

**Sunday, December 24th 10:00 AM Christmas Service**

- ✦ Sing Christmas Carols
- ✦ Listen to the children tell the story of Jesus' birth
- ✦ Enjoy Christmas cookies & coffee/ hot chocolate before and after the service



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

**Prelude at 4:20 PM and 10:20 PM**

- ✦ Traditional Lessons and Carols Service
- ✦ Holy Communion
- ✦ Candle Lighting

**Weekly 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)

**Sunday, December 3rd Second Sunday of Advent**

- 8:30 AM Sunday School
- 9:30 AM Worship
- 10:30 AM Treats & Talk

**Tuesday, December 5th**

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting

**Wednesday, December 6th**

- 10:00 AM Contemplative Prayer
- 10:30 AM Bible Study
- 6:30 PM Midweek Advent Service
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir

**Sunday, December 10th- Ladies Ensemble & Chancel Choir Program**

- 8:30 AM Sunday School
- 9:30 AM Worship
- 10:30 AM Treats & Talk



**Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church**

5530 42ND AVE NORTH

ROBBINSDALE, MN. 55422

763-537-4523 [FAITHLILACWAY.ORG](http://FAITHLILACWAY.ORG)

# Sunday Worship



## December 3, 2023 Second Sunday in 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 Sharing of the Peace

### Gathering Song

***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*** ELW 254

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

### Invocation

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

### 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.**

## Worship Leaders

Pastor .....	Pastor Pamela Stalheim Lane
Intern Pastor .....	Vicar Karen Peterson
Music Director .....	Ann Marie Skoglund-Anderson
Music .....	Chancel Choir
Lector.....	Kevin Peterson
Communion Assistant.....	Sue Ferkingstad
Usher .....	Debbie Bren Larry Geer
Advent Candle Lighters.....	Ruby Henkels, Ella Henkels, & Lisa Jordan
Altar Guild.....	Debbie Overman
Streaming.....	Rory Joygaard Tommy Thompson

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

During our 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Worship at 9:30am, come and 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*.

### **December 10th-Movie Night in the Library**

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

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

This service will also be streamed. You can find it on our website. **Wednesday, December 6: Hope** -What do you need to hold onto to have Hope? We light candles for hope.

**Wednesday, December 13: Listen**- What do you need to silence to hear the Spirit's voice? We light candles and listen.

**Wednesday, December 20: The Longest Night**-On this eve of the longest night, we acknowledge our sorrows, fears, and pain. We light candles against the darkness.



## Communion Blessing

### 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.**

## Announcements

### Sending Song

**Hark, the Glad Sound!** ELW 239

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
and ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

### 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.**

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**Public domain music:** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" words by Charles Wesley; music by W. Walker, Southern Harmony. "Hark, the Glad Sound" words by Philip Doddridge; music by Thomas Haweis.

**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

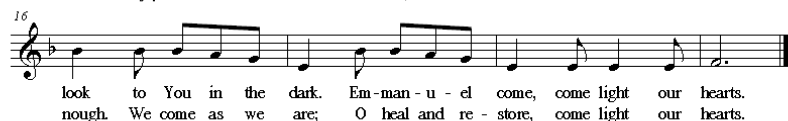
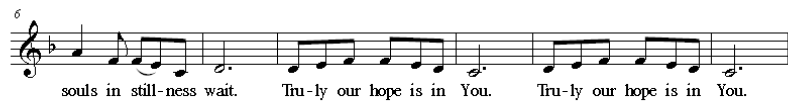
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

**Advent Candle-Lighting Song** *Come and Light Our Hearts* vs 1

## Come Light Our Hearts

Sandra McCracken



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The prophets proclaimed the coming of one who would refine our hearts and our lives and bring peace. Like God's people then, we who gather today seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

**We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.**

We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

*Light two candles of the Advent wreath.*

**Advent Candle-Lighting Song *Come and Light Our Hearts* vs 2**

**Prayer of the Day**

God of timeless grace, **you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**Psalm** Isaiah 12:2-6 (NRSV)

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,

**for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.**

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:

**Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.**

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

**Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

**Lesson** Malachi 3:1-5 (NRSV)

The lesson is from Malachi, the 3rd chapter.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in 4

☞ 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.

***Blessed Be the God of Israel* ELW 250**

Blessed be the God of Israel  
who comes to set us free  
and raises up new hope for us:  
a Branch from David's tree.  
So have the prophets long declared  
that with a mighty arm  
God would turn back our enemies  
and all who wish us harm.

With promised mercy will God still  
the covenant recall,  
the oath once sworn to Abraham,  
from foes to save us all;  
that we might worship without fear  
and offer lives of praise,  
in holiness and righteousness  
to serve God all our days.

My child, as prophet of the Lord  
you will prepare the way,  
to tell God's people they are saved  
from sin's eternal sway.  
Then shall God's mercy from on high  
shine forth and never cease  
to drive away the gloom of death  
and lead us into peace.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**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.**

**Communion Distribution**

righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

***What Feast of Love*** ELW 487 v. 2

What light of truth is offered here,  
 what covenant from heaven?  
 What hope of everlasting life,  
 what wondrous word is given?  
 This, this is Christ the king,  
 the sun come down from heaven.  
 Oh, see and hear and sing!  
 The Word of God is given!

**Gospel** Mark 1:1-8 (NRSV)

The holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" ', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Pamela Stalheim Lane

**Hymn of the Day** **Prepare the Royal Highway** ELW 264 vs 1,3,4

Prepare the royal highway;  
 the King of kings is near!  
 Let ev'ry hill and valley  
 a level road appear!  
 Then greet the King of glory,  
 foretold in sacred story:

**Refrain**

Hosanna to the Lord,  
 for he fulfills God's word!

Then fling the gates wide open  
to greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
its tribute too may bring.  
All lands will bow before him;  
their voices join your singing: **Refrain**

### **Refrain**

Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!

His is no earthly kingdom;  
it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
and justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
for kindness so abounding: **Refrain**

### **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.**

### **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**

***I Hear the Prophet Callin'***

Choplin

### **Offering Prayer**

Holy One, **this Advent season we wait in joy and peace, We give with  
joy, thankful for all you have given us; Receive our offerings, and  
help us use them to bring peace and spread your joy in our world.  
Amen.**

### **Offering Response**

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

18

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -". The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your". The third system concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "voic - es, the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near." The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands, with some triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes.

### **The 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.**

It is indeed right . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn: