



Third Sunday of Advent
8:00 am worship service

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

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

December 13, 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

People, Look East | ELW #248

please stand

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

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 victory wreath
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
strengthen our hearts
as we await the Lord's coming in glory.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may serve our neighbors in need.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
- C:** **Amen.**

SONG OF RESPONSE

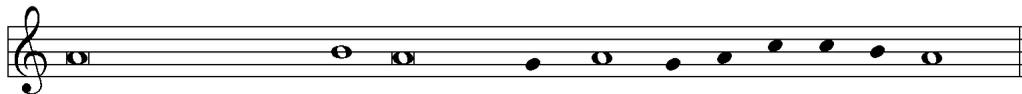
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
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.



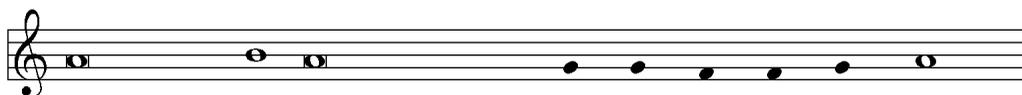
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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 61:1-4, 8-11

The 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; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 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.

They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For 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. Their 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.

I 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. For 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.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

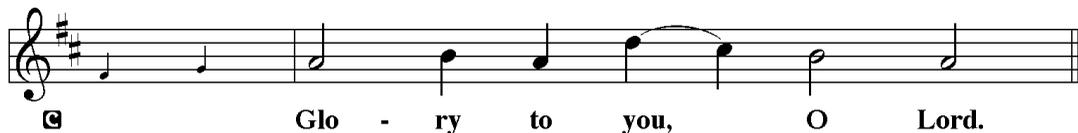
May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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 5th chapter.



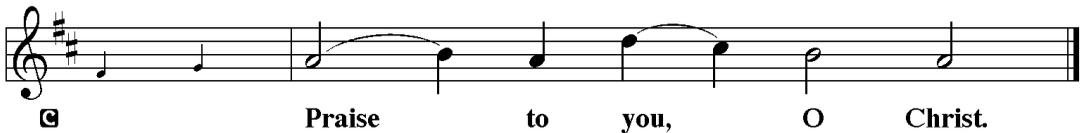
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Luke 5: 1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



MESSAGE

Leveling the Playing Field | Pastor Rob

HYMN OF THE DAY

Prepare the Royal Highway | ELW #264

please stand

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

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: God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. 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

Joy to the World | ELW #267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav-ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor-row grow nor thorns in-
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev-'ry heart pre-pare him
songs em-ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless-ings
na-tions prove the glo-ries of his righ-teous-

room and heav'n and na-ture sing, and heav'n and na-ture
plains re-peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his
and heav'n and na-ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na-ture sing.
joy, re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won-ders, won-ders of his love.
heav'n and na-ture sing,

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

3:00, 5:00 & 11:00PM Live Stream & On Demand

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!

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Due Friday 12/18

Faith's sanctuary will be adorned with beautiful poinsettias this Christmas Eve!

To order a poinsettia, please order online www.discoveringfaith.com \$15 each.

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 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

Chris, friend of Danita Curry

Betty Wampach

Sarah Hennings prayers of healing

Brad and Kathy Gorman- prayers for health

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

Jerry, son of Judy Bridge

Dana & Daniel, friends of Judy Bridge

Nick Falkos

John Larkin, cousin of Pastor Rob

Bella, Karen Solan's granddaughter

Dave Belinski

Dave Hibler, brother of Kathryn Pawluczyk

Muriel Weigel, mother of Gary Weigel

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



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