December 10, 2023 Second Sunday of Advent 8:30 am and 11:00 am



First Lutheran Church

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.

WORSHIP NOTES

- + Please sign the card in the pew rack and place in the offering plate with your offering 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 also have a nursery with a caregiver available at both worship services. Please ask an usher for assistance.
- + 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

Presiding/ Preaching	Rev. Tor Kristian Berg	Children's Message	Roger Steinke
8:30 am		11:00 am	
Music Director	Lucy Kay Osborne	Piano	June Condra
Greeter	Susan Berg		
Acolyte	Trey Desilet	Greeter	Emily Curcio
Ushers	Tom Agnew Carsten Thode	Acolyte	Lyla Curcio
Sound Tech	Stephanie Conroy	Ushers	Rob McCaw Ryan Stute
Camera Tech	Terry Barker	Sound Tech	Andrew Phelps
Lector	Mark Bowers	Camera Tech	David Shogren
Communion Assistants	Paul Desilet Lynn Scoggins	Lector	Kandahl Adjorlolo
Pew Angel	Marcus Hodges	Communion Assistants	Alain Adjorlolo Tom Payne

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor

Rev. Tor Kristian Berg tberg@flcbothell.org

Director of REACH Ministries Roger Steinke rsteinke@flcbothell.org Director of Music (Organist/Choir Dir.) Lucy Kay Osborne lkosborne@flcbothell.org

Office Manager Kristin Smith ksmith@flcbothell.org Preschool Director Beth Bowers flcbeth@gmail.com

December 10, 2023 Second Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE: 8:30—Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (J. S. Bach) 11:00–O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (13th Century Plainsong)

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP: Where the Promise Shines (Moore/Raney)

1. Where the world is waiting for an unknown day, Where a voice, forgotten, cries "Prepare the way!" Show us in a manger our redemption's sign; Bring us to a morning where the promise shines. (refrain)

(Refrain) Congregation: Lead us on. lead us on to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines. Lead us lead us on. on morn - ing where the to a prom - ise shines.

2.

Lead us on, O Daystar, in the quiet night; Guide us through the shadow with your gentle light; When the night is waiting and the old hopes rise, Then the time has ripened and the heart grows wise. (refrain)

GATHERING RITE

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

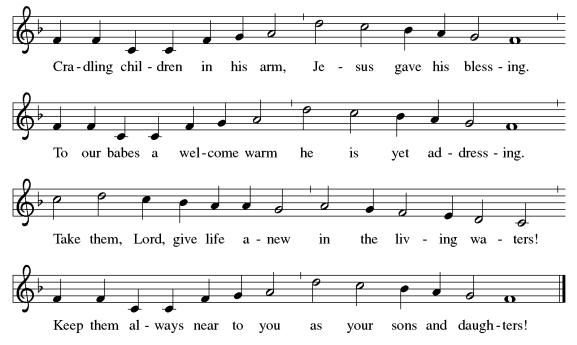
Where there is division, we long for unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. Where there is hostility, we long for resolution. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. Where there is separation, we long for reunion. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Today we light two candles. The first candle represents the everlasting hope that has touched our lives in the person of Jesus Christ. In a world of division, brokenness and uncertainty, the second candle summons our hearts to the One called Prince of Peace. As the light shines, may we embrace and extend the peace of Christ in all that we do and say. (Refrain)

Gracious God, you are the Prince of Peace who lives and reigns forever. As we journey together, we pray you would still our fears, heal our wounds, and fill our spirits. Shine forth your perfect peace in our unsettled world throughout this Advent season. Amen.





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.

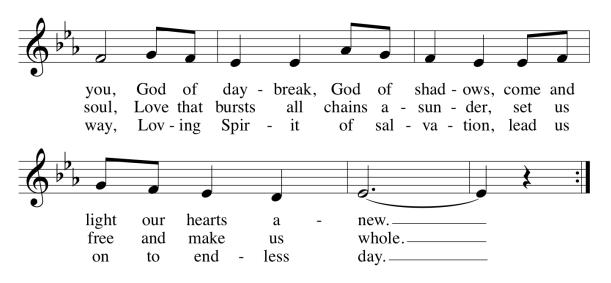
PRAYER OF THE DAY

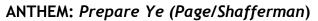
Let us pray.

Holy Lord, a voice has been heard in the wilderness preparing the way for your son to arrive in this world. Prepare our hearts to receive your son and help us to prepare for his coming. Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory (ELW 561)







WORD

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

PSALM: Psalm 65

¹You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled. ²To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.

³Our sins are strong- er than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.

⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

⁶You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded a- bout with might.

⁷You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

⁸Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.

⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

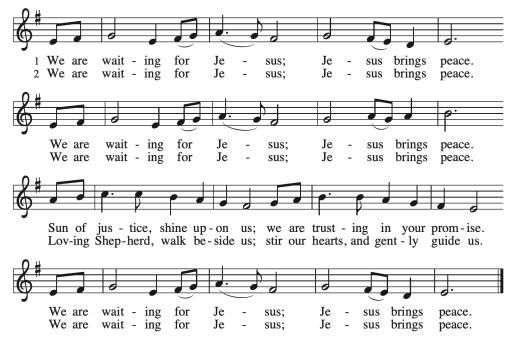
¹⁰You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

¹¹You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths over- flow with plenty.

¹²May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- selves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

WELCOMING THE WORD: We Are Waiting for Jesus (ACS 905)



GOSPEL: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd: he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God. Word of Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

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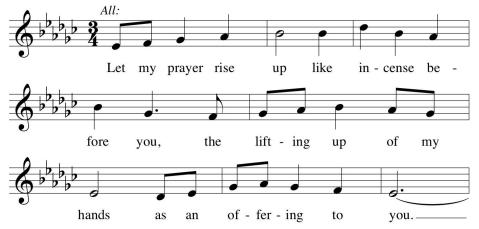
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HYMN OF THE DAY: There's a Voice in the Wilderness (ELW 255)



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION/LET MY PRAYER RISE

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration. We pray, (Sing Refrain)



Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. We pray, (Sing Refrain)

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal (*especially*). Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. We pray, (Sing Refrain)

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. We pray, (Sing Refrain)

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. We pray, (Sing Refrain)

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. We pray, (Sing Refrain)

With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. We pray, (Sing Refrain)

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. We pray, (Sing Refrain)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence for self-reflection.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

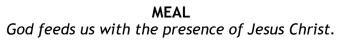
Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and

covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.



OFFERTORY: 8:30—Picardy (T. Keesecker) 11:00—Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Rowland Prichard)

OFFERING: Christ, Be Our Light (ELW 715)





OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

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

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

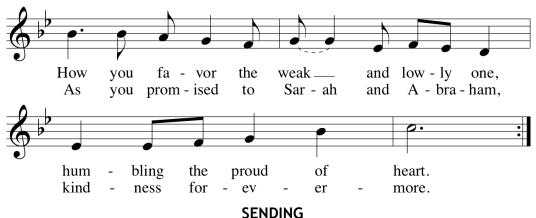
COMMUNION SONG: O Lamb of God, You Bear the Sin (HFW 906)



THE ANNUNCIATION/THE MAGNIFICAT

An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. Ou shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."





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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, + bless you now and forever. Amen.

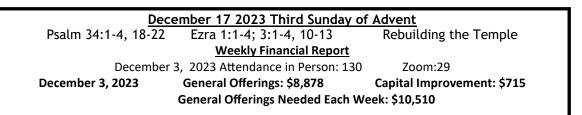
SENDING SONG: All Earth Is Hopeful: Toda la tierra (ELW 266) (Next page)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Wachet auf (P. Manz)







INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK!

<u>Sunday, December 10—Second Sunday of Advent</u>			
8:30 am	Worship w/Holy Communion		
9:45 am	Sunday School for All Ages		
11:00 am			
12:30 pm	Executive Committee		
Monday, December 11			
9:00 am	4 & 5 Year Old Preschool		
10:00 am	Widows Support Group		
12:00 pm	Staff Meeting		
5:00 pm	Personnel Committee		
<u>Tuesday, December 12</u>			
9:00 am	4 & 5 Year Old Preschool		
9:15 am	Preschool Chapel		
9:30 am	Lectionary		
3:30 pm	Weekly News Submissions Deadline		
7:00 pm	Finance Committee		
Wednesday, December 13			
9:00 am	4 & 5 Year old Preschool		
Thursday, December 14			
9:00 am	FLC Quilters		
	3 & 5 Year Old Preschool		
9:15 am	Preschool Chapel		
7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir		
Friday, December 15			
Church Office Closed			
9:00 am	3 Year Old Preschool		
<u>Saturday, December 16</u>			
9:00 am			
	Men's Breakfast & Bible Study		
Sunday, December 17—Third Sunday of Advent			
8:30 am	Worship w/Holy Communion		
9:45 am	Sunday School for All Ages		
11:00 am	Worship w/Holy Communion		
12:30 pm	Special Congregational Meeting—Vote on Warming Shelter		
	at 12:15 has been canceled		

In Our Prayers

Prayers of sympathy for Beth & Mark Bowers and family in the death of Beth's mother, Mary Jane Nemeyer on November 29.

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), Del Benson (member), Mark (Dick Boyce's son), Lisa (Steve Coble's sister), Karen (Scott Eiler's sister), Dan (Paula Glandon's brother-in-law), Edith Holbrook (member), Tracee (Bonnie Ahlstedt's friend), Sharlene Hauge (FLC Quilter), Jessica Hockstedler (member), Dana (Barb & Tim Thieme's friend), Michael (Jeff Kosman's friend), Jana (Renee & Mike Markert'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 sisterin-law), Diane Mackey (Del Benson's friend), Chris & family (Dan & Sandy Hendricks' friends), Karen (Nora Strothman's cousin).

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

Tom Agnew (member), Jeff Almeida (member), Alice (Del Benson's friend), Dale (Roger Steinke's friend), Carolyn Becker (member), Mary Jane (Beth Bowers' mother), Dick Boyce (member), Doug (Ho Brown's brother-in-law), Susan (Bob Berg's cousin), Judy (Linda Chapman's friend), Randy (Chris Martin's friend), Leanne (Krista Daniels' sister), Elizabeth (Jane King's friend), Nancy Davis (member), Carol Jo (Joan and Carl Christian's granddaughter), Audrey Fisher (member), Tracy (Rob & Rene Baker's friend), John Godek (member). Steve (Del Benson's friend), Mark Hatlen (member), Marilyn Iverson (member), Amy (Melanie Veazey's mother), Marlo (Leona Keltner's friend), Debbie Lageson (member), Richard Konieczka (Kathy Konieczka's husband), Albert (Chris Martin's friend), Jeanne (Justin LaFord's mother), Vicki (Darryl Lageson's sister), Andy (Vickie Shanks' friend), Donnabel (Derrick StaRosa's sister), Hildur O'Connor (member), Harriett (Roger Steinke's friend), Walt Stoll (member), Songer Wolter (member), Sue (Aileen Miller's daughter), Roger Wolter (member), Sue (Aileen Miller's daughter), Roger Wolter (member), Christopher (Karen & Ray Thomas' friend), Sue (Aileen Miller's daughter), Roger Wolter (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), Marge Gonyea (member), Marlys Helgeland (member), Jane King (member), Greta & Larry Nelson (members), Lawrence (Leon Romaniuk's father), Jacquie Stoll (member), Sigrid (Carsten Thode's mother).

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.