sang creation's story,
 Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

ref *Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

2. Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. *Refrain*

4. Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. *Refrain*

5. Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. *Refrain*

6. All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the_ eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

Pastor's Address

Hymn: 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. Christ, from heav'n to us descending
And in love our race befriending;
In our need His help extending,
Saved us from the wily foe.

3. Jacob's star in all its splendour
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender,
Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.
4. From the bondage that oppressed us,
From sin's fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us,
We, the captives, now are free.
5. Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing
That Your love has set us free.
6. Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join Your choir above.

HOPE

Pastor: What do you hope for? Why do we all need hope? It's probably no surprise to any of us that hope often appears alongside something negative—difficult circumstances, adverse conditions, or some less than ideal reality. Are you discontent? Are you suffering in some way? Do you have uncertainties? Do you feel broken in some way? When the answer to any of these questions is yes, we need hope. Even when life is going well, we hope the good wave won't come crashing into darker shores too soon—or ever, if possible.

Connor: When God created the world, hope did not exist. Nor did it *need* to. Consider this: There was no need for hope because God made a perfect world.

Lachlan & Hayden: The perfect people God created—**Adam and Eve**—did not need hope because they had everything: peace with God and each other, joy in the wonders of His perfect world, and love perfectly shown and received in every way. There was no discontent, no suffering, no uncertainties, and no brokenness. **But then . . .**

Jack: The snake was more cunning than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He asked the woman, “Has God really said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden!’?” (Genesis 3:1)

Grace & Luke: The woman told the snake: “We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. However, God has said about the fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden: ‘You shall not eat from it, and you shall not touch it, or you will die!’ ” (Genesis 3:2-3)

Harvey: The snake told the woman, “You will certainly not die. For God knows that in the day when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:4-5)

Bryce: When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that is was a delight to look at, and that the tree was desirable for making someone wise, she took some of its fruit and ate it. Then she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. (Genesis 3:6)

Logan: What had they done? And what does it mean for all of us here tonight? The need for hope was born. From that moment onward, all people ever born, right up to all of us here tonight, are born sinful, will someday die, and have earned an eternity in hell.

Pastor: Therefore, as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, so death also spread to all people, since all have sinned. (Romans 5:12)

Congregation: Every one of them has turned away. Together they have become corrupt. There is no one who does good. There is not even one. (Psalm 53:3).

******Lighting of the HOPE candle******

Pastor: We all desperately need hope, just as Adam and Eve did. With generations of God’s people, we confess our sins.

Hymn:

I Lay My Sins on Jesus

1. I lay my sins on Jesus,
The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us
From the accursèd load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus
To wash my crimson stains
Clean in His blood most precious
Till not a spot remains.

2. I lay my wants on Jesus;
All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases;
My soul He does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus,
My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases;
He all my sorrows shares.

3. I rest my soul on Jesus,
This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces;
I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus,
Immanuel,_Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes
His name abroad is poured.

Eden: God did not leave Adam and Eve in despair. He promised a Saviour from sin, death, and hell.

Kane: Then the Lord God told the snake: “Because you have done this, you are cursed, more than every domestic animal and every wild animal. You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.” (Genesis 3:14)

Jack: I shall make you and the women hostile to each other, and I shall make your descendants and her Descendant hostile to each other. He will crush your head, and you will crush His heel. (Genesis 3:15)

Connor: When God spoke this to the devil, who had taken the form of a serpent, God was promising Adam and Eve a Saviour, a unique offspring who would defeat the devil forever. But this promise wasn't just for Adam and Eve; it is for all of us, too!

All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall

Ethan:

All mankind fell in Adams fall;
One common sin infects us all.
From one to all the curse descends,
And over all God's wrath impends.

Charlotte:

But Christ, the second Adam, came;
To bear our sin and woe and shame,
To be our life, our light, our way,
Our only hope, our only stay.

Kane:

As by one man all mankind fell,
And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,
So by one Man, Who took our place,
We all were justified by grace.

Eden:

We thank You, Christ; new life is ours,
New light, new hope, new strength, new
powers
This grace our every way attend,
Until we reach our journey's end.

Pastor: Tonight, let's celebrate how God, in His great love, provided the hope we need by sending the Offspring—Jesus. Let's explore God's Word, in which "everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope" (Romans 15:4). Let's look at prophecy, fulfillment, and promise, and by these renew our hope in the peace, joy, and love of God our Father and Jesus Christ, His Son, our Saviour.

Hymn:

O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild

1. O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
For sinners You became a child.
You came from heaven down to earth
In human flesh through human birth.
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!

2. O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
With God we now are reconciled.
You have for all the ransom paid,
Your Father's righteous anger stayed.
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
3. O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
Joy fills the world which sin defiled.
Whate'er we have belongs to You;
O keep us faithful, strong, and true.
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!

PEACE

Connor: After God made the first promise of the Saviour in the Garden of Eden, questions naturally arose. Who would He be? How would we recognise Him? What would He do? What would it mean for life now and beyond the grave? As time went on and the promise awaited fulfilment, God answered these questions through His prophets.

Harvey: For a Child will be born for us. A Son will be given to us. The government will be on His shoulder, and His name will be called: "Wonderful Counsellor", "Mighty God", "Everlasting Father", "Prince of Peace". There will be no end to the growth of His dominion and peace. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

Logan: He grew up before Him like a young shoot, like a root out of dry ground. He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him. He had nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him. However, He was pierced for our rebellious acts. He was bruised for our wrongdoings. The chastisement that brought us peace was on Him, and through His wounds we have been healed. (Isaiah 53:2,5)

Bryce: However, although you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, are too small to be among the clans of Judah, yet out of you One who will be the Ruler over Israel will come forth for Me. His origins are from of old, from the days of eternity." He will stand and shepherd His flock. . . . They will live securely, for then His greatness will reach as far as the ends of the earth. He will be a man of peace. (Micah 5:2,4-5a)

Hymn:

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Lachlan & Hayden: Some answers are simple: This Saviour would be born just like any other human child, in the town of **Bethlehem**. There's also a common answer about what He would do: He would bring peace. He would be our peace. Does that seem hard to believe? The conflicts around the world are the opposite of peace.

Pastor: Do you feel at peace? Perhaps you and I do briefly from time to time, but every day we face all sorts of things that oppose any lasting sense of peace—personal failures, strained relationships, countless tasks at work, and the demands to keep the household running smoothly. In this broken world, peace always feels out of reach. Consider what these psalm writers said:

Ethan: For they are not speaking about peace, but have been devising deceitful schemes against those who live quietly in the land. (Psalm 35:20)

Charlotte: My soul has been dwelling for too long with one who hates peace. (Psalm 120:6)

Grace & Luke: But enter **Jesus**. He would suffer in our place the eternal punishment we each deserve. He would restore our peace with God and make peace possible among the people of God. God's forgiveness grants peace to our minds, consciences, and souls. Jesus even made it possible for us to be at peace in the face of death.

Pastor: What price would you pay for such peace? How can you make sure it is yours? Such profound and eternal peace is beyond price. It is too lofty to attain by any effort or means of our own.

***** Lighting of the PEACE candle*****

Hymn:

Hark the Glad Sound

1. Hark, the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long.
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.

Children: 2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Congregation & Children 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask You to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

JOY

Pastor: There are many short verses in the Bible. Job 3:2 is “He said.” Famously, John 11:35 says, “Jesus wept.” Here is another one: “Rejoice always” (1 Thessalonians 5:16). Always? Just as peace seems elusive, so does joy—at least, joy *all the time*. How can we be joyful when we are sick or injured? When we are suffering consequences for our poor choices? When friends or family somehow hurt us, or worse yet, when we hurt them? Because of our own sin and life in a world that is affected by sin, we tend toward sorrow rather than joy.

Bryce: Joy has gone from our hearts. Our dancing has changed into mourning. The garland has fallen off our heads. How terrible indeed it is for us! For we have sinned. (Lamentations 5:15-16).

Lachlan: There were shepherds near Bethlehem the night Jesus was born. They were also sinners living in a fallen world. Consider their situation: They worked the night shift while their families slept. They protected the flock from dangers, or they faced the consequences for fleeing from threats and abandoning the sheep.

Connor: They were continually saving simple animals from making poor and risky choices. What might bring these shepherds joy? What might bring us joy as we manage trade-offs between work and family, tough decisions, and the consequences of our own sinfulness and others' actions?

Kane: There were shepherds in the same district, staying out in the fields, watching over their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were very afraid. (Luke 2:8-9).

Jack: The angel said to them, “Stop being afraid! For look! I am bringing you Good News of great joy, which will be for all the people, because a Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord, has been born for you today, in the city of David. This will also be the sign to you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling cloths, and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:10-12).

Eden: Suddenly there was with the angel a great company of the heavenly host, who were praising God and saying (Luke 2:13),

Charlotte: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people whom He favours!” (Luke 2:14).

******Lighting of the JOY candle******

Hymn:

Joy to the World!

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns;
Let men 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.



Ethan: The joy we seek, the joy Paul tells us to have always, comes from the Saviour born for us! With the shepherds that first Christmas night, we hurry to see Him.

Harvey: When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us!” Then they came quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the Infant, who was lying in the manger (Luke 2:15-16).

Grace: Where do we go when our hearts are heavy with guilt? See Jesus in the manger, born to give us peace in sins forgiven! What do we hold on to when our death looms large? See Jesus in the manger, born to ensure the hope of life eternal! What do we do upon seeing this peace and hope in our Jesus, who is lying in the manger? What did the shepherds do?

Logan: When they had seen Him, they declared to others the Word that had been told them about this Child. All those who heard it were astonished at what the shepherds told them. The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen. They were just as they had been told them. (Luke 2:17-18,20).

Connor: The peace and hope we have in Jesus are not just for us gathered here; they are for everyone—people all around us who suffer under the curse of Adam but to whom Jesus offers hope and peace and joy. Like the shepherds, we have good news to share with the whole world!

Hymn:

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim:
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
ref *Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail, the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus our Immanuel: *Refrain*

3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth: *Refrain*

LOVE

Pastor: What makes all this possible? We recognise that our sins are many and serious. Does your conscience still trouble you? Does your soul still long? Does your mind still wonder: How can we ever have steadfast and continuous hope, peace, and joy? Do you ask yourself: Why would God do this for me? After all, Paul wrote to the Romans, “Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die” (Romans 5:7). Thankfully, Paul doesn’t stop there. He goes on to say:

Eden: However, God shows His own love for us by this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

Pastor: Love—God’s amazing and perfect love—is behind it all. Addressing a different group of Christians, Paul wrote:

Harvey: However, God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love for us, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions— it is by grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:4-5).

Hymn: **Jesus Loves Me! This I Know**

Children 1. Jesus loves me! this I know,
 For the Bible tells me so.
 Little ones to Him belong;
 They are weak, but He is strong.

ref *Yes, Jesus loves me!*
 Yes, Jesus loves me!
 Yes, Jesus loves me!
 The Bible tells me so.

Children 2. Jesus loves me! He who died
 Heaven’s gates to open wide.
 He will wash away my sin,
 Let His little child come in. *Refrain*

Congregation & Children 3. Jesus loves me, loves me still,
 Though I’m very weak and ill;
 From His shining throne on high
 Comes to watch me where I lie: *Refrain*

Congregation & Children 4. Jesus loves me! He will stay
 Close beside me all the way;
 When at last I come to die
 He will take me home on high: *Refrain*

Grace: God has such great love for us that He made sure we would have hope beyond the grave, peace through the forgiveness of all our sins, and joy in these most gracious gifts! We have them because God sent His Son Jesus to be our Saviour. We possess them despite what we may see, think, or feel. As one Christian songwriter has said, "I can't live by what I feel but by the truth your Word reveals." That Word says this:

Jack: This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 4:9-10).

Pastor: But does God's love ever seem far off? Do you ever wonder if it has run out or if it could be revoked at some point? Again, we live by this truth of God's Word, His perfect promise and commitment to us:

Lachlan: For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor present circumstances nor future circumstances, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).

****** Lighting of the LOVE candle******

Hymn: God is Love: Let Heaven Adore Him

1. God is love: let heaven adore Him:
 God is love: let earth rejoice;
 Let creation sing before Him,
 All exalt Him with one voice.
 He who laid the earth's foundation,
 He who spread the heavens above,
 He who breathes through all creation,
 He is love, eternal love.

2. God is love: and He enfoldeth
All the world in one embrace;
With unfailing grasp He holdeth
Every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
Under sorrow's iron rod,
All the sorrow, all the aching,
Wrings with pain the heart of God.

3. God is love: and though with blindness
Sin afflicts the souls of men,
God's eternal loving-kindness
Holds and guides them even then.
Sin and death and hell shall never
O'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so love for ever
O'er the universe must reign.

Stand

***** Lighting of the CHRIST candle as the following is read. *****

Jack: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.*

Kane: *Everything was made through Him, and not one thing that was made was made without Him. In Him was life, and the life was the light of mankind.*

Ethan: *The light is shining in the dark, and the darkness has not understood it. The genuine light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.*

Bryce: *He was in the world, and He made the world, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His people did not receive Him.*

Logan: *However, to all who received Him, who believe in His name, He gave the right to become the children of God. They have been born not of blood, or of an urge of the flesh, or of a husband's desire, but of God. The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's only Son – He is full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-5,9-14)*

Pastor: Are you looking for durable hope? Are you yearning for lasting peace? Do you want abiding joy? On this Christmas, be filled with the hope and the peace we have through the perfect and never-ending love of God in Jesus, our Saviour. With joy, we say together with the psalmist:

All: Let me sing about the merciful acts of the Lord for ever! With my mouth I shall proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations. (Psalm 89:1)

Sit

HYMN:

Once in Royal David's City
(Offering to be collected during this hymn)

1. Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed;
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.
3. And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.
4. Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Stand

**Prayer
Lord's Prayer
Blessing**

Sit

Announcements & Presentations

Hymn:

Silent Night, Holy 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.
2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glory streams from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: Hallelujah!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.
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.



Thank you for joining us tonight and may God grant you peace, joy and love this Christmas, through the hope given to us by the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.