

Wednesday, December 19, 2018
The Longest Night
7:00 pm



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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Music Director/Organist

Lucy Kay Osborne
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Winter Solstice: The Longest Night Service

December 19, 2018

7:00 PM

L: Leader A: All

PRELUDE

WELCOME

SILENT MEDITATION

GATHERING RIGHT: *John 1*

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.

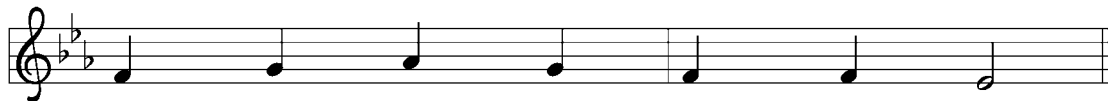
HYMN: *God When Human Bonds Are Broken (ELW 603) v. 1-3*



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the
2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our
3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we



love or skill to re - store the hope of heal - ing,
world of stress, for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing
seek re - lease from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing;



give us grace and make us still.
all the fail - ures we con - fess.
set us free and grant us peace.

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

Habakkuk 1:2-4

O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous--therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

A candle is lit a prayer is spoken:

L: Lord God, our suffering beats us down. We sometimes see no way forward. We are helpless and look to you for our strength, we look to you for justice. We cry to you, listen.

A: Amen

Silence for Meditation

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

A candle is lit a prayer is spoken:

L: Lord God, you do listen. You entered our world as one of us. You have walked in our dust and suffered at the hands of the oppressor. You know our pain and you know our vulnerability. Come again to heal us.

A: Amen.

Silence for Meditation

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

A candle is lit a prayer is spoken:

L: God of the nations, your world is in turmoil. We seem to desire war more than peace, we seem to desire tribalism over community. We are inundated with bad news. Remind us of the Good News! Come, Lord Jesus.

A: Amen.

Silence for Meditation

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of

heaven. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

A candle is lit a prayer is spoken:

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

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. Come, Lord Jesus.

A: Amen

Silence for Meditation

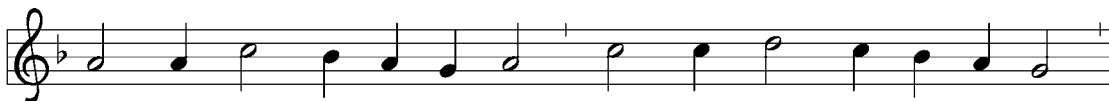
HYMN: Comfort, Comfort Now My People (ELW 256)



- 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 MEDITATION

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: *Each Winter As the Year Grows Older* (William Gay)

Sigrun Payne, Soprano

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: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (ELW 257) v. 1-3 (Next Page)

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

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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-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.



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

Preacher and Presider: Rev. Tor K. Berg

Musician: Lucy Kay Osborne

Upcoming Worship Service Opportunities:

December 23	Fourth Sunday of Advent	10:00am
December 24	Christmas Eve	5:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:30pm
December 30	First Sunday of Christmas	10:00am