

# This Week's Schedule

Every Sunday - online worship & printable bulletins available at [faithlilacway.org](http://faithlilacway.org)

*(After the 9:30 service has streamed, there may be a slight delay)*

**This Week's Schedule | All Are Welcome!**

## **Sunday, December 10th-Third Sunday of Advent**

8:30 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Sunday Worship in Sanctuary and streaming live at [faithlilacway.org](http://faithlilacway.org)

10:30 AM Treats and Talk in the Library

5:30 PM Movie Night with Tacos in the Library- "The Littlest Angel"

## **Tuesday, December 12th**

10:00 AM Staff Meeting

5:30 PM Wine with WELCA at Linda Fernelius' home

## **Wednesday, December 13th**

10:00 AM Contemplative Prayer

10:30 AM Bible Study

6:30 PM Midweek Advent Service in FLW Sanctuary—all are invited!

6:00 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

## **Sunday, December 17th-Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:30 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Sunday Worship in Sanctuary and streaming live at [faithlilacway.org](http://faithlilacway.org)

10:30 AM Treats and Talk in the library

10:45 AM Council Meeting with Greater St. John



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# Sunday Worship Third Sunday of Advent



# Welcome to Worship

**Children are welcome in worship at FLW!**

***The congregational speaking parts are printed in bold.***

All who believe are welcome to commune. You are invited to come forward to receive communion (wine is red and grape juice is white) and bread or a gluten free wafer - or you may pick up a communion kit (chalices filled with grape juice and gluten free wafers) and receive it in your pew.

## Prelude

## Welcome and Peace

### Gathering Hymn

***Comfort, Comfort Now My People*** ELW 256

"Comfort, comfort now my people;  
tell of peace!" So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow's load.  
To God's people now proclaim  
that God's pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over;  
God will reign in peace forever.

For the herald's voice is crying  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance,  
since the reign of God is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way.  
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;  
hills, bow down in humble favor.

Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
and the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits God's holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that God's word is never broken.

### Invocation

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with hope, peace, love and joy. **Amen.**

# Announcements

## **TODAY! December 10<sup>th</sup> Ladies Ensemble & Chancel Choir Program**

Enjoy music of the season presented by the Ladies Ensemble, the Chancel Choir, and Paula Lindgren on cello. This year's theme is *The Light Shines in the Darkness*.

## **MOVIE NIGHT in the Library!**

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM**

Join us in the library to watch a Christmas Movie "The Littlest Angel" and join us for a Taco supper! Questions? See Vicar Karen.

## **Wine with WELCA**

Women – you are invited to a gathering of women on **Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM** at Linda Fernelius' home. We will be reimagining ideas for ways women at FLW can connect, engage, serve and have fun together.

- Please bring an item to create a delicious Romaine Salad to enjoy together. Salad greens will be provided.

See Linda Fernelius or Jessica Hughes for details. And yes, you can bring a friend!

## **Midweek Advent Worship - Wednesdays at 6:30PM**

- ◇ Wednesday, December 13: Listen
- ◇ Wednesday, December 20: The Longest Night

## **Christmas Service**

### **Sunday, December 24 10:00 AM Christmas Family Service**

- ◇ Children tell the story of Jesus' birth!
- ◇ Enjoy Christmas cookies!

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 4:30 PM and 10:30 PM**

- ◇ Traditional Lessons and Carols Service
- ◇ Holy Communion



## Thank You to Our Wonderful Choir!

A special thank you to the Chancel Choir and to the Ladies Ensemble Choir for providing us with beautiful music today as we celebrate Advent and prepare for Christmas! And another special thank you to Ann Marie Skoglund-Anderson for directing our choirs!

Janis Anderson*	Sue Ferkingstad
Clint Hughes	Jessica Hughes*
Chris Ipsen	Ruth Kuder*
Heather Lane	Marty Moores
Anne Ng*	Ann Nowak*
Dave Peloquin	Mary Peloquin*
Brenda Thompson	

\* Ladies Ensemble Members

## Worship Leaders

Pastor.....	Pastor Pamela Stalheim Lane
Intern Pastor.....	Vicar Karen Peterson
Music Director.....	Ann Marie Skoglund-Anderson
Music.....	Chancel Choir Ladies Ensemble
Cello.....	Paula Lindgren
Lector.....	Grant Galarneau-Becker
Communion Assistant.....	Linda Fernelius Colleen Foster Gina Swanson Tori Swanson
Candle Lighters.....	Gina and Tori Swanson
Usher .....	Ashley Galarneau-Becker Tim Lindgren
Altar Guild.....	Gina Swanson
Streaming.....	Steve Ferkingstad Dave Fernelius

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Public domain music: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" words by Johann G. Olearius; music from *Trente quatre psaumes de David, Geneva, 1551. "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright" words by Ambrose of Milan; music by Michael Praetorius. "Of the Father's Love Begotten" words by Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; music Plainsong mode V, 13th century.*

## Confession and Forgiveness

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression and that makes us complicit in systems of exploitation. Too often, we choose comfort over courage.**

**In our daily lives, too often, we choose busyness over thoughtfulness. We forget to stop in the stillness to ponder the blessings of your grace. We forget to be awed by the wonder of your love. We neglect to show grace to the "other."**

**Forgive us. Renew us. Open us to the thin spaces of stillness, wonder, love and grace you so freely give. Amen.**

In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God has prepared the way and blesses both you and your neighbor out of God's great and abundant love. **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.**

## Advent Candle Lighting *Come Light Our Hearts v. 1*

### Come Light Our Hearts

Sandra McCracken

For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait. For You, O Lord, our

souls in still - ness wait. Tru-ly our hope is in You. Tru-ly our hope is in You.

1. O Lord of life, our on - ly hope, Your ra - diance shines on all who look to You in the  
2. O joy a - bove all oth - er loves, in You we find more than e - nough. We come as we

dark, Em - man - u - el - come, come light our hearts.  
arc, O heal - and - re - store, come light our hearts.

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When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed a word of anticipation and hope. We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

**We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.**

**We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

*Come Light Our Hearts v. 2*

### **Prayer of the Day**

God of light and love, **enlighten our hearts with the joy of your saving grace, fill our lips with songs of praise and our lives with acts of loving kindness done in the name of Christ. Amen.**

### **The Light Shines in the Darkness**

**Still** Jean Anne Shafferman  
Chancel Choir

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly minded,  
for with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
our full homage to demand.*

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
All the world in silence still;  
ponder nothing earthly minded,  
come in prayer and silence, come.*

*Come in awe and reverence, come,  
the world awaits the Savior's coming,  
Hushed in silence, angels hovering,  
Come, we wait in silence,  
still, still, still.*

### **Communion Prayer**

Generous God, **nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### **Sending Song He Came Down That We May Have Love ELW 253**

He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
hallelujah forevermore.

### **Blessing**

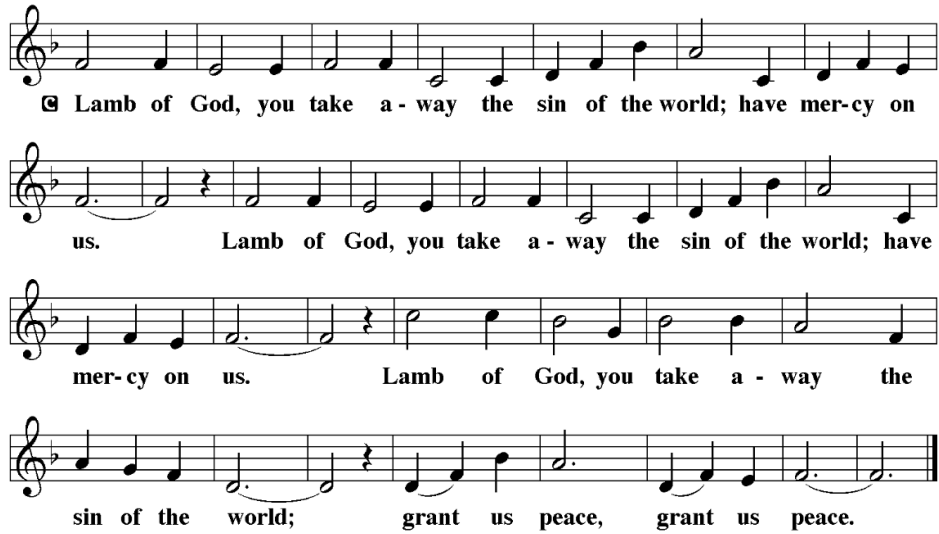
The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ☩ remain upon you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Go in grace, grow in faith, serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**



## **Communion Distribution**



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

### ***Of the Father's Love Begotten*** ELW 295 V. 1,4,5

Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.

Let the heights of heav'n adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing;  
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
ev'ry voice in concert ring  
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
and unwearied praises be:  
honor, glory, and dominion,  
and eternal victory  
evermore and evermore! Amen.

## **Communion Blessing**

## **Lesson** Isaiah 40:1- 9 (NRSVUE)

The lesson is from Isaiah, the 40th chapter.

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 flesh 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 flesh is 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 news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ***Prepare the Way***

Ladies Ensemble

Tom Booth

*Our swords will be plowshares  
and our knives will be spades  
As we till the vineyard of the King.*

*So level the mountains.  
Let the valleys be filled.  
Make straight the path for the Lord,  
For He shall come.*

*Prepare the way  
For the Lord, for he shall come.*

*For the glory of the Lord  
Shall be revealed  
And all flesh shall see it together.  
For the Lord has spoken it.*

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**Psalm** 85:1-2; 8-13(NRSVUE)

Lord, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you pardoned all their sin.**

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

**Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

**Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

The Lord will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness will go before him  
and will make a path for his steps.**

**Lo, How a Rose**

Ladies Ensemble

Debra Morton

*Lo, how a rose e're blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.  
It came a flower bright, amid the cold of winter  
when half spent was the night.*

*There is no rose of such virtue  
as is the rose that bare Jesu, Alleluia.*

*For in this rose contained was  
heaven and earth in little space, resmiranda (wonderful thing)*

*Isaiah 'twas fortold it, the rose I have in mind.  
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright*

*By that rose we may well see  
that He is God in persons three, pares forma (equal in form)*

*She bore to us a Savior when half spent was the night.  
This flower whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air  
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.*

*The angels sang the shepherds, too. Gaudeamus (Let us rejoice)  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*True man yet very God from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens every load.*

*Alleluia*

*Resmiranda (wonderful thing)*

*Pares forma (equal in form)*

*Gaudeamus (let us rejoice)*

*Transeamus (Let us follow)*

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

18

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-  
joyce! Look to God, do not be a-fraid. Lift up your  
voic-es, the Lord is near. Lift up your voic-es, the Lord is near." There are triplets in the second system.

**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.**

**Words of Institution**

**The 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.**

## **Prayers of the People**

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers...restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

## **Offering**

### ***The Wexford Carol***

Chancel Choir

Traditional Irish Carol

arr. by Victor Johnson

*Good people all, this Christmastime,  
consider well and bear in mind,  
a tiny child to us is born in Bethlehem this blessed morn.*

*Now let our hearts and voices raise  
A song of gladness this Christmas Day  
Let all the earth rejoice and sing  
the birth of this our newborn King.*

*Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep  
their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;  
To whom the angels did appear,  
which put the shepherds in great fear.  
“Prepare and go,” the angels said,  
“to Bethlehem; be not afraid,  
for there you’ll find this happy morn,  
a holy babe, sweet Jesus born.”*

*With hearts of love and hymns of joy,  
come let us greet the baby boy,  
and as the angels have foretold  
let all the tiny child behold.  
Within a manger he was laid  
and by his side his mother stayed.  
Let all the earth sing with delight  
the holy child is born this night*

## **Offering Prayer**

Holy One, **this Advent season we sing with joy and we give joyfully. We are thankful for all you have given us, especially the gift of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Receive our offerings, and help us to use them to bring peace and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **Offering Response**

## ***Moonlit Garden***

Chancel Choir

Angela Birkhead-Flight

*Deep in my heart there’s a moonlit garden  
where fragrant flowers open white.  
So when this earth is filled with darkness  
they still reflect God’s holy light.*

*All nature mourns and longs for your justice.  
Your people yearn for truth to shine once more.  
And still there’s hope in my moonlit garden;  
its fragrance lifts my prayers to you.*

*And still we wait for your promise, O Father.  
The new heavens shine forth your light upon the land!  
The new earth so full of your goodness,  
where the justice of the Lord will keep command.*

*Your son will come and shatter the darkness.  
The night will shine as brilliant as the sun.  
My hope fulfilled in a moonlight garden;  
its fragrance lifts my praise to you!*

## **Gospel** John 1:1-5; 14-18 (NRSVUE)

The Gospel According to John the first chapter.

### **Glory to You O Lord.**

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

And 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. (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of our Lord.

### **Praise to you O Christ.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace**

Chancel Choir

Frederick Frahm

*Years in darkness, restless sleep;  
starless heavens hopeless keep,  
Aching burdens, blinding fears;  
haunted slumber all these years.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of peace, break the bonds of night;  
brighten every captive heart with everlasting light.*

*Whisper truth, now beg me wake;  
tell me hope is mine to take.  
Tell my heart that morning's nigh;  
grace like rain shall wash the sky.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of peace, break the bonds of night;  
brighten every captive heart with everlasting light.*

*Word is flesh now, word is bone.  
Daybreak shatters all I've known.  
Fear and darkness cast away;  
fill my soul with endless day.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of peace, break the bonds of night;  
brighten every captive heart with everlasting light.*

**Welcome the Child of Light**

Chancel Choir

Mark Hayes

*Good people of God, rejoice and sing.  
Prepare to meet your newborn King.  
The waiting is over, Messiah has come.  
Open your hearts and receive God's Son.*

*Welcome the Child of Light, the bright morning star that illumines the night,  
the hope of the ages, the savior of all;  
Welcome the Child of Light.*

*This, this is Christ, the King  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary.*

*Shepherds were watching their flock by night  
when lo, there appeared a wondrous sight.  
Angels announced the glorious birth,  
Goodwill to all and peace on earth!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Welcome the Child of Light, the bright morning star that illumines the night,  
the hope of the ages, the savior of all;  
Welcome the Child of Light.*

**Reflection**

Pastor Pamela Stalheim Lane

**Hymn of the Day**

**O Splendor of God's Glory Bright**

Ambrose of Milan  
Michael Praetorius

1. O Splen - dor of God's glo - ry bright, from light e -  
 2. Come, ve - ry Sun of hea - ven's love, in las - ting  
 3. As dawn speeds on a - cross the sky, true Dawn, with  
 4. All Glo - ry be to God Most High; to God the

ter - nal bring - ing light, O Light of light, the foun - tain  
 ra - diance from a - bove, and pour the Ho - ly Spi - rit's  
 haste come from on high. O Word, through whom light came to  
 Son— let prais - es rise; the Spi - rit blest let us a -

spring, O Day, all days il - lu - min - ing.  
 ray on all we think or do to - day.  
 be, come in your pow'r and set us free.  
 dore for - ev - er and for - ev - er more.

**Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**