



December 24, 2022

ABIDING LOVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

3205 S. Chiquita Blvd., Cape Coral, Florida 33914

Interim Pastor – Rev. Mark S. Voss – 303-808-0611 (cell)

Staff Minister Mr. Ben Mahnke -- church office-239-984-1441

www.abiding-love.com

www.abidinglovepreschool.com

Church email: info@abiding-love.com

Preschool email: preschool@abiding-love.com

WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us in worship this evening. In our service we gather before Jesus our Savior to offer him worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful word.

- Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary.
- The Elders request that we observe five minutes of quiet time in the sanctuary prior to the start of each service. Please be seated and use this time to prepare for worship and read the bulletin announcements.
- We love families! Your children are welcome in our service, *including our youngest children!* Thanks for bringing them to hear about Jesus. If you would like, there are children's worship bags with lessons, crayons, and books in the entryway of the church. An usher can assist you. We ask that you return these to the basket after the service.
- **Information:** We ask all our members and visitors to please complete a yellow information card located in the seat backs. These will be collected by the ushers during the offering.
- **Please silence your cell phones.**

**OUR WORSHIP SERVICE
CHRISTMAS EVE
PEACE CAME TO EARTH**

Invocation

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| He was light ... | coming into a world of darkness. |
| He was love... | coming into a world of hate. |
| He was life... | coming into a world of death. |
| He was peace... | coming into a world of strife. |
| He was righteousness... | coming into a world of sin. |
| He was hope... | coming into a world of defeat. |
| He was God... | coming into a world of humanity. |
| He is our Savior... | and we begin in his name. |

- P: Heavenly Father, Jesus was with you in the beginning, but we did not recognize him. He came into our world, but we did not welcome him. He came to his own, but we did not receive him. We are sorry for the sins of the world, and sorrier for our own sins.
- C: Forgive us for not making room in our hearts for Jesus. Pardon our rejections of him and of those filled with his light. Grant that we might spread his light and grace to give life to our world.**
- P: As the angels told the shepherds that first Christmas Eve: “Do not be afraid. We bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” Rejoice! Through Christ we have peace with God.
- C: Amen.**

Joy to the World

CW 353



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

+ God's Word +

Old Testament Prophecy

Isaiah 9:2–7

The baby Jesus is the Prince of Peace

²The people walking in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 on those living in the land of deep darkness
 a light has dawned.

³You have enlarged the nation
 and increased their joy;
 they rejoice before you
 as people rejoice at the harvest,
 as warriors rejoice
 when dividing the plunder.

⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
 you have shattered
 the yoke that burdens them,
 the bar across their shoulders,
 the rod of their oppressor.

⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle
 and every garment rolled in blood
 will be destined for burning,
 will be fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born,
 to us a son is given,
 and the government will be on his shoulders.
 And he will be called
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace
 there will be no end.
 He will reign on David's throne
 and over his kingdom,
 establishing and upholding it
 with justice and righteousness
 from that time on and forever.
 The zeal of the LORD Almighty
 will accomplish this.

New Testament Fulfillment

Titus 2:11-14

The Christ child changes us

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Verse of the Day

ALL: Alleluia.

P: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you, he is Christ the Lord.

ALL: Alleluia.

The Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Christmas Carol Joy Has Dawned

CW 352

4:00pm: Verse 1 & 2: Sung by our children
Verse 3 & 4: Sung by congregation

7:00pm: Congregation sings all verses.



1 Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion—
2 Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels
3 Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry.
4 Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.
as the might - y Prince of life shel - ters in a sta - ble.
Gifts of men from dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the sto - ry:
rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ, our might - y cham - pion!



Not with fan-fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark - ness,
gold— a king is born to - day; in - cense—God is with us;
What a Sav - ior! What a friend! What a glo - rious mys - t'ry!



but a hum - ble gift of love— Je - sus born of Mar - y.
cling now to a moth - er's breast, vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.
myrrh— his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us.
Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, now the Lord of his - t'ry.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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The Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:8–20

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Peace Came to Earth

CW 330



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night when an - gels
 2 And who could be the same for hav-ing held the in - fant
 3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen, in flesh and
 4 How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could



clove the sky with song and light and God em - bod - ied
 in their arms and lat - er felt the wound - ed hands and
 blood you bore our griefs and pain, in bread and wine you
 I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em -



love and sheathed his might— Who could but gasp: Im-man-u - el!
 side, all doubts dis-pelled— Who could but sigh: Im-man-u - el!
 vis - it us a - gain— Who could but see: Im-man-u - el!
 brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im-man-u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: arr. Mark Kellner, 1959–2015, alt.; Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952

Text: © 1984 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709601

Tune: © 2000 MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709601

Sermon

Luke 2:1-20

Theme: "Peace Came to Earth"*Pastor Mark S. Voss***Christmas Eve Prayer**

P: On this holy night, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

P: What a great mystery of our faith is this: that God has become fully human for our salvation. Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

P: Amid our joy, we grieve, for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

P: Hear us Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

P: As the angels sang out their praise, move us to sing out our praise to you, today and everyday as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

Offering and Information

Our offering to the Lord our Savior God flows from hearts of joy and love. The offering is used to support the work of proclaiming the gospel message here and around the world. No one is obligated to join in the offering. To give an offering electronically, visit our website: www.abiding-love.com/giving and click on "donate."

Information: We ask our members, friends, and those visiting with us today to complete an information card located in the seat backs and place it in the offering plate. If your contact information has recently changed, please indicate this so we may update our records.

Lighting of the Candles

Please do not tip a lighted candle! Tip only an unlit candle to receive the flame.

Silent Night, Holy Night

CW 337

4:00pm Congregation sings all verses

7:00pm Verse 1: In German, by Choir

Verse 1: In English by Congregation

Verse 2: Choir

Verse 3: Congregation and Choir



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts__ sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885; Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848
 Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863
 Text and tune: Public domain

Extinguishing of Candles

Please cup the flame with your hand as you blow the flame out.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins,
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours
 now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

Angels We Have Heard on High

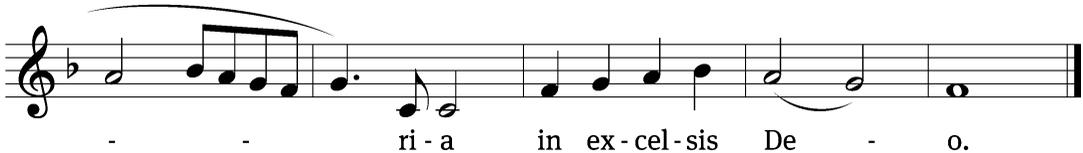
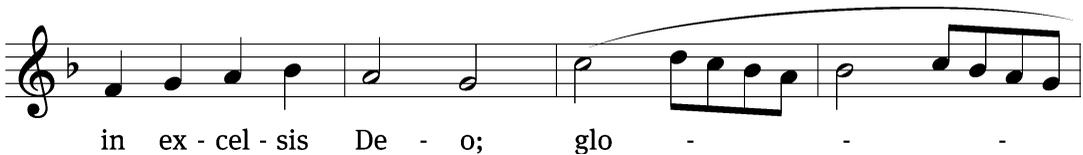
CW 346



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.; French
 Tune: French
 Text and tune: Public domain

Silent Prayer

Merry Christmas to all.

*May God fill your lives with the peace only Jesus brings; and may you leave
 with joy in your hearts and purpose in your lives.*



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

December 24th—Candlelight Services at 4:00pm and 7:00pm

December 25th—10:00am *(no communion)*

January 1st—10:00am Worship *(with communion)*

Poinsettia Donations

Poinsettias for our altar were donated by the following members and friends.

*Shannon Kolakowski
Kevin & Wendy Beichler
Erv Stiemke
Sheila Miller
Steve & Jackie Adang
Rebecca Simon-Brooks
Michele Leatherbury
Bob & Sue Stumpner*

*Jay & Stacey Devlin
Terry & Judy Ray
Lois Crusan
Steve & Paula Bruns
Ron & Mary Juricek
Darren & Anne Marie Davis
An anonymous donor*



ABOUT ABIDING LOVE: *Abiding Love Lutheran Church is a congregation in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), with almost 400,000 members in 49 states and missionaries in 23 nations. The WELS is committed to the Scriptures as the inspired, inerrant Word of God, and therefore the only guide for faith and life. If you would like to know more about us, or if you're seeking Biblical counseling, give Pastor Voss a call at 303-808-0611 or email him at: markvoss35@gmail.com.*