

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Pastor Adam & Marilyn Dichsen – “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

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 – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” ELW 257, vv. 1, 2, 7*

- 1 **O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.

Refrain

7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. 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 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 – Story Stones

- 1 **People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Guest, is on the way.**
- 2 **Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Rose, is on the way.**
- 3 **Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Star, is on the way.**
- 4 **Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Reader: Sharon Woodworth

- ¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- ² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
- ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;

all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

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

**Gospel Reading:* Matthew 1:18-23; 2:1-12

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel’,
which means, ‘God is with us.’

²In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

*Song – “We Three Kings” (WOV 646)

1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

*Refrain: Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

Sermon – “The Wisdom of the Wise Guys”

Song of the Day – “Emmanuel”

*(Refrain) Come, come, Emmanuel! Son of God, appear. Heaven and earth, rejoice!
Salvation is drawing near. Salvation is drawing near.*

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. *(Refrain)*

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high, Who ordered all things mightily,
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. *(Refrain)*

3. O come, O Rod of Jesse’s stem; from ev’ry foe deliver them,
That trust your mighty pow’r to save, and give them vict’ry o’er the grave.
(Refrain)

4. O Come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of humankind;
Make all our sad divisions cease, And be for us the King of Peace. *(Refrain)*

*(Coda) Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.
Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**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

“Shepherd’s Song”, by Josh Garrels
sung by Drew Snodgrass

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:

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

**Jesus, name above all names; beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us; blessed Redeemer, Living Word.**

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers” ELW 244

- 1 **Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**
- 2 **The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.**
- 3 **The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.**
- 4 **Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!**

**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 – “The First Noel” ELW 300, vv. 1-3

- 1 **The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

- 2 **They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.** *Refrain*

- 3 **And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.** *Refrain*

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Ken Devlin

Greeter: Lillian Korous

Reader: Sharon Woodworth

Usher: John Williams

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Pianist/Organist: Susan Roegge

Drummer: John Demien

Financial Assistants: Ken Devlin & Karen Sibert

Chancel Committee: Kris Roth

Coffee Host: Barb Davenport



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 Pat Glyshaw
in memory of Bob's birthday on December 19
and by Linda & Melvin Thies
in celebration of their 35th wedding anniversary on December 19

Song Credits

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News Updates

What's Coming Up at Faith?

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

Sunday, December 25, 9:30am: Christmas Day Service set to the tunes
of Christmas Carols

Wednesday, December 28, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group
12pm + 6pm: Pastor's Pick Book Study

Youth Bake Sale and Nativity Display

Join us in the Great Room after worship today 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.

Advent Allegro Lunchtime Concerts

Please join us for our final Advent Allegro concert of the season:

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.

Extension Chords Concert – January 2, 6:00pm at Faith

The Extension Chords concert that was scheduled for November 30 as part of the Advent Allegro series of concerts had to be cancelled due to illness, but they will be here on Monday, **January 2 at 6:00pm!** The Extension Chords is an a capella group that sings 4-part harmony barbershop style. They are all members of the Sound Celebration Chorus in Springfield which is a member of Sweet Adelines International. Please join us in welcoming this group to Faith!

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

Care Coordinator Corner

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*

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 counter **by Sunday, January 8th**.

Doorbell Dinners

Faith's next **Doorbell Dinners** delivery will be **January 9-13**, and there are still some spots to fill. If you are able to help, please sign up in the gathering area (counter by the coat closet) or contact Sharon Zuiderveld.

Annual Reports

Anyone who would like to have an **Annual Report** included in the Annual Report Packets for 2022, please have your report to the church office (by e-mail is preferred) **by January 15**. The Annual Meeting will be held on January 29, and we need time to duplicate the reports into a packet to distribute on Sunday, January 22.

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.