

Unity. Liberty. Love. Serve.



The Lovefeast (Sean McNamara)

CHRISTMAS EVE LOVEFEAST AND CANDLE SERVICE

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

LUKE 2:14

We welcome all members and guests to Calvary this Christmas Eve and we are glad that you have joined us for worship!

Today’s Christmas Eve Lovefeast is a service of divine worship, focusing on God’s gift to humanity in the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord. As the band prelude begins, we ask each worshipper to help us maintain a spirit of reverence in respect for our Lord and for those worshipping with us.

If you have any needs during the service, ushers are located in the church narthex to answer any questions you may have. A nursery is provided for for all children infant through Pre-K. An usher will be happy to direct you. Please refrain from entering or exiting the sanctuary from the doors adjacent to the pulpit after the service has begun. If you need access to other areas of the building, an usher will assist you.

We ask you to please turn off all cell phones and refrain from using flash photography during our service. In order that everyone may be seated, please do not reserve seats for family and friends.

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 lovefeast in Wachovia was held at Bethabara on the evening of the arrival of the first Moravian colonists in North Carolina, November 17, 1753. The Christmas Eve Lovefeast, with its lighted candles, is one of the most beautiful services of the Moravian Church. The custom originated on the European continent at Marienborn, Germany in the year 1747, and spread throughout the Moravian world. Worshipers are given a lighted candle to remind them that Christ said, “I am the light of the world,” and “You are the light of the world – let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven.”

CHRISTMAS EVE LOVEFEAST & CANDLE SERVICE

PRELUDE MUSIC

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO WORSHIP

ADESTE FIDELES

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;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him.
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
glory to God, glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him.
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him.
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

PRAYER

WELCOME

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

LUKE 2:1-20

SERVING OF THE LOVEFEAST

ST. LOUIS

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 wond'ring 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 giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
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!

MUELLER

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus! I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

REGENT SQUARE

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story;
now proclaim Messiah's birth.
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 on earth is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive her king;
 let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
 Let us our 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.

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.*

MUSICAL OFFERINGS

Collection of Cups

WARNER

1. 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!"
 Glory to God! Glory to God!
 Glory to God! It rings again;
 Peace on the earth! Goodwill to men!

2. 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!
 Glory to God! Glory to God!
 Glory to God! It rings again;
 Peace on the earth! Goodwill to men!

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,
darkness flies, all is light;
shepherds hear the angels sing,
“Alleluia! hail the King!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.”

3. Silent night, holy night,
son of God, love’s pure light,
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

OFFERTORY

MEDITATION

HAGEN

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 dear Savior, God’s dear son.

4. 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.

Distribution of Candles

CANDLE ANTHEM

Thou Child Divine — J.A.P. Schulz

VOM HIMMEL HOCH

1. Behold, a great, a heavenly light,
From Bethlehem's manger shining bright,
Around those who in darkness dwell,
The night of evil to dispel.

2. Incarnate God, exert thy power!
Arise, thou glorious conqueror!
Subdue sin, death, and every foe,
erect thy kingdom here below.

3. What heights, what depths, of love divine
in thy blest incarnation shine!
Let heaven and earth unite their lays,
to magnify thy boundless grace.

CHRIST THE LORD

1. Christ the Lord, the Lord most glorious,
now is born; O shout aloud!
We by him are made victorious;
praise the Savior, hail our God!

2. Praise the Lord! On us is shining
Christ, the sun of righteousness;
He, to us in love inclining,
cheers our souls with pard'ning grace.

3. Praise the Lord, whose saving splendor
shines into the darkest night;
O what praises shall we render
for this neverceasing light.

4. Praise the Lord, God our salvation,
praise him who retrieved our loss;
Sing, with awe and love's sensation,
Hallelujah, God with us.

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

POSTLUDE

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CALVARY
MORAVIAN

Serving downtown since 1893

Sunday School • 9:45 AM

Worship • 11 AM

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