

# Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

*Greetings and Welcome*

*Prelude by Jean Welch, pianist – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” arr. Carlson*

## GATHERING

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath with the children*

*Song – “He Came Down” ELW 253*

- 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 – “We Are Waiting for Jesus” ACS 905*

- 1 We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.  
Sun of justice, shine upon us;  
we are trusting in your promise.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.**

- 2 **We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.  
Loving Shepherd, walk beside us;  
stir our hearts, and gently guide us.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.**

*\*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 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.**

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.*

*Children's Sermon*

*Hymn of Praise* – "Soon and Very Soon" ELW 439, vv. 1, 2, & 4

1. **Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.  
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.  
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**
2. **No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King.  
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King.  
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King.  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**
4. **Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.  
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.  
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**

## WORD

*First Reading:* Micah 5:2-5a

Reader: Mike Fenner

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land  
and tread upon our soil,

we will raise against them seven shepherds  
and eight installed as rulers.

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

*\*Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-15*

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’

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

*\*Song – “Once in Royal David’s City” ELW 269*

**1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.**

- 2 **He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.**
- 3 **And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**
- 4 **Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;  
there his children gather round, bright like stars, with glory crowned.**

*Sermon – “The Power of Parables”*

*Song of the Day – “People of Hope”*

*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***

*\*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*

“Emmanuel”, by Janis Ian and Kye Fleming  
*Faith Singers*

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:*

“Now Is the Time”

*Refrain: Come to us, you who say, “I will not forget you.”*

*Be with us, you who say, “Do not be afraid.”*

*Take hold of us, our hearts, our minds, our whole being.*

*Make us you own, now is the time.*

1. **Spirit of love, crush the pain of hatred. Spirit of hope, stand before our eyes.  
Spirit of light, dance within our darkness.  
Make us you own, now is the time. Refrain**

2. **Spirit of peace, silence tongues of anger. Spirit of life, break the chains of death.**  
**Spirit of joy, overcome our sadness.**  
**Make us you own, now is the time. Refrain**
3. **Spirit of faith, rise above our doubting. Spirit of truth, save us from our lies.**  
**Spirit of God, walk among your people.**  
**Make us you own, now is the time. Refrain**

“Joy Unto the World,” arr. The Afters  
*Faith Singers*

*\*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 – “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” ELW 836*

- 1 **Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!**  
**Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.**  
**Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.**  
**Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**
- 2 **All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,**  
**stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.**  
**Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,**  
**chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.**
- 3 **Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,**  
**wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!**  
**Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;**  
**teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!**

*\*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude*

## Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Marilyn Dichsen

Greeters: Hallie Mayner & Liddy Stark

Reader: Mike Fenner

Ushers: Angie & Mike Fenner

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Pianist: Jean Welch

Drummer: John Demien

Financial Assistants: Barb Davenport & Kelly Hartz

Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw

Coffee Host: Patty Nelson



**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 Angela Spray  
in celebration of her birthday

### *Song Credits*

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## News Updates

### What's Coming Up at Faith?

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

Sunday, December 18, 10:30am: Sunday School

Youth Bake Sale

### Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, December 21, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

10:00am: Discipleship Group in the Library

11:30am: Advent Allegro Lunch

12:15pm: Advent Allegro Concert: Bethany & Anna Ferraro

Thursday, December 22, 6pm: Exaltation Ringer Rehearsal

6:45pm: Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 23, 6pm: Instrumental Rehearsal

7pm: Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 24, 6:30pm: Concert

7pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

### Advent Allegro Lunchtime Concerts

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

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)). 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](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*

## **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](mailto: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 today, 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*

## 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 today, 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup>**.

**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.

## 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.

## **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. The **Christmas Concert** will be held in Rammelkamp Chapel on the IC campus **on Saturday, December 17 at 3:00pm**.

## **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.