

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Sandi Watts

GATHERING

**Call to Worship and Confession*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Silence for Reflection and Confession

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

- 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!**

**Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Loving Lord,

C: When we have strayed, you have called us to come home to you. “Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.” With all our hearts we return to you, and gratefully accept your gentle love, for the sake of the one whose spirit lives in us, Jesus Christ, our loving savior. 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.

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Decorating of the Christmas Tree
with the children*

ELW 257 (piano)

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

WORD

Reading: Joel 2:12-13, 28-29

Reader: Liddy Stark

¹²Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.

²⁸Then afterwards

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

²⁹Even on the male and female slaves,
in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

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

Song – “Spirit of the Living God”

(piano)

**Spirit of the living God fall fresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.**

Sermon – Invitation to Hopeful Living

Song of the Day – “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” ELW 618 (organ)

- 1. Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow’rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore.**
- 2. Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer, shield me with your mighty arm,
Shield me with your mighty arm.**
- 3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell’s destruction, land me safe on Canaan’s side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises, I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.**

**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 of Intercession*

Stewardship Time

“Now the Heavens Start to Whisper” ELW 901

The Faith Singers

–Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew–

**Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**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

“Hark, the Glad Sound” ELW 239 (organ)

- 1 **Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.**
- 2 **He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.**
- 3 **He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.**

- 4 **Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.**

“The Trumpet Sounds the Angels Sing” ELW 531 *(piano)*

1. **The trumpets sound, the angels sing, the feast is ready to begin;
The gates of heav'n are open wide, and Jesus welcomes you inside.**

*Refrain: Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight,
come and revel in heaven's love and light;
Take your place at the table of the King, the feast is ready to begin,
the feast is ready to begin.*

2. **Tables are laden with good things, O taste the peace and joy he brings;
he'll fill you up with love divine, he'll turn your water into wine. Refrain**

3. **The hungry heart he satisfies, offers the poor his paradise;
now hear all heav'n and earth applaud the amazing goodness of the Lord. Refrain**

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Sending of Communion*

*At this time, Communion Assistants who are bringing communion to the homebound
members this month are invited forward. Karen Sibert visits Carol Foley,
Patty Nelson visits Bonnie & Rod Wallace and Helen Cumby,
and Pat Glyshaw visits Gloria Hayes and Martha Sturgeon.
Please keep them in your prayers.*

**Benediction*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you and be
gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “Joy to the World / Joy of the Lord”*

(piano)

1. **Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**The joy, the joy, the joy of the Lord is my strength.
The joy, the joy, The joy of the Lord is my strength.
Oh-oh-oh, He is my hope. The joy, the joy,
The joy of the Lord is my strength.**

2. **Joy to the world! 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.**

**The joy, the joy, the joy of the Lord is my strength.
The joy, the joy, The joy of the Lord is my strength.
Oh-oh-oh, He is my hope. The joy, the joy,
The joy of the Lord is my strength.**

3. **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.**

**The joy, the joy, the joy of the Lord is my strength.
The joy, the joy, The joy of the Lord is my strength.
Oh-oh-oh, He is my hope. The joy, the joy,
The joy of the Lord is my strength. *Repeat***

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song Credits

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The altar plants are given today by
the Roth/Snodgrass families in celebration of Ella & Naomi’s adoption tomorrow

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Pam Devlin
Greeter: Lynette Hamilton
Reader: Liddy Stark
Usher: Pat Glyshaw
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Organist: Sandi Watts
Pianist: Jean Welch
Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen
Financial Assistants: Ken Devlin & Kelly Hartz
Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw
Coffee Host: Kay Schnitker



Singers:

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

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kelly Hartz	Gaylon Martin	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Greg Kimler	Patty Nelson	Kelly Street
Marilyn Dichsen			

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, December 8, 9:30am: Worship
10:30am: Youth Sunday School
10:45pm: Book Group
1:00pm: Blue Christmas Service at Centenary U. Methodist

Wednesday, December 11, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group
11:30am: Advent Allegro Lunch in Great Room
12:15pm: Advent Allegro Concert – Tyler Carpenter, percussion

Sunday, December 15, 9:30am: Worship
10:30am: Youth Sunday School
10:45pm: Book Group
2:00pm: Christmas Caroling
4:30pm: Bible Boot Camp Christmas Party
6:00pm: Faith Inkubators Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 18, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

11:30am: Advent Allegro Lunch in Great Room

12:15pm: Advent Allegro Concert – Devon Carpenter, harp

News Updates

Blue Christmas Service – a community gathering for comfort and hope

The holiday season can be difficult for those who have experienced loss, challenges, or difficulty. Blue Christmas is a community-wide service to offer comfort and hope. **today, December 8, at 1:00pm** at Centenary United Methodist Church (331 E. State St., Jacksonville).

Advent Allegro Lunchtime Concerts

Please join us for the remaining line up of performers:

December 11: Tyler Carpenter on percussion

December 18: Devon Carpenter on harp

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, contact the church office (245-8919 or faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) or **sign up on the sheet on the counter by the coffee sales.**

Men's Prayer Group

Help us grow our group! You can meet in person at Faith on **Wednesday mornings at 7:00**, or on zoom. Contact one of the guys to let them know you are coming: Kevin Krohe or Larry Kuster.

Music is a Great Way to Connect!

We are always looking for people to sing or play special music for a prelude or a stewardship offering. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts. jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

Christmas Caroling

Join us as we head into the community to visit friends of Faith for caroling and Christmas joy. Meet at Faith at **2:00pm on Sunday, December 15** to fill up your mugs of hot chocolate. We will carpool around town and return to Faith by 3:30.

Christmas Eve Concert

Once again, we will have a short Christmas concert before our 7:00pm candlelight service on December 24th. Please let me know if you might be interested in being a part of that concert. Jean Welch, Music Director

Contact Jean for more information.
jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

Book Group -- *Holy Disruption*

Our Advent book read is *Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark*. The Gospel of Mark doesn't have an advent story, but begins with Jesus' Baptism. Author Tracy Daub suggests that Mark's Advent story is in every aspect of Jesus' life, to his death and beyond. "*Holy Disruption* presents a fresh understanding of the holiness of Christmas grounded, not in a conventional cozy Christmas message, but through Mark's disquieting gospel which invites its readers to experience God's disruptive but transformative love for us and our world." Join us after worship on Sundays in Advent (December 8, 15, and 22) to discuss where we see God in the life of Jesus and in our own holy disruption. Books are available in the gathering area under the working cross for **\$10.00**.

Poinsettias

To purchase a poinsettia to help decorate the church for Christmas, please sign up at the counter by the Coffee Sales and drop your check (or cash) into the decorated box; the cost is **\$12.00**. Please make your check out to Faith Lutheran Church, with a notation for *Poinsettia*, or call or email the church (245-8919 or faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) **by December 20** and send your check to the church (1385 W. Walnut St., Jacksonville, IL 62650). Please indicate if the poinsettia is in honor or memory of someone special.

“Faith’s Little Flock”

Faith's Little Flock meets in the classroom next to the nursery after the children's sermon until communion time. Activities this month will follow Pastor's theme of God's promises. The children can look forward to making fun crafts while listening to Bible stories. We are also adding some fun music for the little ones called "Sing the Bible". A special thanks to everyone who has volunteered your time this Fall. We will be working on a schedule for volunteers and getting things organized for the remainder of the year. *Melissa Street*

Bible Boot Camp

We introduced Bible Boot Camp, a new program for elementary-school-aged children, in September. Pastor Adam warmed them up with singing, dancing, and some retelling of

Bible stories from recent worship services. Patty Nelson and Shelley McDaniel led them in some creative play and crafts, and then we all joined with parents and older youth for a meal. **Our next event will be on Sunday, December 15, from 4:30-6:00**, Spread the word and bring a friend!

Faith Inkubators

Our Confirmation Class has resumed under a different name. Our Faith Inkubators youth nights incorporate all the learning of confirmation, but also some games and activities so that it is open for some upper-elementary-aged kids that are up for the challenge and our high school youth to still be involved. **Our next event will be on Sunday, December 15, from 4:30-6:00**. Spread the word and bring a friend!

Holiday Food Basket Needs – Jacksonville Area Community Food Center

The Food Center will be assembling over 300 holiday baskets, so your donations truly make a difference – Thank You! **We will be collecting donations up till Christmas.**

Sweet Potatoes	Chicken Broth	Macaroni & Cheese
Instant Potatoes	Canned Corn	Pumpkin Pie Mix
Gravy Mix	Canned Green Beans	Evaporated Milk
(pkg or can)	Mushroom Soup	Cereal
Egg Noodles	Stuffing Mix	Flour & Sugar

Please put your donations in the cloth baskets in the Ministry Center/Coat Room.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers

Please see Sharon Zuiderveld if you'd be willing to ring bells this season. We'll decide on a date and time.

Pillars Giving Tree

Bring Christmas Joy to the Children at the Pillars of Africa Children's Ministry

This Christmas season, we again have the opportunity to share the love of Christ with the children at the Pillars of Africa Children's Ministry. Starting **December 1**, the Giving Tree will be up in the church gathering area. The Giving Tree is adorned with ornaments, each representing a child and their needs this Christmas. Choose an ornament, make your donation payable to HUGS, and place it in the offering box **by December 15, 2024**.

Your generosity will bring joy and hope to these precious children, reminding them that they are loved and valued. Thank you for helping make this Christmas a special one for those in need. For questions or more details, please contact Melissa Street, Kevin Krohe, or Patty Nelson. Thank you for being a blessing this holiday season!

Count Up to Advent in our Reverse Advent Project

It is that joyful time again for our Reverse Advent project. Reverse Advent adds up rather than counting down to Christmas, by adding a different food item each day of Advent. Take home a festive bag located next to the Working Cross in the Gathering Area and collect food. You will find the suggested list of food items and suggestions in each bag. This year there are two lists: one for families in need and one for homeless in our community.

Consider reaching out to friends to participate with us. Take them a bag 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. Tie the handles together when you return your bags to the church.

We hope to fill the area under the Working Cross with bags for our neighbors. Please bring your bags to the church by Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. If you would like to help deliver them, contact Hallie Mayner.

LSSI Foster Care

Last month we heard about the ministry of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. With so many in our Faith Family engaged in foster care, we would like to support LSSI's efforts in this ministry. If you would like to make a donation, make your check to Faith Lutheran Church, designate it to "*LSSI Foster Care*," and drop it in the offering box.

Doorbell Dinners

THANK YOU to everyone who helped deliver Doorbell Dinners in October!
Our next time will be **January 13-17**.