

Wednesday, December 21, 2016
The Longest Night
7:00 pm



 **First Lutheran Church**
BOTHELL

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

STATEMENT OF WELCOME

We, the community of First Lutheran Church of Bothell, proclaim the message that the grace of our Lord is infinitely inclusive and that everyone is welcome. We believe that Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation and as disciples of Christ seeking justice and reconciliation among all peoples, we at First Lutheran Church welcome all into the fullness of God's love. **We welcome everyone, without exception and regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental ability, age, or station in life.** We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God, and through grace, a child of God.

All are welcome at First Lutheran.

All are welcome to worship, to hear the Good News, to receive the sacraments, and to share in fellowship and service. As members of First Lutheran Church, we pledge ourselves and our congregation to exercise our faith in Christ, treasuring one another's similarities while embracing our God-given differences. We pledge that we will strive to live as a reconciling people, in our life together and in our outreach to the world.

Pastor
Rev. Tor Kristian Berg
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Winter Solstice: The Longest Night Service

December 21, 2016

7:00 PM

L: Leader A: All

PRELUDE

WELCOME

SILENT MEDITATION

GATHERING RIGHT

L: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

A: The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth, and we have seen his glory.

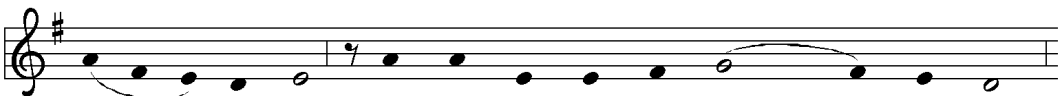
L: In him was life, and that life was the light of all.

A: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to extinguish it.

HYMN: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (ELW 257) v. 1-3



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Merciful God, you know us inside and out. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways. There are times when all we see is the darkness; we may cry out, "The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me." But, you, Lord, say to us, "I shall never forget you! I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands!" Gracious God, nourish us tonight with your Word, that we may be strengthened and encouraged through Jesus the Christ, the bread of heaven.

A: Amen

LESSONS AND CANDLE LIGHTING

Luke 14:15-24 - Pastor Berg

One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to [Jesus], "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

A candle is lit a prayer is spoken:

L: Lord our God, may your fellowship be available to all, including those who feel excluded.

A: Amen

Silence for Meditation

Luke 2:1-7 - Bob Berg

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

A candle is lit a prayer is spoken:

L: Lord Jesus, let those who are far from home, those who are strangers, feel that they genuinely belong in your company.

A: Amen.

Silence for Meditation

1 Kings 19:1-3a, 8-15a - Jacky Schnarre

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life ... He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus."

A candle is lit a prayer is spoken:

L: Spirit God, calm the turmoil in our souls, so that we can hear your still small voice.

A: Amen.

Silence for Meditation

Luke 6:17-23 - David Osborne

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

A candle is lit a prayer is spoken:

L: Lord Jesus, like this candle, bring some warmth and light to those who mourn, who hunger, who thirst, who weep.

A: Amen.

Silence for Meditation

Luke 9:57-62 - Hannah Berg

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

A candle is lit a prayer is spoken:

L: Lord Jesus, you know what it is like to be rootless. Give each of us a way of putting down roots where we can grow.

A: Amen

Silence for Meditation

Psalm 22:1-11 - Susan Berg

God, my God,
why have you abandoned me -
far from my cry, my words of pain?
I call by day, you do not answer;
I call by night, but find no rest.
You are the Holy One enthroned,
the Praise of Israel.
Our people trusted, they trusted you;
you rescued them.
To you they cried, and they were saved;
they trusted and were not shamed.
But I am a worm, hardly human,
despised by all, mocked by the crowd.
All who see me jeer at me,
sneer at me, shaking their heads;
“You relied on God; let God help you!
If God loves you, let God save you.”
But you, God, took me from the womb,
you kept me safe at my mother’s breast.
I belonged to you from the time of my birth,
you are my God from my mother’s womb.

A candle is lit a prayer is spoken:

L: Holy Spirit, shine like this candle in the darkness, lighting the way for all
who feel abandoned, forsaken, forgotten.

A: Amen

Silence for Meditation

Matthew 11:28-29 -

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will
give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and
humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

A candle is lit a prayer is spoken:

L: Jesus, we do not ask you to shoulder our entire burden - just carry a corner
of them so that we can carry on.

A: Amen

Silence for Meditation

HYMN: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* (ELW 256)



- 1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
- 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

A Special Reading

PRAYER STATIONS

There are three prayer stations. You are invited to use one, two, all three or none as you feel called. At the Baptismal font you are invited to come and remember your baptism and take a stone from the water to carry as a sign of God's permanence in your life. At the candle station you are invited to offer a prayer and to light a candle as a sign of your prayer. Pastor Berg will offer the laying on of hands and prayer. You are invited to sit with him and to let him know for what you would like prayer.

Special Music: Alain Adjorlolo, Guitar

HOLY COMMUNION

FINAL BLESSING

L: The life our Lord Jesus Christ, who lived and suffered and died for the sake of all suffering and to heal the entire universe, yesterday, today, and tomorrow; the peace of God, which passes all understanding, and the presence of God's Holy Spirit supporting and encouraging you, be with you through this season of the longest night.

A: Amen

CLOSING HYMN: *As the Dark Awaits the Dawn* (ELW 261)

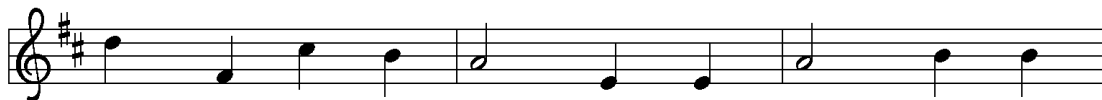
The first verse will be sung by Michelle Richards



1	As	the	dark	a -	waits	the	dawn,
2	As	the	blue	ex -	pec -	tant	hour
3	As	the	moon	re -	flects	the	sun
4	Shine	your	fu -	ture	on	this	place,



so	we	a -	wait	your	light.	O	Star	of
be -	fore	the	sil -	v'ring	skies,	we	long	to
un -	til	the	night's	de -	crease,	may	we	your
en -	light -	en	ev -	'ry	guest,	that	through	us



prom -	ise,	scat -	ter	night,	lov -	ing	bright,	lov -	ing
see	your	day	a -	rise,	whole	and	wise,	whole	and
heal -	ing	light	re -	lease,	liv -	ing	peace,	liv -	ing
stream	your	ho -	li -	ness,	bright	and	blest,	bright	and



bright,	till	shades	of	fear	are	gone.
wise,	O	lu -	cent	Morn -	ing	Star.
peace,	un -	to	your	ho -	ly	dawn.
blest;	come	dawn,	O	Sun	of	grace.

DISMISSAL

L: May God of all Creation continue to be with you in those dark places and draw you into the arms of salvation.

A: *Amen.*

You may remain as long as you like or leave when the Spirit moves you.

POSTLUDE

INFORMATION For the Week!

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Church Office Closed

5:00 pm Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

7:00 pm Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 pm Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 25 First Sunday of Christmas

Merry Christmas!

10:00 am Christmas Day Worship

Monday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 28

1:00 pm Youth & Returning College Students Lunch at Pen Thai—***Celebrate & reconnect with friends!***

3:00 pm FLC Young Adult, College Students & Youth Party—***Reunite with old friends at Three Lions' Pub on Main Street in Bothell. Over 21 may sit anywhere; under 21 must sit in designated area.***

Sunday, January 1

10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

No Education Hour

Monday, January 2

Church Office Closed

(The FLC church office will be closed intermittently between Dec. 23 and Jan. 3. Please call the office at 425-486-2314 before going in.)

Assisting With Today's Service:

Presiding Minister:	Rev. Tor Kristian Berg
Organist:	Lucy Kay Osborne
Special Music:	Alain Adjorlolo
Worship Assistant:	Susan Berg

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Celebrating
THE BIRTH OF
Christ

Christmas Eve:
5pm, 7pm & 10:30 pm

Christmas Day:
10 am

Freed & RENEWED
in Christ 500
YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION