December 24, 2023 CHRISTMAS EVE 10:00 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 Godgiven 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 tberg@flcbothell.org

Director of Music/Organist Lucy Kay Osborne lkosborne@flcbothell.org Director of Reach Ministries:

Roger Steinke rsteinke@flcbothell.org

Office Manager
Kristin Smith
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10207 NE 183rd Street Bothell WA 98011 (425) 486-2314 office@flcbothell.org www.flcbothell.org

December 24, 2023 Nativity of Our Lord 10:00 am

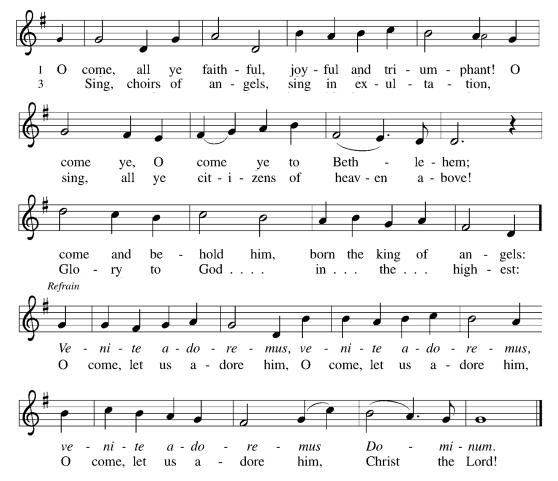
GATHERING

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

PRELUDE: In the Bleak Midwinter (Christina Rossetti)

WELCOME

GATHERING CAROL: O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283)



CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image; long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother— now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

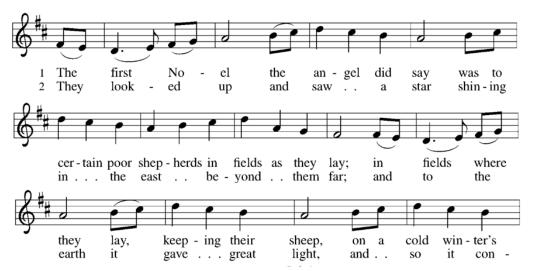
PRAYER OF THE DAY

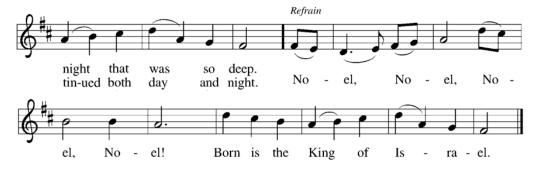
Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this eve of Jesus' birth shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CAROL OF PRAISE: The First Noel (ELW 300)





WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

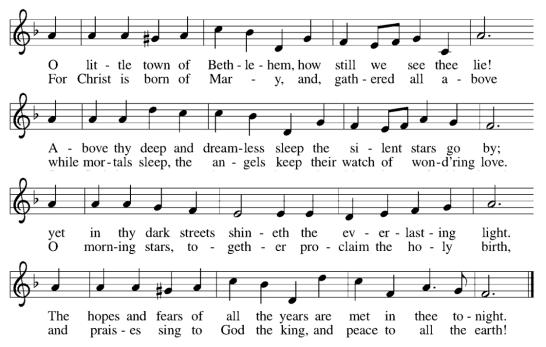
²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

ANTHEM: Mary Did You Know? (M. Lowery/B. Greene) Rachel Jackman, Soprano

THE CENSUS: Luke 2:1-5

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

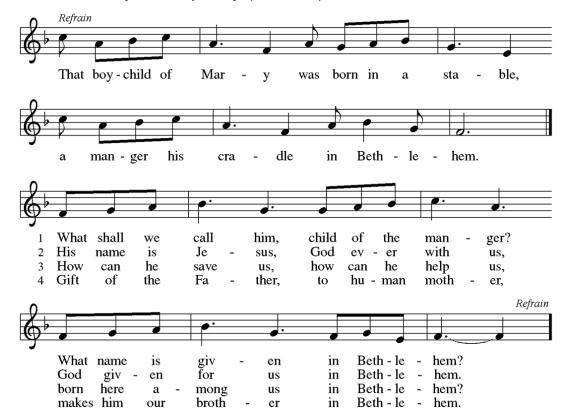
CAROL: O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279)



THE BIRTH: Luke 2:6-7

⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

CAROL: That Boy-Child of Mary (ELW 293)



THE CHORUS OF ANGELS: Luke 2:8-14

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

CAROL: Angels, from the Realms of Glory (ELW 275)



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

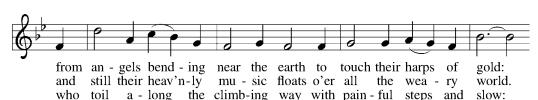
THE SHEPHERDS: Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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



- 1 It came up on the mid night clear, that glo rious song of old,
- 2 Still through the clo ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un furled,
- 3 And you, be neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
- 4 For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, by proph-ets seen of old,



when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"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, look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing; when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



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. oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing! and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (ELW 288)



- 1 Good Chris-tian friends, re joice
- 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re joice
- 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re joice

with heart and soul and voice;

with heart and soul and voice; with heart and soul and voice:



give ye heed to what we say: now ye hear of end-less bliss:

Je - sus Christ is born to - day; Je - sus Christ was born for this!

now ye near of end-less bilss: Je - sus Christ was born for this! now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and He has o - pened heav-en's door, and Calls you one and calls you all to he is in the man-ger now. we are blest for - ev - er - more. gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the sun that shines in the bright sky of this eve of Christ's birth. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear blue of the sky and in the first glimmers of what is to come. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people this day who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in their vocation. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host. We rejoice in the zeal of all your saints who have witnessed the appearing of your grace, and who reveal to us your salvation for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY: Watchman! Tell Us If the Night (John Bowring)

OFFERING: What Child Is This (ELW 296)



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
- 3 So bring him in cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing? Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing. The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing; Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. 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, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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 birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light 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

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

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 HYMNS: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (ELW 276)



- 1 In fant ho ly, in fant low ly, for his bed a cat tle stall;
- 2 Flocks were sleep-ing, shep-herds keep-ing vig il till the morn-ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the child is Lord of all. saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing-ing, bells are ring-ing, tid - ings bring-ing: Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the mor-row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Away in a Manger (ELW 278)



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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SENDING

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

GOSPEL OF LIGHT: John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.



Assisting With Today's Services:

Presiding Minister: Rev. Tor Kristian Berg

Piano: June Condra
Worship Assistant: Susan Berg
Lector: Joyce Thode

Communion Assistants: Clint Bastin & Donna Hillard

Sound Tech: Gary Curtis

Camera Techs: Derrick StaRosa

Ushers: Ryan Stute & Carsten Thode

CAROL OF LIGHT: Silent Night, Holy Night! (ELW 281)



BLESSING

God bless you and keep you, + Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ELW 270)



DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: June Condra, Piano

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS GIVEN IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF LOVED ONES We thank everyone who has so generously given the gift of poinsettias to beautify the chancel this Christmas season.

Given By: Ann & Knut Aagaard

In Memory of: Annie & Gunnar Aagaard,

Charlotte, Paul & Jan Heide

Given By: The Adjorlolos

In Memory of: Ruth & Marvin Boyd;

Laurence & Ezueyou Adjorlolo

Given By: Clint & Dawn Bastin In Memory of: Tom McMaster;

Barbara & Clinton Bastin

Given by: Robert Berg & family In Memory of: Diane Berg (Nana)

Given by: Richard & Kathryn Chester

Given by: Ross & Susan Cook

In Memory of: Marion Hamifon & Michael

McCullough; Richard & Agnes Cook;

Walter & Beverly McCullough

Given by: Nancy Davis

In Memory of: her husband, Rev. Dr.

Charles R. Davis & their daughter, Barbara

Given by: Sally Delvecchio

Given by: The Desilet Family

In Memory of: Dennis Pemberton; Roy & Opal Sieck; Des & Elaine Desilet; Gene &

May VanAlshine

Given by: Paula Glandon

Given by: Allen & Sandy Glenn

In Honor of: Our 60th anniversary on 12/28/23 and granddaughter, Emily's marriage to Timothy Johnson on 5/6/2023

Given by: Tracy Harrison

In Honor of: Her parents, Lois & Les Tayer

Given by: The Hatlen Family

In Memory of: Matthew Danforth

Given By: Dave & Donna Hillard

In Honor of: Nicholas, Brian, Elizabeth,

and Erica

Given by: Marilyn Iverson

In Memory of: Her beloved husband, Jim,

her precious sister, Carol, and her wonderful parents, Ruth & Jack

Given by: Darryl & Debbie Lageson

In Honor of: Their family
Given by: The Mass Family

In Memory of: Torrey Carls, Gordonna

Cole, Alan Mass & Louis Hoadley

Given by: Nancy & Neil McGee **In Memory of:** Their parents

Given by: Beth & Gordy Phelps **In Honor of:** Their granddaughters.

Reagan & Marin Rahlfs

Given by: Dave & Judy Richards

In Memory of: Their parents

In Honor of: Their children & grandsons

Given by: Sandy & Karl Sailand In Honor of: Their children &

grandchildren

Given By: John & Lynn Scoggins In Memory of: Their parents

In Honor of: Their children &

grandchildren

Given by: Mona & Dave Shogren

In Memory of: Arlene & Frank Smathers;

George Shogren

In Honor of: Emma Shogren

Given by: Marilyn Sides In Memory of: Don Sides

Given by: Roger Steinke

In Memory of: Herta & Paul Steinke

Given by: Nora Strothman

In Honor of: Family near and far

Given by: Tim & Barb Thieme **In Memory of:** Jerry Thieme, Giles

Thieme, Keira Thieme, Bob West & Kenny

Kasper

Given by: Carsten & Joyce Thode In Memory of: Hank & Frances Rodne,

Manfred Thode;

In Honor of: Sigrid Thode

Given By: Karen & Ray Thomas In Memory of: Paul Anderson **In Honor of:** Grandchildren

Given by: Melanie Veazey In Memory of: Phil Jensen **In Honor of:** Mary Jensen



Mondy, December 25 Christmas Day

Merry Christmas!

Church office closed

Tuesday, December 26

Wednesday, December 27

Thursday, December 28

Friday, December 29

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 30

Sunday, December 31 First Sunday of Christmas

10:00 am Worship

Monday, January 1

Happy New Year!

(The FLC church office will be closed intermittently between Dec. 26 and New Year's day. Please call the office at 425-486-2314 before going in. For pastoral emergencies please call Pastor Berg directly at 509-595-5493)



NEWYEAR

OFTEN WITH A NEW YEAR ON THE HORIZON WE BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT WHAT NEW THINGS WE CAN DO TO MAKE A BETTER LIFE FOR OURSELVES. BEING A PART OF A SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY HELPS US WITH OUR STRUGGLES. IF YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT MAKING A CHANGE AND BECOMING MORE ATTENTIVE TO YOUR FAITH, CONSIDER FLC.

PASTOR BERG IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR CONVERSATION.