

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

2024



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
JACKSONVILLE, IL

Welcome to Christmas Eve Worship at Faith Lutheran Church!

We are so glad you have come to celebrate the good news of great joy for all in Jesus Christ. Our mission is “to be a Christ-centered community that shares the love and joy of Jesus with one another and our neighbors.” We pray God’s grace will touch you through your time with us. Here are a few things to help make your worship with us comfortable and meaningful.

- You will see that we love **music!** Our music is a gift we give to God, and we invite you to sing joyfully together. All of the lyrics are printed in this bulletin and will be projected on the screens. Some hymns are selected from the red hymnal in your pew and are indicated with “ELW” and hymn number. You may find the full score there if you would like to read the notes and sing harmony.
- In the sacrament of **Holy Communion**, we believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine with gifts of love, forgiveness of sins, and new life. We celebrate an open table and welcome all who share in this belief. An usher will invite your row forward. After you receive the bread, you may select a prefilled cup of red wine or white grape juice. Place your empty cup in the separate tray.
- While we will not be passing offering plates, we welcome your financial support and partnership in our ministry. **Offering boxes** are located in the gathering area.
- You were given a **candle** as you entered the sanctuary to be lit for our carol sing. Remember, in order to prevent burns, never tip a lit candle.
- Last but not least, **restrooms** are located across the gathering area before the ramp.

Thank you for worshiping with us tonight. We pray that the Holy Spirit stirs within you as we celebrate that our King has come. Please join us again for worship soon. All services are celebrated in person and livestreamed on Faith’s Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Christmas Morning Worship

December 25, 9:30 a.m.

Lessons and Carols for Christmas

December 29, 9:30 a.m.

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

“Faith’s Little Flock” for young children during a portion of the service and fellowship and Bible study afterwards.

For more information about ministry at Faith, you may take one of our newsletters from the pew, visit us online, ask one of our members, or schedule a time to visit with Pastor Adam.

CHRISTMAS EVE 2024

WELCOME

Gathering

***BIDDING PRAYER FOR CHRISTMASTIDE**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Beloved in Christ, this Christmastide, it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Therefore, let us hear again from Holy Scripture the true story of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would bring joy to Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people;

For peace upon the earth he came to save;

For love and unity within the one Church he built;

For goodwill among all peoples.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

P: And particularly at this time let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who don't know the Lord Jesus or have grieved God's heart of love.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

P: Lastly, we remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

P: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. We pray that you would allow us to walk here on earth in the light of Jesus' presence, and in the last day wake to the brightness of your glory – in the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

***PROCESSIONAL SONG** – “Holy Child Within the Manger” (*WOV 638*) (*piano*)

**1. Holy Child within the manger, long ago yet ever near;
come as friend to ev’ry stranger, come as hope for ev’ry fear.
As you lived to heal the broken, greet the outcast, free the bound,
as you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.**

**2. Once again we tell the story – how your love for us was shown,
when the image of your glory wore an image like our own.
Come, enlighten with your wisdom, come and fill us with your grace.
May the fire of your compassion kindle ev’ry land and race.**

**3. Holy Child within the manger, lead us ever in your way,
so we see in ev’ry stranger how you come to us today.
In our lives and in our living give us strength to live as you,
that our hearts might be forgiving and our spirits strong and true.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Word

READING – Luke 2:1-7

Reader: Barb Davenport

¹In 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.

SCRIPTURE SONG – “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” ELW 279, vv. 1 & 3 (*organ*)

**1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

- 3 How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

READING – Luke 2:8-14

Reader: Terri Kimler

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!”

SCRIPTURE SONG – “Angels from the Realms of Glory” ELW 275, vv. 1 & 2 (*organ*)

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**
- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

READING – Luke 2:15-20

Reader: Adam Krohe

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.

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

SERMON – “The King has Come!”

SONG OF THE DAY – “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” ELW 270 (organ)

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*
- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

***CHRISTMAS CONFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings life to people all over the world.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who loves unconditionally; Jesus, the Son, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world; and the Holy Spirit, who makes our hearts its home.

STEWARDSHIP – “Shepherd Boy,” by Phil Wickham
Sung by Marilyn Dichsen

While we will not be passing offering plates, we welcome your financial support and partnership in our ministry. Offering boxes are located in the gathering area.

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

Meal

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION** -- to the tune of Cradle Song

***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 HYMNS

“What Feast of Love” ELW 487 *(piano)*

What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?

What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?

This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?

What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?

This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.

Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!

What wine of love is offered here, what holy drink from heaven?

What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?

This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

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*

4 **This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.** *Refrain*

5 **Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.** *Refrain*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Come Let Us Worship the King

CAROL SING BY CANDLELIGHT

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” ELW 283, vv. 1 & 2 (organ)

1 **O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him,
born the king of angels:**

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

- 2 **The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! Refrain**

“Angels We Have Heard on High” ELW 289 (*organ*)

- 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**

“What Child Is This?” ELW 296, vv. 1 & 2 (*organ*)

- 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!**

“Silent Night”/“Night of Silence” ELW 281 (*piano*)

Choral Group: Cold are the people, winter of life,
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night,
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, Flowers that will echo the sunrise,
Fire of hope is our only warmth, Weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Choral Group: Voice in the distance, call in the night
On wind you enfold us, you speak of the light,
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly, Rumors of a dawn so embracing
Breathless love awaits darkened souls, Soon will we know of the morning.

**All: Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**All: Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born, Christ, the Savior, is born.**

**All:
Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

Choral Group:

Spirit among us, shine like the star,
Your light that guides shepherds and kings
from afar,
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,
Rising in the warmth of your Son's love,
Star unknowing of night and day,
Spirit we wait for your loving Son.

***BENEDICTION**

P: "How beautiful are the feet of the messenger who announces peace and brings good news" (Isaiah 52:7).

C: We are messengers of this good news, sent to share it with the world.

P: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:4-5).

C: Let us go forth in joy... good news and great joy!

Sending

***SENDING SONG**

"Joy to the World" ELW 267 *(organ)*

- 1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room 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, ...**

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, ...**

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace, share the good news,

C: Thanks be to God!

***POSTLUDE**

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Pastor: | Adam Dichsen |
| Music Director: | Jean Welch |
| Organist: | Sandi Watts |
| Pianist: | Jean Welch |
| Guitarists: | Marilyn Dichsen & Bishop Emeritus John Roth |
| Acolyte: | Madeline Crossin |
| Crucifer: | Louis Dichsen |
| Streamer Bearer: | Adam Krohe |
| Readers: | Barb Davenport, Terri Kimler, & Adam Krohe |
| Chancel Committee: | Martha Krohe |
| Communion Assistant: | Barb Davenport |
| Ushers: | Judy Dillard, Vicki Robson, & Paul Scheerer |

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Poinsettias

The Poinsettias were given by members and friends of Faith in celebration of the lives of those who were or are special to them.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Janet Chipman | In memory of her parents, Charles & Wilma Williams |
| Helem Cumby | In loving memory of Bill |
| The Dichsen family | Hallelujah anyway |
| The Dichsen family | Hallelujah & Thanksgiving for Prayers |
| The Dichsen family | In memory of Don & Judy Dichsen |
| Angie & Mike Fenner | |
| Lynette Hamilton | In memory of parents |
| Amy Stevens-Kaufmann | |
| Carol Kilver | In memory of Robert Clark |
| The Kimler family | In memory of parents |
| Lillian Korous | In honor of family |
| Hallie Mayner | In memory of passed family members |
| Beckham & Kellon Oldenettel | In memory of brother, Parker Oldenettel |
| The Oldenettel Family | In honor of Kris Kessler & Bill Oldenettel |
| Vicki Robson | In memory of passed family members |
| Theresa Savoie | In memory of John & Louise Savoie |
| Theresa Savoie | In memory of Fritz & Lena Dufelmeier |
| Theresa Savoie | In memory of A.E. & Mabel Savoie |
| Mary & Paul Scheerer | In memory of Anna May Flynn, Lawrence Flynn, LJ Flynn, & Carl Scheerer |
| Gayla Smith | In memory of Marilyn Smith |
| Eleanor Stevens | In memory of Dr. Tom Stevens |
| Kathy & Robert Trenter | |
| Connie Werts | In honor of parents, Darlene & Orville Werts |
| Kay & Sharon Woodworth | In thanksgiving for the Christ Child |
| Sharon Zuiderveld | In memory of Rudy |