

Lessons and Carols for Christmas

First Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2023

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Marilyn Dichsen & Adam Krohe

– “Like a Rose in Winter,” arr. Handt Hanson & Paul Murakami

Call to Joy: Psalm 98:1, 4-6

Reader: Sharon Woodworth

- ¹ O sing to the Lord a new song,
for God has done marvelous things.
- ⁴ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
- ⁵ Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
- ⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

Gathering Song: “Joy to the World” ELW 267

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Dialogue and Prayer

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

P: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Reader: Carol VanderKloot

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

First Carol: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ELW 257, vv. 1, 4, & 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.

**4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.**

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***

Second Reading: Micah 5:2–5a

Reader: Sharon Woodworth

²But 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.

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

⁴And 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;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

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

Second Carol: "Once in Royal David's City" ELW 269, vv. 1, 2, & 4

- 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.**
- 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.**

Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38

Reader: Carol VanderKloot

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, favored 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 favor 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. 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.

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

Third Carol: "Annunciation and Magnificat"

*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.***

Fourth Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Reader: Sharon Woodworth

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

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

Fourth Carol: "Love Has Come" ELW 292

- 1 **Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**
- 2 **Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.**
- 3 **Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8–20

Reader: Carol VanderKloot

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

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

Fifth Carol: "Angels We Have Heard on High" ELW 289

1 **Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 **Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain**

3 **Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Refrain**

**Prayers*

**Preface (melody: "O Come, All Ye Faithful")*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with you, his servant.**

P: Oh, come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

C: **With hearts uplifted**

Thanks to him we render.

With joy we come before him,

In gratefulness implore him,

With thankful hearts adore him,

Evermore.

P: Thanks and praise to you, our Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: (melody: “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord!
God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav’n and earth cannot contain
All the glory of your name.
Hail, hosanna, God most high!
Blest is he who now draws nigh
In the name of God the king,
Hallelujahs glad we sing.
Hail, hosanna! Praises due
Be forever, Lord, to you!**

**Words of Institution* (melody: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”)

P: Lord Jesus Christ did on that night, The night he was betrayed,
Take bread and wine into his hands And say to all the same:
“Take, eat, this is my body giv’n; take drink, my blood sets you free.
I give them to you from this day forth, A feast in remembrance of me.”

**Lord’s Prayer* (melody: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”)

C: **Our Father, Lord on heav’n’s high throne,
Most holy be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done.
On earth, in heav’n, the same.
Give us this day the food we need;
Forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do not lead;
From evil set us free.**

**Yours is the kingdom; unto you In grateful love we bow;
And yours the pow’r; Lord, let us view Your mighty presence now.
The glory yours; your praise be sung
By all: by women, by men,
In ev’ry land, by ev’ry tongue Forevermore. Amen.**

Hymns during distribution:

—Please take a moment to sign into the welcome folder in your pew —

“Away in a Manger” ELW 277

- 1 **Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
- 2 **The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**
- 3 **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

“What Child Is This?” ELW 296

- 1 **What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**
- 2 **Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!**
- 3 **So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**After distribution* (melody: “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”)

- C: **Oh thank the Lord and sing his praise.
What he has done proclaim!
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice,**

**And proudly bear his name,
Who leads his thankful people forth His promises to claim.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**Lord, let your servant go in peace.
Your word has been fulfilled.
Our eyes have seen the saving work
Which for the world you willed,
The glory of your people now, As light for all revealed.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**Benediction (melody: "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful")*

P: The Lord bless and keep you,
Look with love upon you,
Be gracious, and cause his face
to shine with peace.

**C: Glory to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!
The Savior close beside us,
God's love from harm to hide us,
The Spirit's pow'r to guide us
Evermore!**

Sixth Reading: John 1:1-14

Reader: Sharon Woodworth

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will

of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

Sending Song: “Go Tell It on the Mountain” ELW 290

*Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev’rywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

1. **While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light. Refrain**
2. **The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. Refrain**
3. **Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Credits

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Karen Sibert

Greeter: Kris Roegge

Readers: Carol VanderKloot & Sharon Woodworth

Ushers: Kathy & Robert Trenter

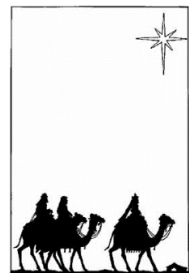
Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Musician: Susan Roegge

Financial Assistants: Ken Devlin & Mike Oldenettel

Chancel Committee: Karen Sibert



Singers:

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

Church Council Members:

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

The poinsettias were donated by members and friends of Faith;
last week, the altar plants were donated
by Gayla Smith in honor of her baptismal birthday
and by Vicki Robson in memory of Kelly Robson

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, December 31, 9:30am: Worship

Wednesday, January 3, 7:00am: Men's Prayer Group

Saturday, January 6, 9:00am: Men's Breakfast

Sunday, January 7, 9:30am: Worship

10:45am: Sunday School

Wednesday, January 10, 7:00am: Men's Prayer Group

News Updates

Doorbell Dinners

Faith's next **Doorbell Dinners** delivery will be **January 8-12**, 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 2023, please have your report to the church office (by e-mail is preferred) **by January 14**. The Annual Meeting will be held on January 28, and we need time to duplicate the reports into a packet to distribute on Sunday, January 21.

Contribution Envelopes for 2024 are available in the gathering area.

Sunday School – next Sunday

Calling all kids! After worship, fellowship, and snacks, we will gather for music and then head to our classes. We have two classes this year, one for pre-K through Kindergarten and the other for early elementary. If you have questions or are interested in helping, contact Patty Nelson at 217-653-3105.

Faith Directory

Thank you for your updated photos and information for our new digital directory! You can access it online by using this QR code. It is password protected, and the password is "faith". If you notice any changes or would like to add your photo, please contact the church office.



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; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$5.50** hot chocolate; **\$6.50** cashews). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

Sign-Up Sheets

are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Sabbatical Update

If you weren't in worship on November 26, you may have missed the official announcement of Pastor Adam's upcoming sabbatical. At our 2023 Annual Meeting, our congregation extended our support to apply for a Lilly Clergy Renewal grant to fund a sabbatical in 2024. While we did not receive the grant, we feel the time is right for Pastor Adam, his family, and our congregation to take time for renewal. He will be taking the months of February-April to unplug from the demands of pastoral ministry and plug into his identity as a husband, father, and Child of God. More details on goals for him and our congregation will be available in January. In the meantime, a “Sabbatical FAQ” sheet has been prepared. You can pick up a copy at Faith and talk to Pastor Adam or any of our Council members for more information (Mindy Carlson, Ken Devlin, Kelly Hartz, Kelly Street, Greg Kimler, Patty Nelson, Mike Oldenettel, and Monica Proefrock). Together, with Pastor Adam, we are grateful to God for the ministry we share and this opportunity for growth and renewal.