

### *A Prayer for Christmas Eve*

O gracious Light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing thy praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Thou art worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.

On this long night, we wait with expectation. As those of old listened through the night for the first cry of the Christ child, so we listen, knowing that his cry is our cry, his birth is our birth, his life is our life - and his cry is heard.

With your first breath, O Christ, we breathe our first. With all creation and with the heavenly host of angels, our breath becomes song and we praise thee at thy coming. At Christmas is thy birth, a new day's dawn which does not set until it comes to evening on Good Friday, yet then again to rise in the eternal dawn of Easter.

Let these glad tidings of great joy ring out in our ears and our hearts. Let us peer with the Holy Family upon our Redeemer's face. Let us treasure up all these things, and ponder them in our hearts.

O Jesus Christ, gift of all gifts, in you we are given so much that heaven can give no more. On this Christmas Eve night, we listen, we look, and we keep watch. For you, O Lord, my soul waits, and in your word I hope. My soul waits for the Lord, more than they that watch for the morning,  
more than they that watch for the morning. Amen.

### **Our Staff and Leaders in Worship**

Minister: Pastor Noah McIntee

Organist: Gay Cochrane

Choir Director: Arlene Kintz

Hand Bell Choir Director: Bob Mazurek

Tonight's Elder in Charge: Scott Heinz

### **Contact us at the Parish Office in Polson**

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<b><u>Class of 2024</u></b>	<b><u>Class of 2025</u></b>	<b><u>Class of 2026</u></b>
<b><i>Dayton Session</i></b>		
Ron Tjaden Nancy Cain	Dave Waterman, Clerk Rich Guttchen	Vivien Lambeth Bob Payne
<b><i>Polson Session</i></b>		
Dick Kintz Randy Stuber Marsha Anson	Ross Sommers Becky Dupuis Lynn Kelly	Scott Heinz, Clerk Reed Yeater Tricia Campbell
<b><i>Polson Deacons</i></b>		
Karen Huffine Diana Luke Aaron Luke	Keran Moderie	June Jorgenson, Chair Shirley Rorvik Marj Burgan

# Flathead Lake Parish

## Dayton and Polson Presbyterian Churches



## **Christmas Eve** ***A Service of Scripture and Song***

The **vision** of the Flathead Lake Parish is to be the heart and hands of Jesus Christ. Our **mission** is to renew our faith, grow our faith, and live our faith. Together, we are a community which is welcoming, supportive, renewing, and empowering.

## Opening Prelude

## Words of Welcome

## Readings at the Advent Wreath

*During the four weeks of Advent, we have marked the weeks with increasing light. This evening we light the center and final candle, the Christ Candle!*

## ✠ Congregational Carols

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful” # 41*

*“Away in a Manger” #25*

## Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ, we come to see you at your birth. We are beckoned to come by you who have come to us. When heaven and earth were worlds apart, you united them both in your own self.

We come with repentance, and we seek from you forgiveness. We humbly offer to you this prayer, and all of our praises, as we join our voices together with you, O Lord, who taught us to pray saying,

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.

## Assurance of Pardon

✠ Song of Response #579

*Gloria Patri*, traditional tune

## ✠ Congregational Carols

*“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent” # 5*

*“Angels We Have Heard on High” # 23*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

## Scripture & Meditation

John 1:1–18

**Solo** “O Holy Night” **Randy Stuber**

## Scripture & Meditation

Colossians 1:15–20

## ✠ Congregational Carol

*“Silent Night, Holy Night” # 60*

## Lighting the Candles, Sharing our Light

## Closing Scripture Reading

*As the closing Scripture is read, the candles will be lit. Starting from the aisle, the flame will be passed to each person with the lit candle remaining upright while the unlit candle is held over top to receive the flame and share the light with others.*

## **Luke 2:1-20**

It happened in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus to register the whole world. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And so all went to be registered, each to their own city. Joseph went up also, from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because of his being of the house and family of David, to be registered with Mary his betrothed, she being with child.

It happened that in their time there, the days were fulfilled for her to give birth and she gave birth to a son, her firstborn, and she swaddled him and laid him in a manger because there was no space for them in the lodgings.

And Shepherds were in that same region, camping in the field, watchfully watching over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, so now they were fearfully fearing with great fear.

And the angel said to them, “Do not fear, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people. For unto you is born today a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby swaddled and lying in a manger.”

All of a sudden there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among the people with whom he is pleased!”

And it happened that as the angels were departing from them into heaven, the shepherds were saying to one another, “Let’s travel on to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

And they went hurriedly and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. Having now seen it, they declared the things that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it marveled at what the shepherds told them. But Mary was treasuring up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

## ✠ Congregational Carol

*“Joy to the World, the Lord is Come” # 40*

## ✠ The Benediction

## Postlude

✠ Please rise, in body or in spirit