

HOMILY

OFFERING

Joy to the World

ZSJ Chancel Choir

THE PRAYERS

Glory to God in the highest.

And peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

Blessed are you, Emmanuel, You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.

Blessed are you, son of Mary. You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

HYMN OF LIGHT

Night of Silence

on screens

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The candles are extinguished

BLESSING

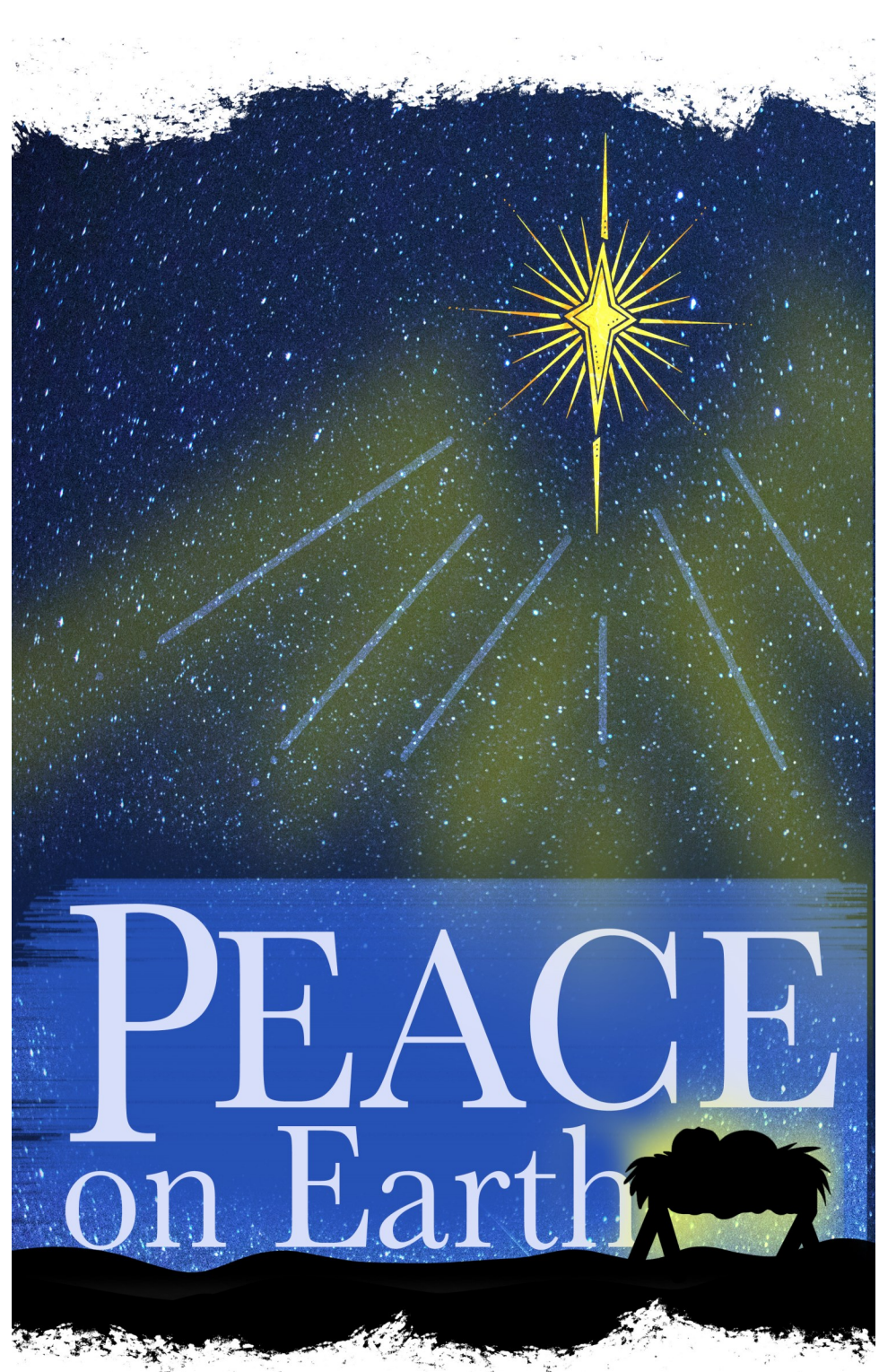
May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

LBW #39

POSTLUDE



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

Zion St. John Lutheran Church

Being the Body of Christ

Pastor Kim Wills

422 Sherman St., Box 269, Sheffield, IA 50475

Phone: 892-4010 Pastor's Cell: 641-425-9453

Pastor's Email: pastor@zionstjohn.org

Leah Cruz: Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Cell: 641-373-7015 Email: youth@zionstjohn.org

December 24, 2024

10:00 p.m.

Tonight's Worship Assistants

Organist: Cindy H **Lector:** Alice G

Acolyte: Lillian W **Crucifer:** Jameson O

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy.
Fleeting.
Fragile.
A gift given.

Joy.
Even in the eyes of a cancer patient...
The fiber of the being of one abused...
The heart of a grieving spouse.

Joy.
Because Mary had a baby.
Angels sang.
Shepherds witnessed.

Joy.
God still living among us
In word, water, bread, wine,
the church.
The earthly conveying the eternal.

Joy to the world!

Steven L. U
Former Bishop, Northeastern Iowa Synod

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Breath of Heaven

Caitlin Tauro

with ZSJ Handbell Choir

CHRISTMAS DIALOG

Jesus Christ is the light of the world!

He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven".

In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

HYMN

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

LBW #60

GREETING AND PRAYER

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of His glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

see insert

The Retz/ Tauro Families

Congregation response: **Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

READING **Isaiah 9:2-7**

SPECIAL MUSIC *This Holy Night* *Retz/Tauro/ Wills Families*

READING **Micah 5:2-5a**

SPECIAL MUSIC *One Child* *ZSJ Chancel Choir*

READING **Luke 1:46-55**

HYMN *Away in a Manger* *LBW #67*

A TELLING OF THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL *Luke 2: 1-20*

SPECIAL MUSIC *Go Tell it on the Mountain* *ZSJ Bell Choir*