



**FAITH-LILAC WAY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**  
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**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**  
**DECEMBER 24, 2023**

**4:30 PM**  
**10:30 PM**

# 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

### Dialogue

The Word became flesh and lived among us

**and we have beheld Christ's glory.**

A light shines in the darkness,

**and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

### Processional Hymn

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

ELW 283

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!**

**O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;**

**Come and behold him, born the king of angels:**

### *Refrain*

**O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,**

**Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;**

**Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,**

**Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!**

**Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain***

### Confession and Forgiveness

Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess those times when we have fallen short of being the people God created us to be.

*Silence for reflection.*

God of grace and truth, **in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not always welcomed the light or trusted the good news of great joy. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the fullness of your love, trusting in the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### **Greeting**

The grace and peace of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **Prayer**

Let us pray. God of all ages, **in the birth of Christ your boundless love shines with true light. Be born in us with that same love and light that our song may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

### **Lesson** Isaiah 9:2,6-7 (NRSV)

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise.*

The lesson is from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep Darkness, on them light has shined. For 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. His 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Hymn**

#### ***Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming***

ELW 272 v. 1, 2

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

**Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,  
When half-spent was the night.**

### **The Christmas Gospel in Word & Music** Luke 2:1-20 (NRSV)

The gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Hymn**

***Once in Royal David's City***

ELW 269 v. 1, 2

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.**

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

**Hymn**

***Angels We Have Heard on High***

ELW 289

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

**Hymn**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ELW 279 v. 1, 3

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but, in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Hymn**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

ELW 270

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hymn

# How Great Our Joy

Traditional German Carol  
Translated by Theodore Baker

1. While by the sheep we watched at night, glad ti - dings brought an  
 2. There shall be born, the an - gels say, in Beth - le - hem a  
 3. There shall the Child lie in a stall, this Child who shall re -  
 4. This gift of God we'll cher - ish well, that ev - er joy our

an - gel bright. How great our joy! (Great our joy!) Joy, joy, joy! (Joy, joy,  
 Child to - day.  
 deem us all.  
 hearts shall fill.

joy) Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! (Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!)

Prayers of Intercession

Filled with the love and light of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world and all who are in need....Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Into the manger of your love we lay our prayers, trusting in your promise made known to us in Jesus Christ, our brother and Savior. **Amen.**

## Offering

*Jesus Comes*

Mary Louise Bringle

### Offering Response

*What Child is This*

ELW 296 vs 3

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

### Offering prayer

Generous God, **receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table. 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.**

### 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.**

### Distribution of the Bread and Wine

**Love has come—a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

**Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.**

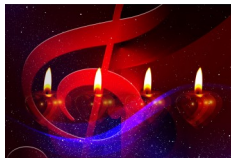
**Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

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*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

**Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing,  
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you!  
Christ the child was born for you!**





In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter,  
long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—  
give my heart.

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heav'nly music floats  
o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hov'ring wing,  
and ever o'er its babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

**And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow:  
look now, for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing!**

**For lo! The days are hast'ning on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.**

### **Blessing After Communion**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray. Emmanuel, God with us, **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.**

#### **Candle Lighting**

Glory to God in the highest  
**and peace to God's people on earth.**

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

**Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

**Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as Word made flesh.**

The Light shines in the darkness,

**And the darkness did not overcome it.**

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

#### **Anthem**

#### ***O Holy Night***

*During the anthem, your candle will be lit from the center aisle. Worshipers should tip unlit candles to receive the flame of the lit candle, and then hold their lit candle upright to light the candles of fellow worshipers.*

#### **Hymn**

#### ***Silent Night***

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

ELW 281

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

### **Blessing**

Even in the midst of darkness, may the light of Christ shine brightly in and through you. May the song of the angels inspire you and fill your heart with wonder and peace. May the love of the Christ child bless you and fill your heart with joy. **Amen.**

### **Hymn**

#### ***Joy to the World***

ELW 267 vs. 1, 2, 4

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

### **Dismissal**

Having received God's blessing, we joyfully proclaim the mission we share:  
**Go in grace, grow in faith, serve the Lord. Thanks be to God. Amen!**

### **Postlude**

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## Worship Leaders

Pastor .....Pastor Pamela Stalheim Lane  
Intern Pastor ..... Vicar Karen Peterson  
Music Director .....Ann Marie Skoglund-Anderson  
Music .....Chancel Choir

### 4:30 PM Service

Lector.....Janis Anderson  
Communion Assistants.....Linda Fernelius  
Sandy Hanneman  
Daniel Stalheim Lane  
Paula Lindgren  
Ushers.....Rick Anderson  
Barret Lane  
Altar Guild.....Kim Ipsen  
Streaming.....Steve Ferkingstad  
Dave Fernelius  
Lights.....Dave Fernelius

### 10:30 PM Service

Lector.....Tiber Family  
Communion Assistant.....Lydia Foster  
Usher .....Colleen Foster  
Jeff Tiber  
Altar Guild.....Kim Ipsen  
Lights.....Brenda Tiber

**Online worship: <https://www.faithlilacway.org/online-worship>**

**Online giving: <https://www.faithlilacway.org/give>**

