



The ABC's Of Christmas
First Presbyterian Church of Watertown
December 24, 2023 4:30pm

Prelude Music

Pastor's Greeting

***Carol "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

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!

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.

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

***Evening Prayer**

Introduction

The ABC's of Christmas



is for **Angel**, Gabriel, who begins the story with a greeting to a girl named Mary. That angel said: "Good evening! You are beautiful with God's beauty, beautiful inside and out. God be with you! God has a surprise for you: you are going to have a baby boy!"

B is for **Bethlehem**, where our story takes place. People traveled from far and wide to arrive in the city; it was a very busy place.

C is for a **Census**. A census is a way of counting people, and everyone had to go to the town where they were born. This is why Bethlehem was so busy. Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem because that is where Joseph was from. When they got there, there was no place for them to stay. So they settled down in a barn with the animals.

D is for the **Donkey** that carried Mary and Joseph on their long journey to Bethlehem to be counted.

E is for **Exhausted**. That's how everyone felt when they arrived - tired from all the traveling.

F is for **Family**. Mary and Joseph's family got bigger that night long ago in Bethlehem when Jesus was born.

***Carol** "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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.

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!

G

is for the **Good News** about to be shared with all the earth. This is what was said: There were shepherds camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises:

Glory to God in the heavenly heights.

Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.

As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed.

H

is for **Herds** because there were all kinds of animals where Jesus was born, and flocks of sheep in the field with the shepherds when they heard the good news.

I

is for our **Imaginations** that we have to use tonight to imagine the story of Jesus' birth.

J

is for **Joy**. Joy is one of the greatest things God has given to us. And we have a lot of joy tonight because of the birth of Jesus!

K is for **Kindness**, shown by the innkeeper that night. He allowed a tired family to stay in the stable when there was no room in the inn. In a world where you can be anything, always be kind.

L is for the **Love** we share with one another all through the year and especially at Christmas.

Carol “Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
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 side until morning is nigh.
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 take us to heaven to live with you there.

M is for the Manger. A manger is usually used to hold food for animals, but it was the only place that Mary and Joseph had for their new baby to sleep. It was not like a crib, but it was warm and safe.

N is for **Noel**, another word for Christmas. It means new birth. That’s what is happening in our story tonight, and it happens every year.

O is for **Offering**. There were many people who came to give gifts to Jesus when he was born, and God gave us the greatest gift of all in Jesus. That’s why at every church

service we pass around a plate, so we can give our gifts back to God. In a moment those plates are going to be passed around and everything we collect tonight will be given to an organization called *The Women of Grace*. *The Women of Grace* are widows who live in Malawi, and your offering tonight will help them with jobs, places to live, and hope!

Offering

“March of The Toys”

Victor Herbert

P is for **Prayer and Praise and Pondering**, all different ways people reacted to the amazing thing that happened that first Christmas. We pray and praise and ponder even today at all the wonderful things God has done for us. What are some of the wonderful things God has done for you? Call them out! Now, let’s say our prayers together.

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Q is for **Quiet**, something we all need a little of this time of year.

R is for **Revelation**. That’s a fancy word that means God is showing us who God is by being born as a baby.

S is for one **Special Star** that lit up the night sky to let the world know that Jesus was born. This special star also let the Wise Ones know where Jesus was born so that they could go and give him presents.



is for **Trust**, and we thank God that we can trust, the grown ups who love us and take care of us, and all the other people in our lives who help us to grow.



is for **Unity**. Just look around at all the different people here tonight. God's love has brought us together!



is for **Vulnerable**. A little child like Jesus needs to be cared for, and like Jesus, God cares for us!



is for **Wonder**. It is simply amazing that God loves us so much to send his only son to live with us.



is for **Xmas**. The letter X is the first letter of Jesus' name in the Greek language.



is for **You!** I'm so glad you came to worship tonight and to hear the story of Christmas. Tonight would not have been possible without each one of you.



is for **Zeal**. Zeal means 'passion,' and I want each and every one of you to passionately share the good news of Jesus with everyone you meet.

Lighting The Christ Candle

We light this candle as a sign that Jesus is among us.

God is here! Hooray!

Carol “Silent Night”

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.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.

Glories stream from heaven afar, heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

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

***Blessing**

***Carol** “Joy To The World”

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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

***Passing The Peace of Christ**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you! Merry Christmas!

Christmas Luminaries

In Memory of:

Harry & Genevieve Bingle
Barbara Bingle Flynn
Ted & Jeanette Greene
June & Charles Haugen
Eleanor C. Greene
Kathryn Barney
Chris "Kit" Fearon
Roger & MaryEtta White
Shirley & Dana Fearon
Ward B. Gorman
Carol S. Gorman
Jennifer Lynn Young
Ruth A. Peck Salmon & David C. Salmon
Louise C. Nantz and John D. Nantz
Lebon Haverstock
Elouise Nantz Salmon
William Smith
John Deneen
Alverta Deneen
Milton Deneen
James Deneen
Caundell Word
Glenn Deneen
Alfred Deneen
Henry & Audrey Kieff
Grace M. Kieff
Jack & Louise Dillenback
Robert W. & Hazel B. Purcell
David & Jessie Kimball Otis
Victor & Helen Wilder
Ella Rienbeck
Norman R. Ahlheim
John and Grace Ahlheim
Norman L. and Mary Ahlheim
Dr. Bart Van Slyke
Elaine Morenus
Robert Weltzer
Judith N. George
Dr. Wendell D. George
Frances S. George
Thomas N. Nagle
Sallie M. Nagle

Given By:

Carl & Janna Bingle
Carl & Janna Bingle
Carl & Janna Bingle
Carl & Janna Bingle
Carl & Janna Bingle
Carl & Janna Bingle
Carl & Janna Bingle
Heather & Jonathan White
Heather & Jonathan White
Heather & Jonathan White
Maureen P. Gorman
Maureen P. Gorman
Maureen P. Gorman
Peter & Shirley Salmon
Peter & Shirley Salmon
Peter & Shirley Salmon
Peter & Shirley Salmon
Cindy Smith
Cindy Smith
Cindy Smith
Cindy Smith
Cindy Smith
Cindy Smith
Cindy Smith
Cindy Smith
Cindy Smith
Kevin Kieff
Kevin Kieff
Kevin Kieff
Kevin Kieff
Kevin Kieff
Kevin Kieff
Kevin Kieff
Kevin Kieff
Gretchen Ahlheim Fields
Gretchen Ahlheim Fields
Gretchen Ahlheim Fields
Ann Van Slyke
Ann Van Slyke
Ann Van Slyke
The Family
The Family
The Family
The Family
The Family

In Memory of:

Daniel C. Petrus
Ted and Betty Fibison
Samuel Watson
Fred and Janice Haggett
Pat and Cy Lynaugh
Frances G. Gibson
William C. Gibson
Elizabeth G. Gibson
Donald J. Gorman
James T. Gorman
Douglas and Jean Elwood
Kim Oun Duck & Kim Kylon Sur
Ray and Barbara Elwood
David Elwood
Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Pfaff
Virginia Fox Moeller
Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Pfaff, Sr.
George Blakeman
Abigail Young
Kall Family Members
John P. McCreary
Judith N. George
John F. Wright
Linda Kast
Paul Linderman
Donna Linderman
Keith & Lillian Kimball
John F. Wright
Linda Kast
Darcy Wong
George McCullough
Ellen McCullogh
Anne and Sam Demion
Leroy and Helen Fluno
Charles and Shirley Fluno
Patricia A. Fluno
Pat Phillips
Shari A. Harwood
Roger D. Harwood
Nancy J. Roshia
Ted and Vivian Burgoon
Phil and Edith Smith
Kay and Don Long
Alicia Pratt
Jane and William Stirling
Kenneth and Frances Barden

Given By:

The Family
Deanne Scanlon
Deanne Scanlon
Stacey Bristow
Stacey Bristow
Bob and Bunny Gorman
Bob and Bunny Gorman
Bob and Bunny Gorman
Bob and Bunny Gorman
Bob and Bunny Gorman
John and Kim
Young Soon Kim Murray
John R. Elwood and Kim Murray
John R. Elwood and Kim Murray
Rebecca and William Brown
Rebecca and William Brown
Rebecca and William Brown
Janet Blakeman & Marcia Bulger
Janet Blakeman & Marcia Bulger
Nancy Kall
Jenny Whitenack
Her Grandchildren
John J., Julia, John P. & James Wright
The Wright Family
Beth Linderman & Family
Beth Linderman & Family
Robert Kimball & Family
John J., Julia, John P. and James Wright
The Wright Family
Rick Papin and John Wrape
Russ & Linda McCullough
Russ and Linda McCullough
Russ & Linda McCullough
Gail Fluno, Sarah Thomas & Family
Gail Fluno, Sarah Thomas & Family
Gail Fluno, Sarah Thomas & Family
Gail Fluno, Sarah Thomas & Family
Gail Fluno, Sarah Thomas & Family
Gail Fluno, Sarah Thomas & Family
Gail Fluno, Sarah Thomas & Family
Gail Fluno, Sarah Thomas & Family
Pastor Andrew, Katie and Theo Long
Pastor Andrew, Katie and Theo Long
Pastor Andrew, Katie and Theo Long
Christine Stirling
Christine Stirling
The Barden Family

In Memory of:

Don and Nori Grout
Rachel and Donald Sprague
Donald F. Sprague
Randy Gadbaw
Elaine Marcellus
Sarah Sprague
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Brooks
Mr. & Mrs. T. Urling Walker
Wendy Walker
Constance Walker Monroe
Carl & Mary Pike
John Pike
John Bell
Jean and Rick Howe
Dot and Jack Bell
Peter Howe

In Honor of:

Cynthia R. Ahlheim
Ellen McCullough
Don and Wendy Long
Radio and Video Volunteers
Sunday Sextons and Liturgists
Sunday School Teachers
Fellowship Coordinators
Imelda O. Gorman
Deanne Scanlon
Louise Jeffries
Katie Speno

Given By:

Philip and Emily Sprague
Philip and Emily Sprague
Philip and Emily Sprague
Philip and Emily Sprague
Philip and Emily Sprague
Philip and Emily Sprague
Peter and Laurie Pike
Peter and Laurie Pike
Peter and Laurie Pike
Peter and Laurie Pike
Peter and Laurie Pike
Peter and Laurie Pike
Peter and Laurie Pike
Linya Bell
Linya Bell
Linya Bell
Linya Bell

Given By:

Gretchen Ahlheim Fields
Russ & Linda McCullough
Pastor Andrew, Katie and Theo Long
Pastor Andrew, Katie and Theo Long
Pastor Andrew, Katie and Theo Long
Pastor Andrew, Katie and Theo Long
Pastor Andrew, Katie and Theo Long
Bob and Bunny Gorman
Liz Bonisteel & Michael Stratton
Liz Bonisteel
Liz Bonisteel