



Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

Welcome to Worship

We are an intentionally inclusive community proclaiming a warm welcome to people of every race, nationality, gender, sexual identity, age and ability into all aspects of our church life. ~ *Faith Lutheran Church*



At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

PAUL MANZ

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, people gather for prayers around the wreath.

GREETING

P: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

A voice cries out:

C: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord."

P: Proclaim the good news;

C: Forgiveness is coming!

P: Shout to the Lord:

C: Salvation is here!

P: For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

LIGHTING THE SECOND CANDLE.

P: Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

**C: O people of hope, come,
let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 240 *Light Two Candles*

TIF IN VELDELE

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: Let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd; gently lead them homeward.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: Testify with honest the condition of your souls. Give defense not for yourself but only the Lord's grace, Which will save you in your time of trial. With confidence in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: God for whom we wait,

**C: in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.
Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

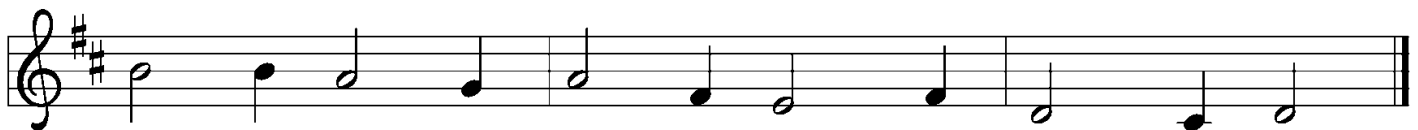
P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit, + your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.
Amen.



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Gracious Lord, we praise your holy name.
 Your mighty acts are matched only by your compassion,
 Which softens our hard hearts and turns them toward your people.
 Give us strong voices and loving hands
 To proclaim your good tidings through all the earth,
 In the name of your son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

CAROL

Comfort, Comfort Now My People
 (TEXT: *ELW 256*)
 CHANCEL CHOIR WITH JOHN MONSEN, PERCUSSION

JOHN FERGUSON

CHILDREN'S SERMON

READING

Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name";

¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

¹¹and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,

and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 247 *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

ososö

Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.'"

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P: The Gospel of the Lord **C: Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

CAROL OF THE DAY ELW 711

O Day of Peace

JERUSALEM



1 O day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce de - vor the small;



guide us to jus - tice, truth, and love, de-liv-ered from our self - ish schemes.
as beasts and cat - tle calm-ly graze, a lit-tle child shall lead them all.



May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re-lease,
Then en - e - mies shall learn to love, all crea-tures find their true ac-cord;



till by God's grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace.
the hope of peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

P: Let us pray to the Lord saying,
Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

Brief silence

P: We come to you this day, O God, with a deepening anticipation of your birth among us. We thank you for the gift of your love. Hear us, O God;

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We pray for the church throughout the world, and for all the ministries that build up the body of Christ, that in our many vocations we may serve to your glory. Hear us, O God;

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We pray for this nation and for all nations, remembering especially those who are victims of political and social injustice. We pray for elected officials and all leaders, that they will govern with courage and equity. Hear us, O God;

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We pray for all in need: for the sick, the destitute, and the dying; for strangers in our land, for the invisible ones; for the elderly and the children; for parents and grandparents; for those who live alone and those who live lonely in the midst of family. Hear us, O God;

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We remember with mercy those who sleep without shelter, cold and vulnerable, lacking enough food; those who are overworked and those who have no work. Stir up in us the capacity to see ourselves in their struggles and to act so that others may have life abundant. Hear us, O God;

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We pray for this community, for our neighbors and friends, and for those with whom we study and work. Guide and strengthen all people in our common life to know the gifts of your grace and love. Hear us, O God;

C: Your mercy is great.

P: May all that we ask and all that you see is needed in our world, be given to your people; through Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

OFFERING

P: God, the source of all good things, has given us what we need. In joyful response, let us offer our gifts, the fruits of our labors, and the dedication of our hearts for loving service in the name of Christ.

OFFERTORY

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

ROBIN DINDA*

OFFERING HYMN ELW 294

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.**

~ Christina Rossetti

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of righteousness,
You have saved us from the worst the world can do
And have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again.
In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self,
That we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now,
As we watch for Christ's coming in glory.

C: Amen

THE 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.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord who taught us to pray...

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you
in God's grace now and forever, Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Faithful God,
in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood
of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and
strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in
Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

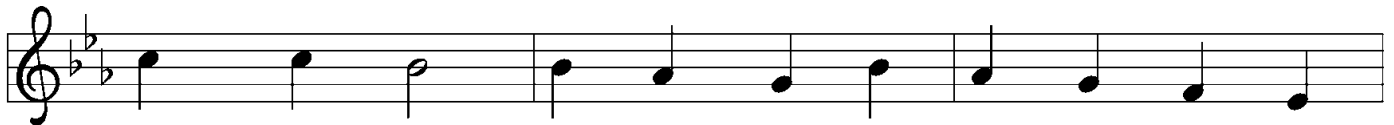
SENDING CAROL ELW 246

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

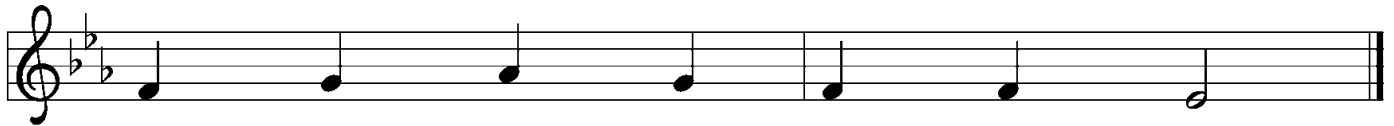
MERTON



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!"
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
one and all, to be for - giv'n;
and with words of love draw near.
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

BLESSING

P: About that day and hour no one knows.

Therefore keep awake,

For you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Be ready for the Lord will come at an unexpected hour.

May the Spirit of the Lord + surround you as you walk and

Wait for his coming.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Straight Shall Be What Long Was Crooked*

JOHN FERGUSON

SENDING

P: Christ brings comfort and compassion to a broken and hurting world.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and God's people.

C: Thanks be to God!

Morning Devos (zoom):

Mon-Fri. 7:00a

Yoga (zoom):

Tuesdays at 9:45a

Wednesdays at 5:30p

Women’s Book Group

In Person the 3rd Tuesday

7:15p Location TBD

Bible Study (zoom):

Wednesdays at 10:00a

Ruth Circle (zoom):

The 3rd Thursday at Noon

Coffee Fellowship (zoom):

Fridays at 11:00a

Links are on the Faith Website: www.faithseattle.org

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Preaching & Presiding: Pastor Shannyn Fuerst

Music: David Buice & Chancel Choir

Video Host: Julie Pierce

Video Tech: Carl Presley

Reading: Jamie Estill

Ushers: Eric Lansverk

Altar Guild: Donna Shy

Fellowship: The Lansverks

**Scripture Passages for
Next Sunday**

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalms 146:5-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

**UPCOMING
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

Budget Meeting: Sun, Dec 4

In Person & Via Zoom
at 11:00a

***WORSHIP NOTES:** **Robin Dinda** (b. 1959) is a native of Wichita, Kansas. He began playing the organ and composing at age eight, and, after some piano lessons from his grandmother, was mostly self-taught, playing his first European recitals at age sixteen, performing organ concerts that included his own compositions. He is particularly known for his performances of American organ music, and his programs invariably include examples of his own published compositions. His earned degrees are from Davidson College, The University of Cincinnati, and The University of Michigan. Professor of Humanities at Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts, he has also served as Director of Music at The First Parish (Unitarian - Universalist) in Fitchburg since 2000.

ADVENT HAPPENINGS



ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

As in the past few years, an Advent Devotional has been prepared with short reflections on the passages used for worship in during the season of Advent. There is one a day from Nov. 27 through Christmas Eve Day. Most of the reflections have been done by members of Faith.

If you receive the weekly email then starting the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27, you will get a daily devotional reflection via email. A hardcopy will be mailed to our homebound members. There is also a pdf on the Events page of the faith website. There is also a pdf on the events page of the Faith website (www.faithseattle.org)

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

The Faith Website has a link to a service from Holden and music so you can sing along if you wish. Use these resources to enhance your Advent Season anytime you want.



ADVENT PAGEANT

Sunday, December 11
During 9:45a Worship

Followed by cupcakes and "Happy Birthday" to Jesus!



A LAUTENWERCK CHRISTMAS

Strangely Familiar Music for the Holidays
Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 p.m.

David Buice, Lautenwerck (lute-harpsichord)

Part I: The Story of Christmas; Part II: The Christmas of Story (Liz Story)

Free-will offering accepted to benefit the Pipe Organ Fund.

BLOOD DRIVE

Signups are already open!

By phone: 1-800-398-7888

By email: schedule@bloodworksnw.org

Schedule on-line: See weekly email, the website or contact church office.

Dates: Mon 12/5; Tue 12/6

Youth 16 -17 need signed parent permission slip.

All donors must bring photo ID.



IT'S EASY TO GIVE

at FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH



1. Open the camera on your phone.
2. Point it at the QR code.
3. Touch the yellow 'myvanco.com' button.
4. This takes you to our giving page.
Choose which fund and fill out the rest.



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