

# First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

We welcome Doris Robinson, Synodically Authorized Ministry student,  
as Pastor Adam is away at Grace, Virginia and St. John's, Bluff Springs

*Greetings and Welcome*

*Prelude by Faith Singers – “We Are Waiting for Jesus” ACS 905*

## GATHERING

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath with the children*

*Song – “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” ELW 254 (piano)*

*Tune of “Love Divine, All Love’s Excelling” ELW 631*

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.**
- 2 Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

*\*Call to Worship – “These Are the Days of Elijah” (piano)*

**1. These are the days of Elijah, declaring the word of the Lord;  
and these are the days of your servant, Moses, righteousness being restored.  
And though these are days of great trial, of famine and darkness and sword,  
still we are the voice in the desert crying, ‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord.’”**

*Refrain: Behold, he comes riding on the clouds,  
shining like the sun at the trumpet call;  
lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee, out of Zion's hill salvation comes.*

**2. These are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh;  
and these are the days of your servant, David, rebuilding a temple of praise.  
These are the days of the harvest, the fields are as white in the world,  
and we are the lab'ers in your vineyard, declaring the work of the Lord. Refrain**

*Confession and Forgiveness*

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

L: Beloved, in the season of Advent we look to Christ as our light and salvation, who came, who is here, and who will come again. Let us confess our sins to our God who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

L: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we have not welcomed your light. We have strayed from your paths. We sow division instead of unity. We look to our own desires when so many others are in need. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of life, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

L: People of God, the Light of the World is dawning, and its warmth has touched your heart. By the grace of God, you are forgiven, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*\*Sharing Christ's Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.*

*Children's Sermon*

- 1 I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

*Refrain: I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

- 2 I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy word. *Refrain*
- 3 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

## WORD

*First Reading:* Isaiah 40:1-5

Reader: John Williams

40 Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:

‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.’

Reader: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

*Scripture Song* – “Prepare the Way of the Lord” (piano)

**Prepare the way of the Lord; tell ev’rybody about him.  
Prepare the way of the Lord; tell ev’rybody he’s coming.  
Shout for joy Jerusalem. Shout for joy you nations of God.  
Jesus is coming to save the world. Prepare him a place in your heart.  
Prepare the way of the Lord. Repeat**

*\*Gospel Reading:* Luke 1:5-25

Reader: John Williams

<sup>5</sup>In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup>Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. <sup>7</sup>But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

<sup>8</sup>Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, <sup>9</sup>he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. <sup>10</sup>Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. <sup>11</sup>Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. <sup>14</sup>You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup>for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup>He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.’ <sup>18</sup>Zechariah said to the angel, ‘How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.’ <sup>19</sup>The angel replied, ‘I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup>But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.’

<sup>21</sup>Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. <sup>22</sup>When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. <sup>23</sup>When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

<sup>24</sup>After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, <sup>25</sup>‘This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.’

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

\**Song* – “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” ELW 249 *(organ)*

- 1 **On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!**
- 2 **Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.**
- 3 **We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.**
- 4 **Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more;  
oh, let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.**
- 5 **All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

*Sermon* – “The Meaning of Memory”

*Song of the Day* – “Canticle of the Turning” ELW 723 *(piano)*

1. **My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?**

2. **Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.**

*Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

3. **From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.**
4. **Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.**  
*Refrain*

*\*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*\*Prayers*

*Stewardship Time*

“Advent Hymn”, arr. Nockels  
*Kelly Hartz*

*\*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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

SENDING

*\*Closing Prayer*

*\*Benediction*

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

*\*Sending Song – “People of Hope”*

*(piano)*

*Refrain: We are people of hope alive in the myst'ry, growing in faith, learning to love.  
We are people of hope throughout all of hist'ry, held by the one who will never let go.*

**1. We are dead in our striving for wealth and for might,  
But God rich in mercy has loved us to life. Refrain**

**2. We are what God has made us, created in Christ,  
For justice and mercy to be our way of life. Refrain**

**In the journey ev'ry day we're led by the Word, saved by grace. Refrain**

*\*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude*

## Worship Assistants

Assistants: Doris Robinson & Lisa Taylor  
Greeters: Judy Dillard & Vicki Robson  
Reader: John Williams  
Usher: Benen Dichsen  
Pastor: Adam Dichsen  
Music Director: Jean Welch  
Pianist: Jean Welch  
Organist: Sandi Watts  
Drummer: John Demien  
Financial Assistants: Barb Davenport & Lisa Taylor  
Coffee Host: Laura Sweatman



### Singers:

Marilyn Dichsen	Adam Krohe	Melissa Street
Kelly Hartz	Nichole Licht	Carol VanderKloot
Terri Kimler	Kris Roth	

### Church Council Members:

Barb Davenport	Kelly Hartz	Kelly Street
Ken Devlin	Mike Oldenettel	Lisa Taylor
Naomi Hahn	Karen Sibert	

The altar plants are given today by Sharon Zuiderveld  
in memory of Rudy's birthday on November 26

### *Song Credits*

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## News Updates

### What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, November 27, 10:30am: Sunday School

Wednesday, November 30, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

11:30am: Advent Allegro Lunch

12:15pm: Advent Allegro Concert: The Extension Chords



Thursday, December 1, 5pm: Parish Worship Meeting  
6pm: Church Council Meeting  
6pm: Exaltation Ringer Rehearsal  
6:45pm: Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 3, 9am: Men's Breakfast

Sunday, December 4, 10:30am: Sunday School

Tuesday, December 6, 11:00-6:00: Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Midland's

Wednesday, December 7, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group  
11:30am: Advent Allegro Lunch  
12:15pm: Advent Allegro Concert: Tyler Carpenter on Marimba

Thursday, December 8, 6pm: Exaltation Ringer Rehearsal  
6:45pm: Choir Rehearsal

### **Advent Allegro Lunchtime Concerts**

We have a great lineup for this year's Advent Allegro concert series.

November 30: "The Extension Chords" (*with Jean Welch*)

December 7: Tyler Carpenter on Marimba

December 14: Jacksonville High School Madrigals

December 21: Anna & Bethany Ferraro

The brief concerts will last approximately 30 minutes and begin at 12:15pm. Lunch of soup, chips, fruit, and dessert will be served beginning at 11:30am and after the concert for \$5.

We could use some help with serving the meal and providing cookies and soup. If you would like to pitch in, **sign up on the sheet on the counter by the coffee sales** or contact the church office (245-8919 or [faithlutheran62650@frontier.com](mailto:faithlutheran62650@frontier.com)).

### **Reverse Advent Project**

Faith will partner once again with our friends at Grace Lutheran Church in Virginia in our 2022 Reverse Advent project, collecting food for individuals and families in need. Reverse Advent projects add up rather than counting down to Christmas, by adding a different food item each day of Advent. You may choose one of two ways to be a part of the fun. If you want to collect food, take home a festive bag located on the coat tree next to the Working Cross in the Gathering Area. You will find the suggested list of food items attached to each bag. If you don't want to collect food, money donations are also needed. This year we hope to use these to enable us to buy fresh food items (e.g., eggs, milk, bread, fruit, vegetables) to add to each gift. We encourage you to reach out to friends and neighbors to participate along with us. Take them a bag and list and let them experience the joy of

sharing the spirit of the holiday. Then volunteer to bring their bag back to church. Better yet, invite them to an Advent Allegro concert or a worship service and they can place their bag with the others. If you find your bag too small for all your items, just take another one as needs arise. Tie the handles together when you return your bags to the church. We hope to fill the area under the Working Cross with bags of food for our neighbors. Please bring your bags to the church by Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

### **Discipleship Group**

Join us at 10:00am on Wednesday, December 21, in the Faith Library as we meet for Bible study, discussion, and fellowship. This month, we'll explore the special relationship between cousins Elizabeth and Mary, mother of Jesus. If you have questions, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at [khartz@sompo-intl.com](mailto:khartz@sompo-intl.com).

### **Salvation Army Bell Ringing**

Faith is scheduled to ring bells on **Tuesday, December 6** from 11-6 at Midland's Farm & Home (1203 W. Morton Ave.). If you would like to ring bells, please sign up on the sheet on the Coffee Sales counter by the coat closet, or let Sharon Zuiderveld know at **217-883-1258**. We will be indoors and will have one-hour time slots available. Please consider helping our community with this worthwhile event.

### **Poinsettias**

If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia to help decorate the church for Christmas, please sign up on the sheet in the gathering area and drop your check (or cash), for \$15.00 made out to Faith Lutheran Church with a notation for *Poinsettia*, into the decorated box. Please indicate if the poinsettia is in honor or memory of someone special to you. **Please sign up by December 11.** After the Christmas Day service, please take your plant home to enjoy. Questions? Call Kris Roth (245-8919, Tuesday-Friday mornings).

### **Music Rehearsals**

**Exaltation Ringers** meet on Thursdays from 6-6:30 pm, and **Chancel Choir** meets on Thursdays from 6:45-7:30 pm. We would love to have you join us - if you're interested in either of these groups, please contact me at [jrwelch53@msn.com](mailto:jrwelch53@msn.com) or 217/652-7009. The choirs offer so much - not only do they add glorious praise to God during the worship services, but the fellowship between the members is also a gift. Hope you will join us!!  
*Jean Welch, Director of Music*

**Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea:** Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50** regular; **\$7.50** decaf & flavored; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$5.50** hot chocolate—milk & dark; **New Item: \$5.50** coffee pods). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

### **Adult Faith Formation Winter Retreat – Central/Southern IL Synod**

*December 9-10 at King's House Retreat Center, Belleville*

Everyone is invited to the C/SIS Adult Faith Formation winter retreat for worship, fellowship, and a time of learning with the theme “The Doctrine of Justification: A Trinitarian Approach – Proclaiming Jesus Christ in Today's World.” The guest presenter will be the Rev. Winston Persaud, professor of systematic theology at Wartburg Theological Seminary and director of the Center for Global Theologies. For the schedule, program description, and presenter biography, **see the flyer on the Coffee Sales counter.**

The cost is \$120 per person with meals included. Lodging is included with the first 30 registrations. **Please register by December 1<sup>st</sup>.** You can register at <https://www.csis-elca.org/event/aff-retreat-22/>. For more information, please contact Pastor Kara Wiechmann ([pastorkaraw@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkaraw@gmail.com)) or Pastor Blake Duncan ([prblake1@yahoo.com](mailto:prblake1@yahoo.com)).

### **Clothes for the Prison**

Now that Covid is nearly over, Chaplain Kean has requested new or gently used men's clothing for those offenders ready to start their journey home. If you have any to donate, please bring them to Sharon Zuiderveld's office in the church at your convenience. Any and all sizes are appreciated.

### **Jacksonville Symphony Chorale**

The Jacksonville Symphony Chorale is holding rehearsals for their Christmas concert on **Tuesdays at 7pm** in the McGaw Fine Arts Building (room 124) on the Illinois College campus. They are blessed to again have the JHS choir joining them under the direction of Stephanie Soltermann! If you would like to sing with the chorale, contact Terri Benz (217-370-2472), or just show up at the rehearsal. The Christmas Concert will be held in Rammelkamp Chapel on the IC campus on Sunday, December 17 at 3:00pm.

### **Fellowship of Christian Athletes Annual Banquet**

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes will host our annual banquet on **Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**, from 4:00 - 6:00pm, at Hamilton's in Jacksonville. We would like to ask Faith to host a table (or 2) at the banquet. (Larry and Laura Sweatman have a table, and we could expand that to 2 tables if others from Faith would like to attend.) There is no cost to host a table.

This is a great opportunity for you to invite people to hear the Gospel, while enjoying a great meal and building relationships. This year's keynote speaker is SHG Football Coach Ken Leonard. Coach does a great job sharing how his walk with Christ has changed his life and how he coaches. All of us can apply this message to our lives. We will also have some local coaches and athletes share how God is working in their lives.

We will be happy to accommodate any number of guests that you would like to bring. Let me know if you have any questions (tsweatman@fca.org). We would like to know if you can host a table **by November 29**. We are looking forward to a great day of encouragement! Thank you for considering the opportunity to support the ministry of FCA! Todd Sweatman, Western IL Area Director

### **Eastern Europe Crisis Response -- Ukraine**

There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter, basic necessities, and pastoral care. Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water, and hygiene kits. Your gifts will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region. **Give through your congregation**; make check out to Faith with “Eastern Europe Crisis Response” in the memo line.