

The Anglican Church of Freiburg

Morning Worship

Sunday 18th of December 2022

Silent Preparation

Prelude

This is the day that the Lord has made
We will rejoice and be glad in it

Opening Sentence

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',
which means, 'God is with us.'
Luke 1:23

Opening Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for your unfailing presence with us
You are with us when the going seems smooth and when the going
seems tough
You are with us in the wilderness journeys, in flaming fires and in our
times of anguish
Help us to experience your presence with us'
As we celebrate in worship this morning

Amen

Opening Hymn

Joyful, Joyful we adore Thee

The Nativity Scene

Light a Candle for Peace

Word and music: Shelley Murley

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=K9M8SmWh2Fo>

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, God our Father,
through your Son the Christ.
His name is Jesus.

God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Jesus came and shared our life.

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God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Jesus' touch made people whole.

God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Jesus raised the dead to life.

God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Jesus died to set us free.

God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Jesus rose to life again.

God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Jesus is our King on high.

God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Prayer of Confession

When we allow darkness to overcome the light,
forgive us, Lord.

When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,
have mercy on us, Father.

When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing
and hearing and touching the needs of others,
let your grace consume us, O God.

When the wars around us are of no concern,
**forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion
for those who suffer.**

When our caring is not extended to action,
move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.

**We come to confess our sinfulness
before you and before each other.
Remove all barriers that divide us,
and let there be no obstacle to our love for you
and for one another. Amen.**

(<https://thepastorsworkshop.com/prayers-of-confession-on-christmas/>)

Absolution

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour

forgive *us our* sins
and make *us* holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Collect

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Psalm

Psalm 80
Prayer for Israel's Restoration

¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
² **before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.**
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!
³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
⁴ **O LORD God of hosts,**
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
⁶ **You make us the scorn^[a] of our neighbours;**
our enemies laugh among themselves.
⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
⁸ **You brought a vine out of Egypt;**
you drove out the nations and planted it.

¹⁸ Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹ **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without
end
Amen**

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

The first reading is from Isaiah 7:10-16

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God

Our hearts and our minds are open

Isaiah Gives Ahaz the Sign of Immanuel

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹² But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³ Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Go, tell it on the mountain

Go, tell it on the mountain

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

“Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 1:18-25

All: **Glory to You, O Lord**

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the gospel of our Lord
Amen. Thanks be to God

Reflections of Children:

What does Christmas Mean to Me
Who is Christ to me

HOMILY

Hymn After Homily

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!

Intercessions

Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

(Sharing of Peace)

Offertory Hymn

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We three kings of orient are

Doxology

Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow
Praise Him All creatures Here Below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, don't let us miss You this Christmas season. Help us to simplify our activities and traditions so we can focus our celebration on You. Thank You for being the Prince of Peace, and we ask You for Your peace to reign in our hearts. Thank You for the simple but life-changing message of Your love for us. In Jesus' Name, **Amen.**

(~ Melanie Chitwood)

Benediction

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Announcements

Blessings

We wish you a merry a Merry Christmas (3)
And a Happy New Year
Glad Tidings we bring
To you and your kin
Glad Tidings of Christmas
And a Happy New Year

Postlude