

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Drew Snodgrass – “Gabriel’s Message,” Basque Traditional

GATHERING

Lighting of the Advent Wreath with the children

Song – “He Came Down” ELW 253

(piano)

- 1. He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
Hallelujah forever.**
- 2. He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
Hallelujah forever.**
- 3. He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
Hallelujah forever.**
- 4. He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
Hallelujah forever**

**Call to Worship – “Christ, Be Our Light” ELW 715*

(organ)

- 1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

*Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

2. **Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.**
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. Refrain
3. **Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.**
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. Refrain
4. **Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.**
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. Refrain
5. **Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.**
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. Refrain

**Confession and Forgiveness*

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

C: Amen

P: 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

P: 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 our 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.

P: 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.

Hymn of Praise – “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” ELW 834 (organ)

- 1 **Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!**
- 2 **Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**
- 3 **To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.**
- 4 **Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

Reader: Kelly Hartz

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.’

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!’

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has

touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’ ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’

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

**Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-56*

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ ³⁴Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ ³⁵The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.’ ³⁸Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

⁴⁶And Mary said,
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

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

*Song – “Magnificat”

(piano)

*Solo: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth
to a woman whose name was Mary.*

The angel said to her “Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you.

You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High.”

And Mary said, “I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will.”

**All: 1. My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you,
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.**

Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your kindness evermore.

How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart.

**2. You have cast the mighty down from their thrones,
and uplifted the humble of heart.**

You have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part.

Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice strong your love,

As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore.

*Reprise: My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you.
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.*

Song of the Day – “Will You Come and Follow Me” ELW 798

(organ)

1. **Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**
2. **Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?**
3. **Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**
4. **Will you love the you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**
5. **Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

**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

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”, arr. Pamela Webb Tubbs
Ladies of Faith

MEAL

**Words of Institution*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**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.

Communion Songs:

“We Are Called” ELW 720 (piano)

1. **Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom
of the city of God.**

*Refrain: We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.*

2. **Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and blindness will be no more.**

Refrain

3. **Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!**
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers
united in love. *Refrain*

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People” ELW 256 (*organ*)

- 1 **"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.**
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.
- 2 **For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,**
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.
- 3 **Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.**
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **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 – “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” ELW 543 (organ)*

- 1 **“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.**
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.

**In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."**

**2 "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."**

**3 "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Liddy Stark

Greeters: Debbie, Ethel, & Gayla

Reader: Kelly Hartz

Ushers: Char & Paul Hubbard

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Pianist: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Drummer: John Demien

Financial Assistants: Karen Sibert & Kelly Street

Chancel Committee: Kim Heise

Coffee Host: Martha Krohe



Singers:

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

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 Theresa Savoie
in memory of Louise Savoie's birthday on December 1

Song Credits

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News Updates

What's Coming Up at Faith?

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

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

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

11:30am: Advent Allegro Lunch

12:15pm: Advent Allegro Concert: Tyler Carpenter, Marimba

Thursday, December 8, 6pm: Exaltation Ringer Rehearsal

6:45pm: Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 11, 10:30am: Sunday School

2:00pm: Caroling to the Homebound

5:30pm: Confirmation Class

Wednesday, December 14, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

11:30am: Advent Allegro Lunch

12:15pm: Advent Allegro Concert: JHS Madrigal Singers

Thursday, December 15, 6pm: Church Council Meeting

Advent Allegro Lunchtime Concerts

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

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). Posters are available to post around town, if you'd like to take some.

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.

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 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

Fall Stewardship Appeal: *Building on the Firm Foundation of Christ*

Thank you to all who gave a commitment card for our 2023 stewardship appeal on November 20. If you would still like to make a pledge, more materials are available at the signup counter and can be placed in the offering box or dropped off in the church office. Together, we have wonderful work to do as we build on the firm foundation of Christ.

Youth Bake Sale and Nativity Display

On December 18, join us in the Great Room after worship for some fellowship and delicious treats compliments of our youth and their families. Your purchases will support future retreats. Also, enjoy our display of nativities on loan from YOU! Bring a nativity to share anytime before December 18 and set it up on one of the provided tables in the Great Room. You can pick them up and take them home afterwards.

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.

Care Coordinator Corner

December brings many opportunities to share our joy. The youth and members of the congregation are invited to go **Caroling on Sunday afternoon, December 11** at 2 pm. We plan to visit our Homebound members, followed by hot chocolate and treats back at church. I have an abundance of **Christmas Cards** if you would like to send one to a shut-in or friend in your neighborhood. Also, don't forget to bring one of your own Christmas cards to church to display on the window near the library. *Sharon Zuiderveld*

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).

Ties That Bind - A Women's Retreat

Start your new year off by taking time to reflect on the ties (relationships) that have had an impact on your life while creating new ones at the same time. Women at Faith are invited to join us on Saturday, January 14th from 9:00am to noon for brunch and a macrame plant hanger workshop led by local macrame artist and owner of One Knotty Maker. Cost is \$25 per person and includes all supplies, a plant to take home in your hanger, and brunch. Only 20 spots are available. Sign up at the coffee sales table **by Sunday, January 8th**.

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.

HUGS Giving Tree

Help us care for the 52 children at Pillars of Africa orphanage and school in Uganda through HUGS (Hearts United in God’s Service). A donation of \$35 provides a Christmas gift of shoes, pants, shirts, underwear, and a suitcase for a child. Partnering with Grace in Virginia and St. John’s in Bluff Springs, we have been able to provide for 37 children so far, along with a full Christmas meal! If you would like to give, please write “HUGS Christmas” in the memo line, and take a picture ornament from the tree to hang on your tree at home.

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.

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.