

Lessons and Carols for Christmas

First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Marilyn Dichsen & Adam Krohe

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

Gathering Song: “Joy to the World” ELW 267

(organ)

- 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: Terri Kimler

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: “Emmanuel”

(piano)

*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**
 - 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.**

Second Reading: Micah 5:2–5a

Reader: Pastor Adam

- 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: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ELW 279

(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.**
- 2 **For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!**
- 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.**
- 4 **O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38

Reader: Terri Kimler

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" soloist: Marilyn Dichsen (*piano*)

*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: Pastor Adam

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

(piano/trumpet)

- 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: 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!"

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: "Shepherd Boy," by Phil Wickham, sung by Marilyn Dichsen

**Prayers*

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

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”) (piano)
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”) (piano)
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”) (piano)
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 —

“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***

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” ELW 283 (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***
- 3 **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain***
- 4 **Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain***

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

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.

**Sixth Reading: John 1:1-14*

Reader: Pastor Adam

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!**

**Benediction* (melody: “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”) (piano)

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!

**Sending Song*: “Go Tell It on the Mountain” ELW 290 (organ)

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!

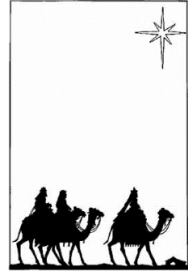
Credits

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The poinsettias were donated by members and friends of Faith,
and the altar plants are donated today
by Lynette Hamilton in honor of her grandchildren’s graduations – Kendall Stevenson
from OKCU in OKCU Nursing and Drew Keller from UIS with his MBA

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Kay Schnitker
Greeter: Lynette Hamilton
Reader: Terri Kimler
Usher: Pat Glyshaw
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Organist: Sandi Watts
Pianist: Susan Roegge
Financial Assistants: Kelly Hartz & Patty Nelson
Chancel Committee: Kim Heise
Coffee Host: Karen Sibert



Singers:

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

Church Council Members:

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

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, December 29, 9:30am: Worship **Friends from Faith**

Wednesday, January 1 -- **Happy New Year**

Saturday, January 4, 8:00am: Cooking for
9:00am: Men's Breakfast

Sunday, January 5, 9:30am: Worship
10:45am: Youth Sunday School

Wednesday, January 8, 7:00am: Men's Prayer Group

News Updates

Doorbell Dinners

delivery will be **January 13-17**, 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).

Contribution Envelopes for 2025 are available in the gathering area.

Annual Reports

Anyone who would like to have an **Annual Report** included in the Annual Report Packets for 2024, please have your report to the church office (by e-mail is preferred) **by January 12**. The Annual Meeting will be held on January 26, and we need time to duplicate the reports into a packet to distribute on Sunday, January 19.

Friends from Faith Card Ministry -- A ministry team led by Naomi Hahn

On the last Sunday of each month, everyone is welcome to send a greeting card. **Today**, visit the tall table just outside the sanctuary where you can select a card, sign a card, or deposit a card in the mailbox to send. Cards and stamps are provided for your use. If you have extra cards or stamps to spare, please bring them and donate them in the provided jar.

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; **\$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!*

Bible Boot Camp & Faith Inkubators

Stay tuned for a schedule for 2025!

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. The Giving Tree, in the gathering area, 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.

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.