

# 2020 GCC Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 7:00 p.m.

**O Come, All Ye Faithful** ..... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzG4OOCog2Y>

Reading: Psalm 4:1-8, Psalm 27:1,8-10,14

## Psalm 4, NIV

<sup>1</sup> Answer me when I call to you,  
my righteous God.  
Give me relief from my distress;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.  
<sup>6</sup> Many, LORD, are asking, "Who will bring us  
prosperity?"

## Psalm 27, NIV

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my **light** and my salvation—  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life—  
of whom shall I be afraid? ...  
<sup>8</sup> My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"  
Your face, LORD, I will seek.

Let the **light** of your face shine on us.  
<sup>7</sup> Fill my heart with joy  
when their grain and new wine abound.  
<sup>8</sup> In peace I will lie down and sleep,  
for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.  
<sup>9</sup> Do not hide your face from me,  
do not turn your servant away in anger;  
you have been my helper.  
Do not reject me or forsake me,  
God my Savior.  
<sup>14</sup> Wait for the LORD;  
be strong and take heart  
and wait for the LORD.

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus** ... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRAFQCOKjgE>

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7: 60:1-3,5,16,18-22

## Isaiah 9, NIV

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great **light**;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a **light** has dawned....  
<sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning,  
will be fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup> For 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.  
<sup>7</sup> Of 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.

## Isaiah 60, NIV

<sup>1</sup> "Arise, shine, for your **light** has come,  
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.  
<sup>2</sup> See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the LORD rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.  
<sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your **light**,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn....  
<sup>5</sup> Then you will look and be radiant,  
your heart will throb and swell with joy ....  
<sup>16</sup> Then you will know that I, the LORD, am your  
Savior,  
your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob....  
I will make peace your governor  
and well-being your ruler.

<sup>18</sup> No longer will violence be heard in your land,  
nor ruin or destruction within your borders,  
but you will call your walls *Salvation*  
and your gates *Praise*.  
<sup>19</sup> The sun will no more be your **light** by day,  
nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you,  
for the LORD will be your everlasting **light**,  
and your God will be your glory.  
<sup>20</sup> Your sun will never set again,  
and your moon will wane no more;  
the LORD will be your everlasting **light**,  
and your days of sorrow will end....

I am the LORD;  
in its time I will do this swiftly."

**O Come, O Come, Immanuel** ..... [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xtpJ4Q\\_Q-4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xtpJ4Q_Q-4)

Reading: Luke 1:28-38, Matthew 1:18-25

**Luke 1, NIV**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his

father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

<sup>34</sup> “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called <sup>36</sup> the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail.”

<sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

**Matthew 1, NIV**

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from

the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, <sup>22</sup> because he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” <sup>24</sup> (which means “God with us”).

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

**Silent Night, Holy Night** \* ..... [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=093\\_hkKbK38](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=093_hkKbK38)

Reading: Luke 2:22-33

**Luke 2, NIV**

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s

Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

<sup>32</sup> a **light** for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup> The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

\* Light candle(s) as this song is sung.

**Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne** ..... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4Bf0IowI3k>

Reading: Hebrews 1:1-3; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Revelation 21:1-5,22-27

**Hebrews 1, NIV**

<sup>1</sup>In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through

whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup>The Son is the **radiance** of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

**1 Peter 2, NIV**

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of

darkness into his wonderful **light**. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**Revelation 21, NIV**

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup>‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

<sup>5</sup>He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>22</sup>I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup>The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it **light**, and the Lamb is its lamp. <sup>24</sup>The nations will walk by its **light**, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. <sup>25</sup>On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup>The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. <sup>27</sup>Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

**Joy to the World** ..... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIBNSvLYtIE>

Unison reading: 1 John 1:5-7

**1 John 1, NIV**

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is **light**; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we claim to have fellowship with him

and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the **light**, as he is in the **light**, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Prayers of thanks for God’s faithfulness to his promise to send us His light in Christ.

Prayers of commitment to celebrate the Christ of Christmas above all.