

# Creekside Church of the Brethren

December 24, 2005, 7:00 P.M.

23818 CR 10, Elkhart (interim location)  
1716 Benham Ave. Elkhart, IN 46516 (office)

## The Celebration of Christmas Eve

And it is important, maybe even crucial,  
that Jesus' birth happened among the animals  
because it sets us in our rightful place;  
not at the center where we like to be, expect to be;  
but as one with all the rest of God's creation, animal, vegetable, mineral—  
yes, the very stars on high present and witnessing the birth of God  
into the heart of his own creation.

--from J. Barrie Shepherd's poem, "Angels and Animals"

PRELUDE

HYMN (insert)

*"Longing for Light"*

PRESENTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sue Noffsinger

One: Rejoice! Celebrate! Be joyful!

**All: God's promise is fulfilled. His love is born to us this holy night.**

One: Rejoice!

**All: Rejoice in new life... God's infinite love.**

One: Let us celebrate the Christ child coming to be with us.

**All: Yes! Let us celebrate and welcome the promised child of light.**

One: Glory to God in the highest!

**All: Praise be to God for the one who brings light. Let his light shine in our lives.**

One: Let his light shine in our church

**All: Glory to God in the highest! Rejoice! Let his light shine!**

\*HYMN NO. 318 (Blue)

*"Joy to the World"*

THE WORDS of INSTITUTION

**His death we proclaim.  
His resurrection we declare.  
His coming we await.**

THE AFFIRMATION (unison)

The bread, which we break, is the communion in the body of Christ.  
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the same loaf.  
The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.  
The cup, which we drink, is our participation in the blood of Christ.

THE INVITATION

Isaiah 55:1-2

COMMUNION

If you are not able to come forward to receive communion,  
you may hold up a hand and you will be served in the pew.

## Candle Lighting Service

\*HYMN

*"Silent Night"*

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

\*Please stand as you are able

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The Advent meditations, Calls to Worship, and invocation prayers were written by Sue Noffsinger.  
The banners and bulletin covers are from Creative Communications for the Parish.

\*INVOCATION PRAYER (unison)

Loving God, we rejoice this holy night. We come with all the faithful to adore Christ the Lord. Thank you for fulfilling the promise by lovingly sending your son to be with us. May the light and love this holy infant brings fill our hearts. Guide us as your light shines in our lives, our church, and in the darkness of our world. Come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel. Amen.

\*HYMN NO. 212 (Blue)

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7  
Isaiah 11:1-6

ANTHEM

*"On This Night"*

Price/Besig

GOSPEL READING

Mark 4:3-8

*"The Christmas Carolers"*

by John Killinger

HYMN NO. 202 (Blue)

*"The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"*

NO. 215 (Blue)

*"What Child is This"*

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20

ANTHEM

*"Christmas Lullaby"*

Rutter

MEDITATION

**"The Mystery and the Manure of Christmas"**

David Bibbee

ANTHEM

*"African Alleluia"*

Harlan

### The Sacrament of Communion

\*THE THANKSGIVING (unison)

O God of glory and Lord of love, you gave us Jesus, your only Son, that we may have power to become your children through Him. He existed before the world was called into being; he was born of a humble virgin, lying in a crib, and he walked on earth as a man. He became poor so that by his poverty we might become rich; he humbled himself that we might be exalted; he gave us peace and joy when we were without hope and without God. Therefore with the whole company of saints in heaven and on earth, we celebrate the birth of our Saviour and we sing with joy. Amen.

## Silent night, holy night

STILLE NACHT Irregular

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight,  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, Love's pure light,  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light.

'round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child! Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing, "Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ra - diant, beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
 With the an - gels let us sing "Al - le - lu - ia" to our King,

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born."  
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 "Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born."

**Welcome to the Creekside Church for the celebration of Christmas Eve.** We are glad you have come to worship with us, and hope the service will be meaningful to you. A **toddler's nursery** service is being provided in the classroom at the end of the foyer. At the conclusion of the service, please join us downstairs for fellowship and refreshments. An abbreviated Christmas Day worship will be held tomorrow morning at 10:00 A.M. Thank you for being our guests this evening!

Following the service, Christmas Day offerings can be placed in the plates located in the foyer. This evening and tomorrow morning will be the last opportunity to make contributions for 2005. *This is only for members of our church, and guests are not expected to give an offering.*

Our new facility is under construction at 60455 CR 113 between CR's 26 and 28. Services at the new location will begin in May 2006. Visit us on the web at [www.creeksideconnected.com](http://www.creeksideconnected.com).

**Today: December 24, 2005, 7:00 P.M.**

Preaching.....	David Bibbee
Pianist .....	David Gilliland
Worship Leader .....	Sue Noffsinger
Hymn Leader.....	Jan Berkebile
Anthem .....	Adult Choir
Flute .....	Becca McFadden
Acolyte.....	Joel McFadden
Worship Childcare.....	Amber Rodgers
Sound System Engineer .....	Gary Arnold

**Christmas Eve**

**Our Mission:**

Because we are God's beloved in Christ, united in the Spirit we

**Seek** God's love in our lives

**Celebrate** God's love in vital worship

**Share** God's love through acceptance, service, and witness

