

Welcome to Worship on this Epiphany of Our Lord Sunday



**French River Lutheran Church
Duluth, MN**

January 7, 2024 ~10:00 a.m.

Reverend Kimberly Sturtz ~ Presiding

Worship Assistant: Sue Baker

Lector: Peggy Dahlberg

Musician: Organist – David Fiebiger

*** Coffee Fellowship to follow worship!**

Welcome to all in Jesus' Name!

LARGE PRINT worship folders are available from an usher.

A family restroom and nursery are to the left of the sanctuary. To contact the pastor or church office, you are invited to complete a pew card and return the information portion either to an usher or by way of the offering plate. Please keep the bookmark and worship with us again! We appreciate electronic devices set on "mute" during the service.

Bold Print signals places where the assembly speaks in unity in worship

* Indicates where to stand as you are able in body or in Spirit

Welcome/Announcements:

Prelude:

Organist; David Fiebiger

———GATHERING———

The Holy Spirit gathers us together as people of God

***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.

***Gathering Hymn: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"**

ELW #275

Angels, from the Realms of Glory



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

***Confession and Forgiveness:**

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

God of life,
**you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.
We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.
Have mercy on us.
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.
Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:
have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right
hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace

to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -

lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

Final refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est.

A - men, a - men.

***Prayer of the Day:**

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

God speaks to us through scripture, preaching, and song.

A reading from Isaiah.

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Peggy Dahlberg

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 72:1-7, 10-14

All kings shall bow down before him. (Ps. 72:11)

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.

**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

A reading from Ephesians.

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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

***Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia**

(The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.)



***Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

The holy gospel according to *Matthew 2:1-12*. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

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.

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

***Hymn of the Day: "The First Noel"**

ELW #300

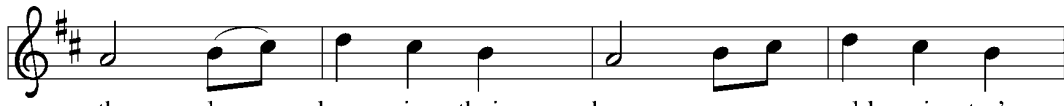
The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

***Apostles' Creed:**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

Peace: *The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**
Please share this peace with your neighbors.*

Prayers of the People:

Peggy Dahlberg

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

(A brief silence.)

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders (*such as our Pastor who will be going on her first portion of Sabbatical next week*) to share the truth of your word in community. Bring time of rest, renewal, and return to her and our spirits in the midst of all that we carry in our lives. We lift up those who lead so others might take rest. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering (*especially those who are on our prayer list and for those we pray for whether silently or aloud*). God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

***Offering Prayer:**

(If you did not place your offering in the plate as you entered the sanctuary, please feel free to hand it to an usher upon dismissal. During the week, offerings may be placed in the secure lockbox by the lower doors [slot is right of the door]. Mail and online giving are also available. Thank you for your generous support of our ministry together!)

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

———MEAL———

God feeds us in goodness and grace with the presence of Jesus Christ.

(All are welcome to receive the true presence of Jesus in the bread and wine or juice provided. Today we offer two ways to commune, at the front or in the pew. If you wish to receive grape juice instead of wine, please pick up the colored tab of paper in the envelope holder in the pew and show it to the server. Today, communion will be distributed continuously at the altar rail. If you cannot come to the altar, please indicate to an usher and communion will be brought to you. Children not communing may come forward for a blessing. Gluten free wafers are available; please inform the pastor if you prefer one. For those who wish to receive communion while in the pew but did not pick take a packet upon entering the sanctuary, please signal for an usher and a packet will be brought to you. Gluten-free wafers are available from their own basket.)

***Words of Institution and Blessing:**

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.

***Preface: Epiphany**

***Holy, Holy, Holy: by Grayson Brown**

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, the
2. Bless - ed is he who comes in the

1. ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of
2. name _____ of _____ the Lord God of

1. hosts. Heav - en and earth are filled with your
2. hosts. Ho - san - na in _____ the

1. glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
2. high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***Words of Institution:**

***Lord's Prayer:**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

***Invitation to Communion:**

Glory to God in the highest!
Come to the table of peace.

INTERLUDE: "Lamb of God" - David Clark Isele

"LAMB OF GOD"

Cantor or Choir: *Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world,
All: have mer-cy on us. grant us peace.
To repeat | *Last time*

***Communion Meditation:**

Organist: David Fiebiger

***Prayer After Communion:**

God our redeemer,
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.

————SENDING————
God blesses us and equips us as disciples sent into the world

***Blessing:**

God bless you and keep you,
 ✚ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
 and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
 now and forever.
Amen.

***Sending Hymn: “We Three Kings of Orient Are” WOV (blue hymnal) # 646**

We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
 owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

***Sending:**

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

(For those in pews, please remain seated until invited by an usher to depart.)

Postlude:

Organist: David Fiebiger

Thank you for joining us wherever you are.

Remember, you are beloved and blessed!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Covid-19 Preparedness

In the care and consideration of others, the wearing of masks is optional for worship. However, if you or a family member are experiencing any fever, cough, stomach issues, or are recovering from an illness or other ailments within 48 hours before gathering in worship, we strongly advise the wearing of a mask while in worship.

A simple mask in these moments and places helps us protect loved ones, especially the weak and elderly, front-line medical personnel and their families, our faith community and larger communities.
Thank you for this kindness.

Coming Up:

1/7 Sun: 10a – Epiphany

Worship In-Person/Online: Rev. Kim Sturtz

10:45a – Sunday School

11:15a – Coffee Fellowship

1/8 Mon: 6p – Adult Bible Study

1/9 Tues: 9a – Bulletin Deadline; 7p – Council; 7p – AA

1/10 Wed: 7p – Choir

1/11 Thurs: 10:30a – W&M; 1p – WOFR

1/14 Next Sun: 10a – Baptism of Our Lord;

Worship In-Person/Online: Rev.

10:45a – Sunday School

11:15a – Coffee Fellowship

****Pastor Kim will be gone on the first part of her sabbatical
from January 14 – February 2.****

Your 2024 offering envelopes can be picked up near the usher's stand. If you didn't get a box and want one, please contact Kay Libby, Financial Secretary, at 218-390-3281.

FRLC Annual

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 21, 2024 following the 10:00 AM
worship service ("*Snow Date*" is Jan. 28).

How will you serve the congregation and
God's Kingdom in 2024? Prayerfully
consider this question for elected and
appointed positions of leadership!



The annual meeting of the FRLC Good Samaritans will immediately follow the worship service on **Jan. 28th** in the lakeside alcove off the sanctuary. All Good Samaritan members are urged to attend.

Timber Frame Phase 2 - Survey

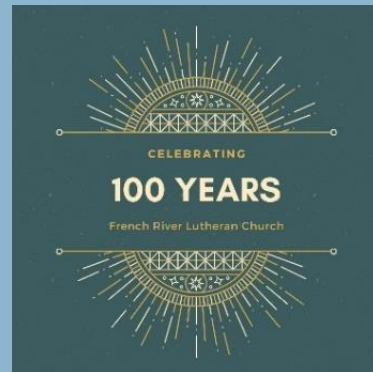
As FRLC moves ahead onto the next phase of development, the Outreach Committee is seeking input from our members. You will be receiving an email on Monday, with a survey asking for 3 amenities/recommendations/steps that might be desired or needed so we may progress. They may be listed in order of importance or preference. The survey, with drop box, is also available at the Welcome Desk. We greatly appreciate your input.

A 100-year Celebration Committee is needed!

We need someone to be the chair of the committee. We will also need to have three fundraiser dinners planned to raise money for expenses of the celebration in September of 2024.

If interested, please let Pastor Kim know you are willing and able to be a part of this crew!

frlcpastorsturtz@gmail.com or by cellphone, 218-393-7444.



Ever wonder why there are wicker baskets in the narthex? The baskets are for receiving non-perishable food for CHUM (Churches United in Ministry) and for where needed most, gently used or new clothes and personal hygiene items. Specifically for CHUM, we collect Ramen Chicken Noodle Soup. Our goal is to bring 100 packages/month; lately, we've fallen short and haven't met that goal. Thank you for helping to remedy this situation and remember to check expiration dates before placing edible items in the baskets. Thanks!



Welcome to French River Lutheran Church

You are welcome; to keep this bulletin however, we recycle when possible so you may leave it on the ushers' stand.



Immediate: Carol Pearson; Bonnie Smrstick; prayers for peace and comfort both as she travels to be with Dennis as he is nearing the end of his journey.; Deb Sodomka (cousin of Bill & Susie Lannon).

Long-Term: Phil Strom, for Parkinsons; Julie Moe-Hommerding; 5-year-old great niece of Susie Lannon (heart surgery 6/26/17, still not healthy); Kathy Johnson (Carol Leppala's friend); Bruce Sundberg; Angela Debelak, (niece of Gail Johnson) is currently in remission from for her brain cancer and recovering slowly; please continue to pray for no recurrence.; Alex Peterson – military service; David Peterson (brother of Paul Peterson); Todd Sironen.

WHEN SUBMITTING A NAME TO THE TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN, PLEASE INDICATE IF IT IS PERMISSABLE TO LIST IN THE BULLETIN.

<i>Called by the Spirit</i>	<i>January 7</i>	<i>January 14</i>
Worship Leader	Rev. Kim sturtz	Rev. Kris Garey
Lector	Peggy Dahlberg	Jacquie Eubanks
Altar Guild	Rhonda O'Leary	Rhonda O'Leary
Ushers	Chris & Ann Rankila	Rex & Elda Hein
Counters/Worship Assistant*	Dave Edblom/ Sue Baker*	Ken Peterson/ Rolf Carlson*
Coffee Fellowship	Amy B. & Angel P.	Kim E. & Renee A.
Prayer Chain	Babs Strom 218.525.6200	

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 Church: (218)525-5659; frlc5310@gmail.com
Pr. Kim Sturtz: (218)393-7444; frlcpastorsturtz@gmail.com
 Office hours vary so please call ahead.
 FRLC webpage: www.frenchriverlutheran.org.
 FRLC Mission: *“To live and love as God commands, accept His grace, and share the Good News.”*

Watch services at FRLC anytime! **YouTube live streaming of the service** at
<https://www.youtube.com/c/FrenchRiverLutheranChurch>
 This link is also found on our church homepage and Facebook group. If you are unable to watch it live, you can view it any time after the service by following the same link.

✝ We're glad you worshiped with us today. Thanks be to God! ✝