

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH Christmas Eve

Contemporary Worship Service • December 24, 2023, 5pm

225 Jamestowne Boulevard • Knoxville, Tennessee
www.faithloves.org Facebook.com/FaithLutheranKnoxville

PRELUDE *Beginning at 4:30pm*

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 98 *stand*

Pastor: O sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things!

Congregation: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous songs and sing praises.

P: Make a joyful noise before the King, our Lord.

C: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

P: Let the hills sing together for joy and the presence of the Lord, for our Lord is coming.

C: He comes to judge the world with righteousness and his people with equity!

P: Christ is here tonight! Merry Christmas!

C: Merry Christmas!

GATHERING CAROL & PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

Oh Come, All Ye Faithful (Adeste Fideles)

1. 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.

Chorus 2

O sing hallelujah, Come let us adore Him.
O sing hallelujah, Come let us adore Him.

Pre-Chorus

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

3. Yes Lord we greet Thee, Born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.

Pre-Chorus

Chorus 1

O come all ye faithful, Come let us adore Him
O come all ye faithful, Come let us adore Him.

Chorus 3

O come all ye faithful, Come let us adore Him.
O come all ye faithful, Come let us adore Him.
O sing hallelujah. He alone is worthy.
O sing hallelujah. He alone is worthy.

2. Sing choirs of angels; Sing in exultation.
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above
Glory to God, Glory in the highest.

Pre-Chorus

Repeat

GATHERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray,

ALL: Glorious God, we thank you for giving us the gift of Jesus. Tonight we celebrate his coming and we ask Jesus to honor us with his gracious, surprising presence. Fill our hearts with the hope and joy of Christmas. Glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TALK

WELCOME/PARISH NEWS

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Scarlett Parrott, Lector

Isaiah 9:2-7 Pew Bible pg. # 624

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.

Luke 2:1-20 Pew Bible pg. #935, *stand*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SERMON *Have Yourself a Messy Little Christmas*

Pastor Bob Stelter

SONG OF THE NIGHT

Noel

1. Love incarnate love divine,
Star and angels gave the sign
Bow to babe on bended knee
The Savior of humanity
Unto us a Child is born.
He shall reign forevermore.

Chorus
Noel Noel
Come and see what God has done
Noel Noel
The story of amazing love
The light of the world given for us.
Noel

2. Son of God and Son of man,
There before the world began
Born to suffer born to save,
Born to raise us from the grave,
Christ the everlasting Lord.
He shall reign forevermore.

Chorus

STATEMENT OF BELIEF / The Nicene Creed *stand*

Pastor: We proclaim the faith within us:

**All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate
from the Virgin Mary and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds
from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son
he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS *stand or kneel*

Assistant: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God who became flesh
and dwells among us this night.

Congregation: Christ shall be called Wonderful! Christ shall be called Peace!

A: On this night, new joy entered our world,

C: We pray that we share that joy with each other this day and every day.

A: On this night, fresh hope entered our world,

C: We pray that we bring hope to those heavily burdened.

A: On this night, love was visible in a child,

C: We pray that we show our love for others in real ways of friendship and service.

A: On this night, the promise of peace on earth was proclaimed,

**C: We pray that we be lovers of peace and demonstrate such love by peaceful
responses to life's challenges and trials.**

A: We celebrate Christmas.

**C: We pray to deepen our relationship with God and with one another
in ever-growing love and reverence. This was ask through Jesus, born
this night; and born anew in our hearts as we love and serve him.**

Silence for prayers of the people.

A: Let all God's people say . . .

All: Amen.

THE PEACE

Pastor: May the peace of the Holy Child be with you always.

Congregation: And also with you.

All greet one another with the peace of Baby Jesus!

OFFERING FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

OFFERING SONG

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

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| <p>1. 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</p> <p>2. 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</p> | <p>Bridge
You draw the hearts of shepherds
You draw the hearts of kings
Even as a baby
You were changing ev'rything
You called me to Your kingdom
Before Your lips could speak
And even as a baby
You were reaching out for me</p> <p>And now we are awaiting
The day of Your return
When ev'ry eye will see You
As heaven comes to earth
Until the sky is opened
Until the trumpet sounds
The bride is getting ready
The Church is singing out</p> | <p>3. 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
Come Thou long expected King</p> |
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INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor: A child is born in Bethlehem.

Congregation: Come, let us adore him.

P: God shares divinity with us.

C: We lift our hearts to the Lord as we receive him in holy communion.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION FOR COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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.**

HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

We practice hospitality, where all people are welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper because we believe and trust that the gifts of God are free. Holy Communion is served by intinction: the worship assistant will give you a piece of bread and you can either dip that in the wine (chalice) or in the grape juice (clear glass). Gluten free wafers are available upon request. You may also come forward to receive a blessing. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

*The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond **Amen.***

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

The First Noel

1. The First Noel, the Angels did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!

2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the East beyond them far.
And to the earth it gave great light
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far
To seek for a King was their intent
and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

Away in a Manger

- 1.** Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay; the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2.** The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3.** Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

What Child Is This?

- 1.** What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 2.** Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, Hail the word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 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!

COMMUNION BLESSING *stand*

Pastor: The Word of God dwells among us and the Light of God shines in our dark world.
Celebrate the hope, light and promise of this night.

Congregation: Amen.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES IN REMEMBRANCE OF JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

CANDLELIGHT CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ the Savior, is born! Christ the Savior, is born!
3. 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.
Repeat verse 1

BENEDICTION *Make a cross with your candle with Pastor Bob.*

Pastor: And now may the glory of God surround you, the grace of Christ dwell within you and the power of the Holy Spirit uphold you. Blessings in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

SENDING SONG *Children are invited to come to the altar to lead the final carol.*

Go Tell It on the Mountain

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. While shepherds kept their watching
Over silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. <p>Chorus: Oh go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo above the Earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.3. Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
On that blessed Christmas morn. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. I was a lonely seeker
I sought both night and day
I asked the Lord to help me
And he showed me the way.5. He made me a watchman
Upon a city wall
And if I am a Christian
I am the least of all. |
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Chorus

Tag:

Go tell it
Go tell it
Go tell it
Go on and tell it.

Chorus

DISMISSAL

Assistant: Go into the darkness as the people of light to love God, love others, serve.

All: We go in peace! Amen.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP LEADERS

Minister	Pastor Bob Stelter
Assisting Minister	Greg Bohlken
Lector	Scarlett Parrott
Altar Guild	Connie Rist
Communion Ministers	Pastor Bob Stelter Greg Bohlken Scarlett Parrott Rev. Wyn Bryant Connie Rist Lisa Stelter Deb Miller Ethan Gray Matt Gray
Greeters	Leslie Smenner Rick Smenner Rev. Wyn Bryant Jennifer Berry
Ushers	Earl Kripas Brad Berry Christian Berry Eric Johnson
Nursery Caregiver	Tiffany Bryson



1st Sunday of Christmas, New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 31, 2023

One service, 10am.

New Year's Brunch follows the Worship Service.



*Join us for favorite carols and Communion
with a message that will help us keep Christmas all year.*

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

225 Jamestowne Boulevard, Farragut, TN 37934 ▪ 865.966.9626 ▪ www.faithloves.org

Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America

Founding Congregation of Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church, Tellico Village

Founding Congregation of Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry ▪ Stephen Ministry Congregation

Traditional Worship, 9am ♦ Contemporary Worship, 11:11am

((())) Faith Guest WiFi Password: beblessed

Dr. Bob Stelter — *Pastor*
Greg Bohlken — *Ministry Associate*
Lynn Rognsvoog — *Organist*
Collin Kasefang — *Choir Director*
Lisa Stelter — *Worship Graphics*

Members of Faith Lutheran Church — Ministers
Sandra Bohlken — *Contemporary Worship Leader*
Trace Taylor — *Sound Technician*
Tiffany Bryson — *Nursery Caregiver*
Kim Frasch — *Quiet Music Ministry*

Mary Boring — *Office Manager*
Phylis Garrison — *Publications*
Barbara Birkholz — *Financial Secretary*
Mildred Fenske — *Prayer Chain Coordinator*
Alicia & David Brondos — *Missionaries*

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS



ALTAR ARRANGEMENTS

In honor of the Birth of Our Savior
Faith Lutheran Church

In memory of Joe, our son
Alice & Joe Pigott



POINSETTIAS

In loving memory of my late husband, Jim
Marj West

In memory of Lisa a& Carol
Vicki Adams

In memory of Adam Dean, our son
Nancy & Steve Dean

In memory of Myrtle & Wilbur Dean
Nancy & Steve Dean

In memory of Adelaide & Sterling Wigren
Nancy & Steve Dean

In memory of Robert Blackburn
Rhonda & Rob Blackburn

In memory of Wayne Smith
Rhonda & Rob Blackburn

In memory of Catherine Blackburn
Rhonda & Rob Blackburn

In honor of Donna Smith
Rhonda & Rob Blackburn

In honor of Mary Blackburn
Rhonda & Rob Blackburn

In honor of Ian, Nicole, Myles & Nathan
Rhonda & Rob Blackburn

In memory of our parents & Susie Campbell
Shirley & Ben Campbell

In memory of my husband, Ron
Gloria Fife

In memory of Debbie Moore
Barbara & Gene Bird

In memory of Edna & Dick Pigott
Alice & Joe Pigott

In memory of Cheryl Kripas
Earl Kripas & family

In memory of Milton Creighton
Teensy & Frank Weldon

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Weldon
Teensy & Frank Weldon

In memory of AP Beardsley, my father
Laura Beardsley

In memory of Austin Montgomery Herbold
Mary & George Herbold

In memory of Louise & CB Wright
Mary & George Herbold

In memory of Arlene & George Herbold
Mary & George Herbold

In memory of Leonard, Jeff & Jill Johnson
Debbie & Anthony Ragucci

In honor of our families
Debbie & Anthony Ragucci

In memory of our mothers,
Gayle Stewart & Lorene French
Ann & Randy Stewart

In memory of my husband, Buddy
Ann Stelter

In memory of our parents,
Virginia & Arthur Mabry & Nita & Paul Hoover
Patricia & David Mabry

