

Wednesday, December 20, 2017
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.

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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

Lamentations 3:14-26 - David Osborne

I have become the laughingstock of all my people, the object of their taunt-songs all day long. I am filled with bitterness, I am sated with wormwood ... my teeth grind on gravel, and I cower in ashes; my soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, "Gone is my glory, and all that I had hoped for from the LORD." The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

A candle is lit a prayer is spoken:

L: Lord God, our suffering beats us down. We sometimes see no way forward. But in you we have hope. In your Son we see that death leads to resurrection. Come, Lord Jesus.

A: Amen

Silence for Meditation

Luke 2:1-7 - Richard Edmonds

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, you were born far from home. You know how lost we often feel when we are far from our family, when we are separated from those who love us. Come, comfort us Lord Jesus.

A: Amen.

Silence for Meditation

Psalm 46—Kaaren Hatlen

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

Luke 6:17-23 - Susann Berg

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: 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

Ruth 1:6-18—Kaaren Hatlen

Then [Naomi] started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die--there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

A candle is lit a prayer is spoken:

L: God of friendship, we often feel abandoned, without hope. In these times we give thanks for friends who have claimed us as their own, who have sat with us in our darkness, who have walked with us down roads we do not know. Come, Lord Jesus.

A: Amen

Silence for Meditation

Psalm 22:1-11—David Osborne

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. Come, Lord Jesus.

A: Amen

Silence for Meditation

Matthew 11:28-29 - Susan Berg

"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 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:

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)*

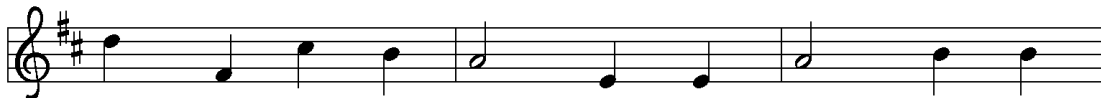
The first verse will be sung by Richard Edmonds



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 - cease, 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!

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

7:00 pm Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 pm Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

Monday, December 25 First Sunday of Christmas

Merry Christmas!

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

Tuesday, December 26

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, December 27

1:00 pm Youth Holiday Lunch

3:00 pm Young Adult Happy Hour

Sunday, December 31

Second Sunday of Christmas

10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

No Education Hour

Monday, January 1

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

(The FLC church office will be closed intermittently the week after Christmas. Please call the office at 425-486-2314 if you need to make an appointment.)

Assisting With Today's Service:

Presiding Minister:

Rev. Tor Kristian Berg

Pianist:

Lucy Kay Osborne

Readers:

Susan Berg, Richard Edmonds, Kaaren Hatlen, David Osborne

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