

Christmas Lobefeast and Candle Service



Fairview Moravian Church

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Christmas Lovefeast

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward all.

PRELUDE

LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLES

(Standing)

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;

**Refrain: O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
(Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee
Born this happy morning,
O Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
(Refrain)

PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE

SERVING THE LOVEFEAST

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.

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.

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.

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!”

**Refrain: Hark, the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!”**

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 us second birth. **(Refrain)**

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;

**Refrain: Come and worship,
come and worship, Worship Christ,
the new-born King.**

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light; **(Refrain)**

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

Softly the night is sleeping
On Bethlehem’s peaceful hill,
Silent the shepherds watching,
The gentle flocks are still.
But hark! The wondrous music
Falls from the op’ning sky;
Valley and cliff re-echo,
“Glory to God on high!”

**Refrain: Glory to God! Glory to God!
Glory to God! It rings again; peace on the
earth! Good will to men!**

Day in the east is breaking;
Day o'er the crimsoned earth;
Now the glad world is waking,
Glad in the Savior's birth!
See where the clear star bendeth
Over the manger blessed;
See where the infant Jesus
Smiles upon Mary's breast! **(Refrain)**

Come with the gladsome shepherds,
Quick hast'ning from the fold;
Come with the wise men,
Pouring incense and myrrh and gold.
Come to him, poor and lowly,
Around the cradle throng,
Come with your hearts of sunshine,
And sing the angels' song. **(Refrain)**

THE MORAVIAN BLESSING

*Come, Lord Jesus, our Guest to be
And bless these gifts bestowed by Thee.
Bless our loved ones everywhere
And keep them in Thy loving care. Amen.*

CHOIR ANTHEMS

COLLECTING THE CUPS

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.

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.

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.

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

**Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song? **(Refrain)**

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **(Refrain)**

See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise. **(Refrain)**

OFFERING / PRAYER / OFFERTORY

MEDITATION

CANDLE SERVICE

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, (repeat).

Silent night, holy night,
Darkness flies, all is light,
Shepherds hear the angels sing,
"Alleluia! Hail the King!
Christ the Saviour is born, (repeat).

Silent night, holy night,
Wondrous Star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King!
Christ the Saviour is born, (repeat).

*(The next hymn is sung antiphonally by the
congregation and soloists, the congregation
singing the words in bold italic type.)*

Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere Thou cam'st how dark earth's night!
Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere Thou cam'st how dark earth's night!
Jesus mine, *In me shine;*
In me shine, *Jesus mine;*
Fill my heart with light divine.

Morning Star, Thy glory bright
Far excels the sun's clear light.
Morning Star, Thy glory bright
Far excels the sun's clear light;
Jesus be, *Constantly,*
Constantly, *Jesus be*
More than thousand suns to me.

Thy glad beams, Thou Morning Star,
Cheer the nations near and far.
Thy glad beams, Thou Morning Star,
Cheer the nations near and far.
Thee we own, *Lord alone;*
Lord alone, *Thee we own,*
Our great Saviour, God's dear Son.

Morning Star, my soul's true Light,
Tarry not, dispel my night;
Morning Star, my soul's true Light,
Tarry not, dispel my night.
Jesus mine, *In me shine;*
In me shine, *Jesus mine;*
Fill my heart with light divine.

CANDLE TALK

(Standing)

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.

Joy to the earth, 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.

No more let sin and sorrow 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.

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, and wonders of His love.

BENEDICTION POSTLUDE

The Moravian Lovefeasts

The early Christians met and broke bread together to signify their union, fellowship and love. In 1727, the Moravian Church revived this practice, and it has established the custom of celebrating the great church festivals by partaking together of a simple meal known as a "lovefeast." The first lovefeasts of the Moravian Church in North America were held in Savannah, Georgia, during the years 1735 to 1740. The first lovefeast in Wachovia was held on the evening of the arrival of the first Moravian colonists in North Carolina, November 17, 1753, at Bethabara.

The Christmas Eve Lovefeast, with its candles, is one of the most beautiful services of the Moravian Church. The custom originated on the European continent at Marienborn in the year 1747, and spread throughout the Moravian world. The first Christmas Eve lovefeast held at Bethabara was in 1753, and at Salem in 1771. In North Carolina, the candles were used for the first time in the children's lovefeasts of Bethabara and Bethania in 1762. Every person is given a lighted candle as a reminder that Christ said, "I am the light of the world," and "you are light of the world - let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Fairview continues to share the light of Christ with the world around us. We invite you to continue to join us throughout the coming year as we worship Jesus Christ and serve the world into which he came. Our Sunday morning worship is at 10:00 a.m. Please contact us or visit our website for information regarding the opportunities for worship, spiritual growth and service.