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Public domain music: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" words - Medieval Latin carol, tr. by John Mason Neale; music - German carol. "O Little Town of Bethlehem" words by Phillips Brooks, music by Lewis H. Redner. "We Three Kings" words and music by John Henry Hopkins, Jr. "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming" traditional German carol. "Joy to the World" words by Isaac Watts; music: English tune. "What Child Is This" words by William C. Dix; music: English ballad.

## 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)*

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### Sunday, December 31st

9:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary and Streaming online at

[www.faithlilacway.org](http://www.faithlilacway.org)

10:30 AM New Years Treats and Talk

### Monday, January 1st~Happy New Year!

\*\*Office Closed\*\*

### Tuesday, January 2nd

10:00 AM Staff Meeting

### Wednesday, January 3rd

10:00 AM Contemplative Prayer

10:30 AM Bible Study

### Sunday, January 7th

8:30 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary and Streaming online at

[www.faithlilacway.org](http://www.faithlilacway.org)

10:30 AM Treats and Talk



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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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# Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church

5530 42ND AVE NORTH

ROBBINSDALE, MN. 55422

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

## Sunday Worship



# December 31, 2023

# 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      **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**      ELW 288

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

### Dialogue

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.  
**By day and night he shines for all to see.**  
Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty  
**that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**

Now the bud has come to bloom,  
and the world awakens.  
In the lily's purest flow'r  
dwells a wondrous fragrance.  
And it spreads to all the earth  
from the moment of its birth;  
and its beauty lives.  
In the flow'r it lives,  
in the flow'r, and it spreads  
in it's heavenly brightness  
sweet perfume delightful.

### Blessing

May the good news that is Jesus, the Messiah, bring you great joy each day. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### 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.**

### Postlude

## Worship Leaders

Pastor .....Pastor Pamela Stalheim Lane  
Intern Pastor ..... Vicar Karen Peterson  
Music Director .....Ann Marie Skoglund-Anderson  
Soloist .....Anne Ng  
Lector.....Debbie Bren  
Communion Assistant.....Sandy Hanneman  
Usher .....Larry Geer  
Larry Kuder  
Altar Guild.....Brenda Thompson  
Streaming.....Rory Joygaard  
Tommy Thompson



### **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.**

### **Announcements**

#### **Sending Song**

#### ***Cold December Flies Away***

ELW 299

Cold December flies away  
at the rose-red splendor.  
April's crowning glory breaks  
while the whole world wonders  
at the holy unseen pow'r  
of the tree which bears the flow'r.  
On the blessed tree  
blooms the reddest flow'r.  
On the tree blooms the rose  
here in love's own garden,  
full and strong in glory.

In the hopeless time of sin  
shadows deep had fallen.  
All the world lay under death.  
Eyes were closed in sleeping.  
But, when all seemed lost in night,  
came the sun whose golden light  
brings unending joy,  
brings the endless joy  
of our hope, highest hope,  
of our hope's bright dawning,  
Son below'd of heaven.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,  
**so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**  
Jesus is the light of the world.  
**Jesus is the light of our lives.**  
Let the light of his peace shine all around the world.  
**Let us spread the light of his peace to all.**  
Sing to God a new song!  
**A song of hope, joy and peace.**

#### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth, **you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. Amen.**

### **WORD**

#### **First Reading Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18** (NRSV)

#### ***God creates everything that exists.***

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Hymn**

#### ***Bright and Glorious Is the Sky*** ELW 301 vs. 1-2

Bright and glorious is the sky,  
radiant are the heavens high  
where the golden stars are shining.  
All their rays to earth inclining  
beckon us to heav'n above,  
beckon us to heav'n above.

On that holy Christmas night  
through the darkness beamed a light;  
all the stars above were paling.  
all their luster slowly failing  
as the wondrous star drew nigh,  
as the wondrous star drew nigh.

**Second Reading Micah 5:2-5a**

***The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.***

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**                      ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***                      ELW 279 vs. 1-2

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.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king,  
and peace to all the earth!

**Third Reading Luke 1:26-35, 38**

***The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.***

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this

**the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

...Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace. **Amen.**

**Offering**                      ***Ancient Peoples Searched the Sky*** Tice and Morris

**Offering Prayer**

Good and loving God, **we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Offering Response**

***What Child is This***

ELW 296 v. 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!

**Responsive Prayer**

You came to dwell among us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, so that we might know your love more fully and be in more complete relationship with you.

**For this we give you thanks, O God.**

But sometimes we forget this incredible truth. When we neglect to remember that you are always near,

**Send us a sign of your presence, O God.**

When we get caught up in worries and things we can't change,

**Guide our hearts towards you, O God.**

When we are lost in the shadows of despair and hard times,

**Shine your light on us, O God.**

When we think we have nothing left to offer,

**Remind us that all things are possible with you, O God, and that you never leave our side. Amen.**

O Savior, child of Mary,  
who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, king of glory,  
who dost our weakness know:  
bring us at length, we pray,  
to the bright courts of heaven  
and into endless day.

### **Reflection**

Vicar Karen Peterson

### **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.

### **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,**

might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Hymn**

### ***Love Has Come***

ELW 292

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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### **Fourth Reading Matthew 1:18-25**

***An angel of the Lord appears to Joseph.***

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he

had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

Emmanuel Emmanuel  
His name is called Emmanuel  
God with us revealed in us  
His name is called Emmanuel (sing twice)

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***Emmanuel***

**Fifth Reading Matthew 2:1-12 - Wisemen**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Hymn**

We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

***We Three Kings***

***Refrain***

Oh, star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!

**Sixth Reading Luke 2:41-52**

***God came in flesh, born into human pain and joy.***

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

***Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming*** ELW 272 v. 1, 3, 4  
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.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor  
the darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens ev'ry load.