December 15, 2024 Third Sunday of Advent 9:30 am





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.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor Director of Music **Preschool Directors** Rev. Tor Berg (Organist/Choir Dir.) Amy Case

tberg@flcbothell.org Lucy Kay Osborne Stephanie Corrigan

lkosborne@flcbothell.org Director of REACH

Office Manager Ministries Church Office Kristin Smith Roger Steinke 425-486-2314 rsteinke@flcbothell.org ksmith@flcbothell.org

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WORSHIP NOTES

- + Please register each person on a communion card in the pew rack and hand it to an usher before Holy Communion.
- + The service is printed in this bulletin. Some hymns are located in the red hymn book.
- + Hearing enhancement receivers, large print bulletins are available. Feel free to ask an usher for assistance.
- Our expectation is that children will be in worship. We understand, though, that there are times when your wiggly ones need a distraction. There is a "Pray Space" under the stairs in the inner narthex with soft toys and books. We have trained nursery staff on duty, as well. Please ask an usher for directions.
- + If you would like to have a digital copy of the bulletin, go to our website and download the PDF. www.flcbothell.org
- + Public Wi-Fi: FLC Wireless—Password: MartyLuther

Serving Us In Worship Today

Greeter	Jan Anderson
Ushers	David Osborne Dave Richards
Acolyte	Clare Jackman
Lector	Mark Hatlen
Sound Tech	Linda Chapman
Camera Tech	Katie Pyne
Communion Assistants	Nicole Thorsheim Randall Wampler
Pew Angel	Marcus Hodges

If you would like to give electronically, please use this QR code:



December 15, 2024 Third Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE: Angels We Have Heard on High, Traditional French Carol June Condra, Piano; Cheryl Miller, Flute

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING SONG: Comfort, Comfort Now My People (ELW 256)



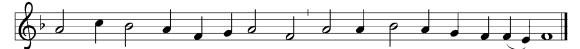
- 1 "Com fort, com-fort now my peo ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
- 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry ing in the des ert far and near,
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook ed, and the rough er plac es plain.



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.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Spirit of the Lord God, you bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and release the prisoners. We will greatly rejoice in the Lord, our whole being shall exult in God, for the sake of the one who brought righteousness to life, Jesus Christ our salvation. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: We Wait (Schram)

We light three candles.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

Amen.

WORD

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

PSALM: Psalm 119:57-64

You are my portion, O LORD; I have promised to keep your words.

I entreat you with all my heart; be merciful to me according to your promise.

I have considered my ways and turned my feet toward your decrees.

I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments.

Though the cords of the wicked entangle me, I do not forget your teaching.

At midnight I will rise to give you thanks for your righteous judgments.

I am a companion of all who fear you and of those who keep your commandments.

Your love, O LORD, fills the earth; teach me your statutes.

ANTHEM: Lift Up Your Heads (L. Shackley)

THE WORD: Isaiah 61:1-11

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn: 3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities. the devastations of many generations. ⁵Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; but you shall be called priests of the LORD, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. Because their shame was double, and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs. ⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Word of God, word of life.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Together At Christmas

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (ELW 843)



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib er at-ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in car nate: Christ, who suf fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight. praise the One who drove out de-mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword. Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn-ing sand; Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.



calm-ing storms and feed - ing thou-sands with the ver - y bread of peace. from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land. Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God:

who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

For whom do the people pray?

God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY: What Child is This, Traditional English Carol
Cheryl Miller, Flute; June Condra Piano

OFFERING: It Came upon the Midnight Clear (ELW 282)



- 2 Still through the clo ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un furled,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold: and still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."

A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing. and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

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.

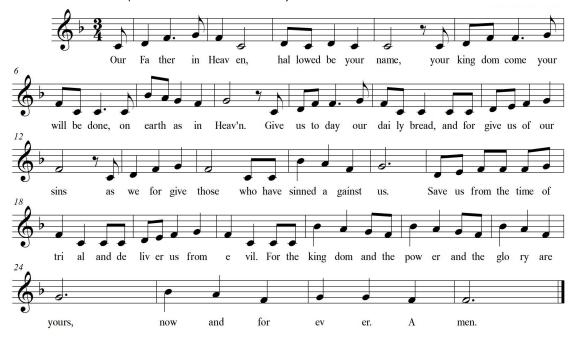
Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER (Michael Austin Miller)



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

COMMUNION

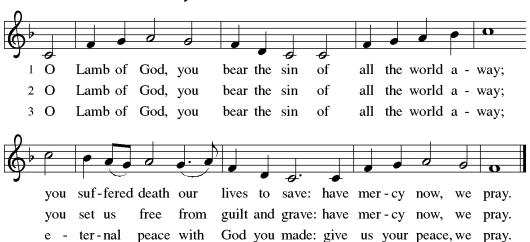
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION: We will receive the body of Christ as bread with these or similar words: The body of Christ, given for you. If you desire a gluten-free option that is available. The blood of Christ will be received as either red wine or white grape juice with these or similar words: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

WHO MAY COMMUNE? All are welcome at the Lord's Table. It is a free gift given to all for the forgiveness of sins. The words "for you" really mean FOR YOU! Children may commune at the discretion of their parents. If you wish to receive a blessing: cross your arms over your chest as a sign for the communion assistants.

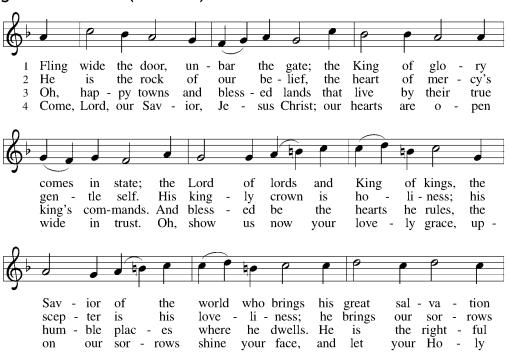
DIRECTIONS FOR COMMUNION: Please come forward by the center aisle at the direction of the ushers to receive the sacrament and return to your seat down the side aisle. Please register each person taking communion on a pew card.

COMMUNION SONG: Lamb of God



COMMUNION HYMNS: Fling Wide the Door (ELW 259)

peace with



Love Has Come (ELW 292)



the earth. So raise ho to a shout of ly mirth to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and our lives of bliss who fills and makes us his, cre -Spir - it guide jour - ney wide. We our in your grace



praise our God and Lord, wor - ship him with song a - tor of the world, praise your ho - ly name, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word. for sav - ing us from wrong. our on - ly strength for good. from age to age the same!

Love Has Come (ELW 292)



- Love has come— a light in the dark ness! Love shines forth in the
- 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won der. Love is God now a -
- 3 Love has come and nev-er will leave us! Love is life ev-er-



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it; sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er; last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.

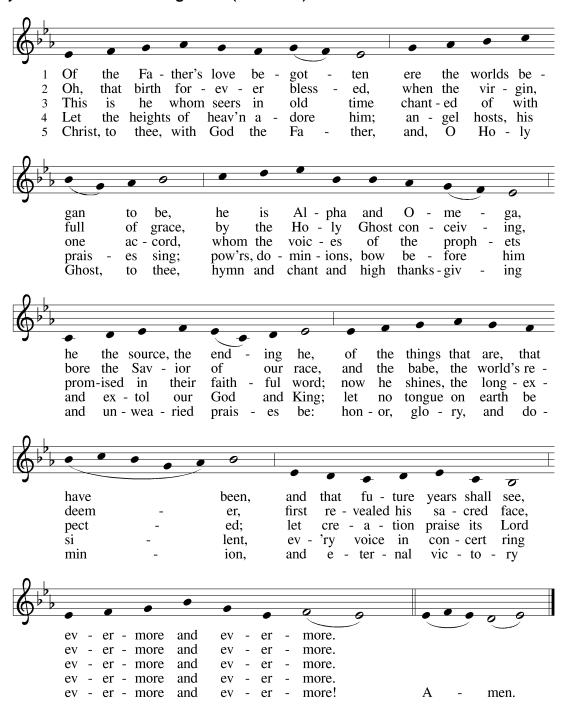


hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un-to what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love is the Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high. name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el. gift of Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Of the Father's Love Begotten (ELW 295)



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (ELW 257) Next Page

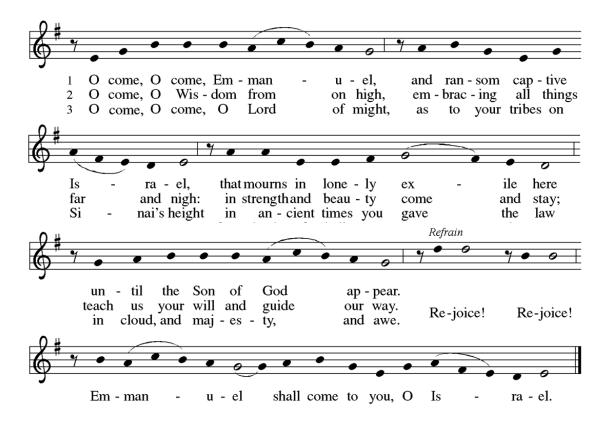
DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Veni Emmanuel, W. Held

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel





Sunday, December 15 3 pm

Reception Following

THE LONGEST NIGHT Worship for people who struggle during the holiday season We will gather on Zoom for an online service of prayer, reflection, and hearing God's word for us at this particular time. December 18 - 7pm



Christmas Caroling!
December 22
10:45 am - 11:30 am

All Are welcome - Kids and Adults!
Please Join Us!



In Our Prayers

Prayers of sympathy for the family of Greta Nelson in her death on December 10.

We pray for Bishop Doctor Sani Ibrahim Azar and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

Those living with cancer:

Juanita (Bonnie Ahlstedt's sister-in-law), Mark (Dick Boyce's son), Lisa (Steve Coble's sister), Alexis (Lucy Kay and David Osborne's friend), Karen (Scott Eiler's sister), Tracee (Bonnie Ahlstedt's friend), Richard (Sandy Hendricks' cousin), Jessica Hockstedler (member), Joshua (Ken & Kristin Smith's friend), Wayne (Dave Shogren's friend), Beth (Anne Larsen's sister), Tim (Dave Shogren's friend), Richard (Ruth Neitzel's brother), Ted (Sue Toyoda's friend), Kip (Paul Desilet's uncle), Jim (Hendricks' family friend), Joanne (Carolyn Becker's sister-in-law), Diane Mackey (frequent visitor), Chris & family (Dan & Sandy Hendricks' friends), Jean Rahr (former member), Marin (Beth & Gordy Phelps' friend), Jacky Schnarre (member), Deborah (Vicki Shank's cousin), Debbie (Karen Thomas' friend), August (Karey Coble's friend).

Those who are ill, have an injury or who are recovering from surgery:

Carolyn Becker (member), Donna (Roger Steinke's friend), Dick Boyce (member), Doug (Ho Brown's brother-in-law), Susan (Bob Berg's cousin), John (Linda Chapman's brother-in-law), Vincent (Julie Mass' friend), Susan Cook (member), Richard (Susan & Ross Cook's brother), Don Cornell (Kristin Smith's friend), Randy (Chris Martin's friend), Leanne (Krista Daniels' sister), Elizabeth (Jane King's friend), Nancy Davis (member), Audrey Fisher (member), John Godek (member), Mary Hatlen (member), Teresa (friend of the Bakers) Jim (Sandy Hendricks' cousin), Mary (Melanie Veazey's mother), Karen Johnson (member), Marlo (Leona Keltner's friend), Amy (Nancy McGee's friend), Kathy Koneiczka (member), Richard Konieczka (Kathy Konieczka's husband), Albert (Chris Martin's friend), Doug (Justin LaFord's father), Jeanne (Justin LaFord's mother), Chris Martin (member), David Osborne (member), John (Valarie Cole's father), Andy (Vickie Shanks' friend), Donnabel (Derrick StaRosa's sister), Ron (Beth Phelps' brother), Sandy Sailand (member), Kayden (Karey Coble's nephew), Mona Shogren (member), Harriett (Roger Steinke's friend), Walt Stoll (member), Kathy Telford-Luiz (member).

Those who are homebound or in extended care facilities:

Valerie (Kendahl Adjorlolo's cousin), Bonnie Ahlstedt (member), Jeanette

Backstrom (member), Sherrill & Larry Baker (members), Trudy Eichelsdoerfer (member), Marlys Helgeland (member), Jane King (member), Hildur O'Connor (member), Lawrence (Leon Romaniuk's father), Jacquie Stoll (member), Sigrid (Carsten Thode's mother), Carol (Patty Weston's mother), Roger Wolter (member).

Those Serving Our Country:

AIR FORCE: Mason Land (Debbie & Darryl Lageson's nephew), Jake Peoples (Andrea & Eric Peoples' son) and Erin Siebert (Linda & Joe Siebert's daughter)

NAVY: Christopher Whipple (Carolyn Whipple's son)

We are honored to be able to pray for your family members in need. Our policy is to publish immediate concerns for 2 weeks, unless we hear from you that an illness or situation is ongoing.

INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK!

Sunday, December 15 Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Worship w/Holy Communion & Sunday School Christmas Program

10:30 am Sunday School for All Ages 11:30 am Christmas Concert Set-up

3:00 pm Christmas Concert by FLC Musicians! All are welcome!

4:00 pm Post Concert Reception in the fellowship hall

Monday, December 16

12:00 pm Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 17

9:30 am Lectionary

3:30 pm Weekly News Submission Deadline

6:00 pm Fellowship Committee

7:00 pm Church Council

Wednesday, December 18

10:00 am Rebecca Circle

11:30 am Preschool Christmas Program

Thursday, December 19

9:00 am FLC Quilters 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 20

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 21

9:00 am Hannah Circle

Men's Breakfast

Sunday, December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Worship w/Holy Communion & Sunday School Christmas Program

10:30 am No Sunday School!

10:45 am Christmas Caroling at Woodland Terrace! (If you're a walker, bring your walking shoes. Transporation available in inclement weather and for those who prefer to ride.

December 22, 2024-Fourth Sunday of Advent

Psalm 113 Luke 1:26-45 Jesus Birth Announced

Weekly Financial Report

December 8, 2024 Attendance in Person: 160 Zoom:

December 8, 2024 General Offerings: \$13,524 Capital Improvement: \$2,170

General Offerings Needed Each Week: \$10,510

SERMON NOTES

What caught my attention:

What did I hear that I am eager to share with another person?

I think the title of the sermon should be:

