



Second Sunday of Advent
8:00 am worship service

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH | Inviting, Growing, Serving...

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

December 6, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Faith is a growing faith community in the Aurora area. We're people just like you, who are hungry to know God better. We're looking for the answers to life's tough questions. We're struggling to be better parents, spouses, friends, and neighbors. We don't have all the answers but we're growing as we go.

Faith is a great place to find healing for broken hearts and broken lives. In every Sunday message you'll learn new skills and attitudes to help you live life with the kind of joy that God intends for us. You'll also meet people who are also growing in their journey through the joys and challenges of life. You'll find lots of "walking partners" for your journey here. There are no closed doors at Faith, just lots of opportunities to grow in Christ, friendship, and love.

Faith is a church with a great vision; however, accomplishing a great vision requires the participation of many great people like you. There's a place in our vision for you to use your unique gifts and talents.

CURRENT WORSHIP SERIES: GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

People close to Jesus were convinced they had met good personified. So they documented the story. They were convinced it wasn't just for a nation or for a generation, but for all nations and every generation. This was good news, great joy, for all people—perhaps especially for those of us who aren't all that good. Join us and discover, or rediscover, the joy inspiring message of Christmas.

The Gathering

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

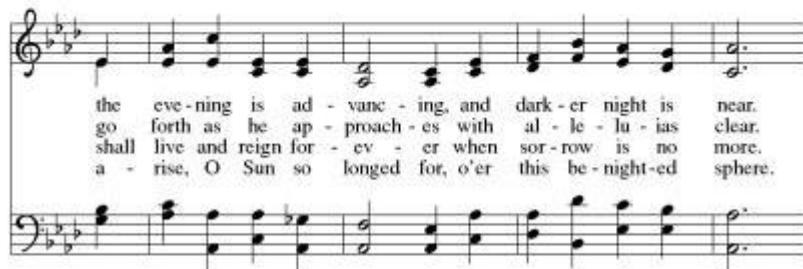
OPENING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers | ELW #244

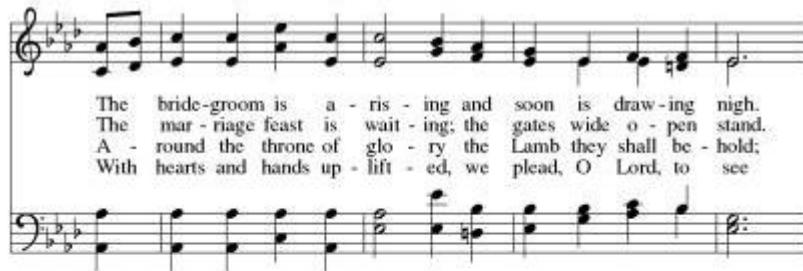
please stand



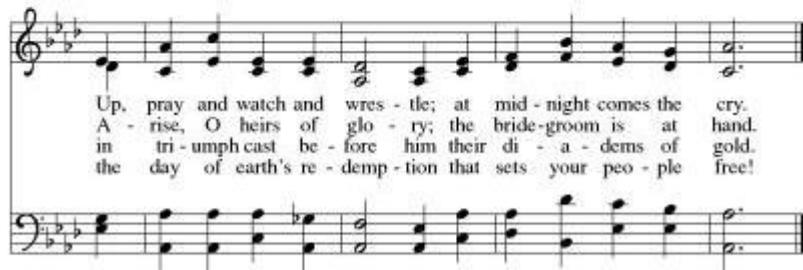
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

GREETING

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

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- L:** We praise you, O God, for this circle of light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in the darkness.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
- C:** **Amen.**

SONG OF RESPONSE

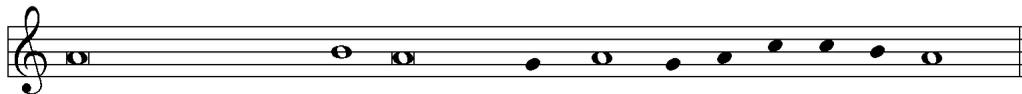
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strengthened beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

KYRIE



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



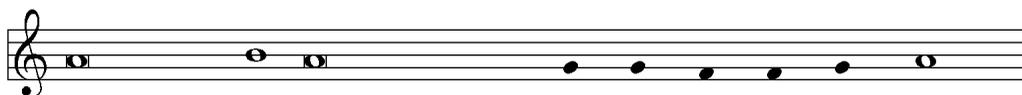
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **C** A - men

ADVENT RESPONSE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

C: **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The Word

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

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

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every 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. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get 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!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He 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.

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *please stand*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

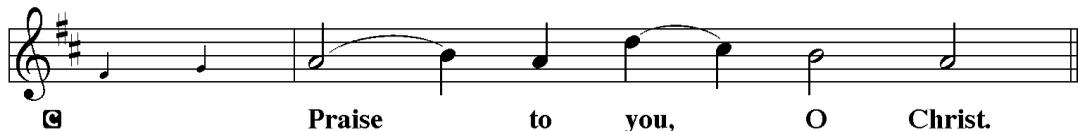
GOSPEL

Luke 2: 1-8

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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



MESSAGE

Better Than True | Pastor Rob

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming | ELW #272

please stand

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night,
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night,
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

LITANY OF DEDICATION

- P We are grateful, O God, for the many blessings we receive each day. Bless these gifts, which we commit to you for the ministry and mission of this church.
- P God, we commit to you today not only our financial resources but our very lives. We know that all that we have been given are gifts from you. We promise to give freely of our time, talent, and treasure to the work of your church in this community and in the world.
- P God, bless the givers as well as the gifts of love that we offer. In Jesus our lives are made whole and our offerings pure. God gives us our present and our future and calls us to seek after him and serve the world.

C Amen

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- P: God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.
- P: Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**
- P: Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**
- P: Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: (Prayers of the community). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

The Sending

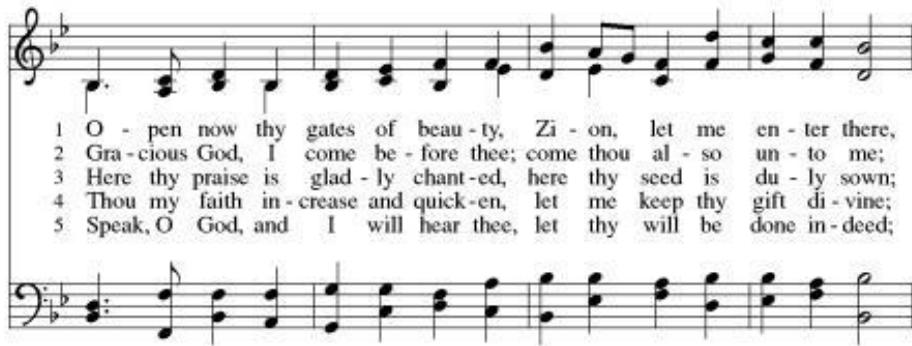
BLESSING

P: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
† now and forever.

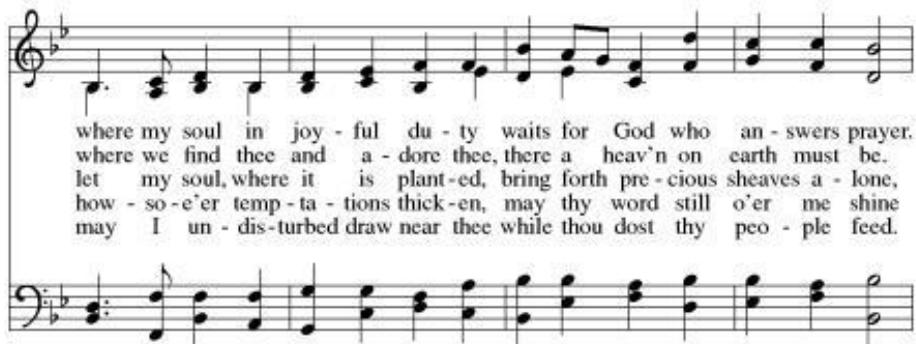
C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty | ELW #533



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thic - ken, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEASON OF ADVENT

The days of Advent point the people of God toward the three comings of the Lord Jesus. He came among us at Bethlehem. He comes among us now in the scriptures, the waters of baptism, the Eucharistic meal, and the community of faith. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. Keep awake, for his coming is certain and his day draws near. With the change of season brings a change in our liturgical setting.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Thursday 12/24

Join us online this year for beautiful music and the story of how God's love came to unexpected places and touched each of us with the birth of His son. Come celebrate!

LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. DO STUFF.

Tuesdays | 7:00 PM

Upcoming Adult Online Study Group

This series is about God's love... and the most amazing thing about that love is that it's not a bunch of rules or stuff we have to agree with. God's love is different. It changes things. It's active. It works. It risks. It's something we discover more about by "doing stuff." Love God. Love People. Do Stuff. Join us for our next adult online group series, "Love Does," based on the New York Times bestseller book by Bob Goff where we'll learn together how God's love for us enables us to love others outrageously through our actions. You'll discover how your faith comes alive when you do the love of God. Don't miss out! Register today at www.discoveringfaith.com.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

12/11 – 12/21

Online registration is up & running for Faith's Holiday Lights Contest! Register you or your friends home by 12/8. A map will be posted by 12/11 for you to begin touring all the homes. Cast your vote before 12/21 and winners will be announced on 12/22!

LIVE NATIVITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Save the date for this year's Live Nativity here at Faith! However, many types of volunteers are needed to help make this event a huge success (actors, hospitality, set up, animal control, "Welcomers", photographers.) Sign up online or contact Pastor Rob if you are interested.

LIVE NATIVITY AT FAITH!

Sat 12/19 | 6:00 PM

This year, the spirit of Christmas will be alive at Faith, as we host our annual outdoor Live Nativity on Saturday, December 19th at 6pm.

Come and experience the birth of Jesus. Imagine what the first Christmas was like through the Live Nativity. The journey will take you back in time to the birth of our Savior. Shepherds peacefully tend to their flocks, while Mary and Joseph look after the child in the manger. Wise men will come from the East bearing gifts as angels watch over the scene. Faith's Live Nativity features a large cast, choir, live animals and scenery to provide a memorable Christmas event for the entire family.

During the performance as the story is told, visitors will be invited to join with the choir in singing traditional carols. After the performance, stay to have hot chocolate and cookies, enjoy the petting zoo, and get your very own nativity scene picture.

It's an experience that will bring the true meaning of the Christmas season for one and all!!

REVOLUTION ONLINE

Sundays | 5:00 & 6:00 PM

God is good, and He is with us in everything! We want our students to know that, trust that, and experience that every moment of their lives. Our fall groups for middle & high school students have begun. These 45 minute gatherings will allow our students to connect with each other and with God, and grow in their faith. This will be a fun, and engaging opportunity for your child to connect with others during this confusing time, where they will find encouragement, support, and growth.

KIDWERKS LIVE

Sundays | 10:30 AM

We've changed to a new time and a new engaging format to help our kids connect with God and with each other. Every Sunday morning kids are invited to connect and grow through our Kidwerks Live 2.0. This fun, interactive, event happens at our new time at 10:30am.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Betty Wampach

Bethany Boyles

Sarah Hennings prayers of healing

Family of Vicky Halupnick on loss of her sister, Kenna

Family of Jackie Rumbold

Brad and Kathy Gorman- prayers for health

Katie Riley

Nancy Staton

Mitch- son of co-worker of Christy Douglas

Mike Autry

Taylor Scott

Doris Johnson, mother of Karen Banschbach

Kathy, daughter-in-law of Karen Solan

Strength for Sonjia Ramsey

Sarah Barr

Scott Perkins, friend of Randy & Bonnie Schumacher

Bob Clark

Jay Bridge, brother of Dale Bridge

Ron Cizek, prayers of healing

Scott Lee

John, Jill O'Neal's godfather

Kathy, health care worker

Jerry, son of Judy Bridge

Dana & Daniel, friends of Judy Bridge

Claudia Marrow, friend of Danita Curry

Nick Falkos

John Larkin, cousin of Pastor Rob

Bella, Karen Solan's granddaughter

VerHagen family, friends of the Jensen family

Dave Belinski

Dave Hibler, brother of Kathryn Pawluczyk

Muriel Weigel, mother of Gary Weigel

Christy Dunn, Diane Rinehard, Jess Schell- working with Covid patients

Prayers

If you would like to add someone to our prayer list and have the prayer team pray for them, please contact the church office at [\(630\) 862-3500](tel:6308623500) or send an e-mail prayerteam@discoveringfaith.com

Prayer concerns will be listed for four weeks unless otherwise noted.

Care

If you know of someone who is in need of emotional, physical, or spiritual support, please contact our care team at: careteam@discoveringfaith.com

Pastoral Emergency

In the case of an emergency that requires immediate Pastoral Care, please contact Pastor Rob directly on his cell phone at [\(630\) 248-5515](tel:6302485515).



to Rt. Douglas

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3000 LIBERTY ST. AURORA, IL. 60502 | (630) 862-3500 | OFFICE@DISCOVERINGFAITH.COM