

Welcome to Worship in this Season of Advent



**December 10, 2023 ~10:00 a.m.
French River Lutheran Church, ELCA
Duluth, MN**

Reverend Kimberly Sturtz ~ Presiding
Worship Assistant: Sheila Laiti
Lector: Ann Rankila
Altar Guild: Kathy Pierson
Musicians: Organist – David Fiebiger, Riversong Rising

Welcome to all in Jesus' Name!

A family restroom and nursery are to the left of the sanctuary; please follow the Preparedness Plan for use. 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:

-----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: *Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

Prepare the Royal Highway



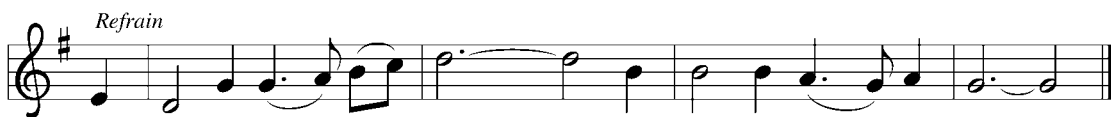
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Lighting the Advent Candle: *Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

***Candle Lighting:**

We are a people who seek peace.

We know that God has told us to turn our weapons of war
into instruments that benefit all humanity.

In the name of that Child who was born long ago
to become the Prince of Peace,
we now light the Candle of Peace.

(Light the first and second blue candle)

***Advent Song: Verse 1 & 2
*(See Insert)***

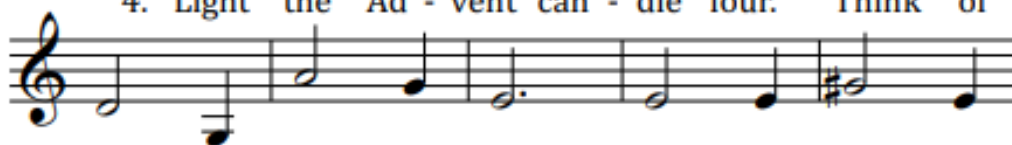
~Mary Lu Walker
Riversong Rising

Advent Song

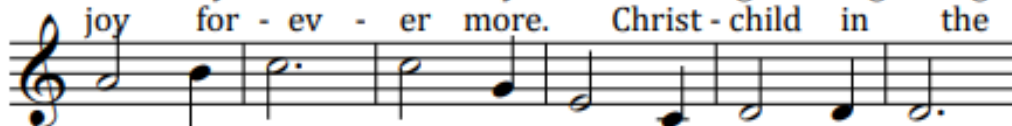
Mary Lu Walker



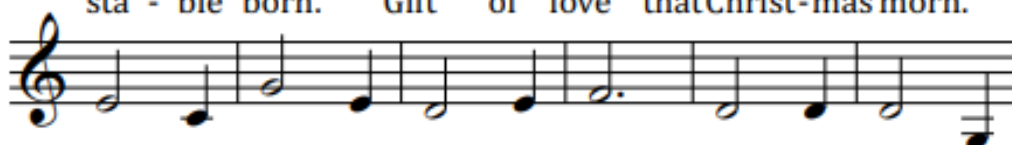
1. Light the Ad - vent can - dle one. Now the
2. Light the Ad - vent can - dle two. Think of
3. Light the Ad - vent can - dle three, Think of
4. Light the Ad - vent can - dle four. Think of



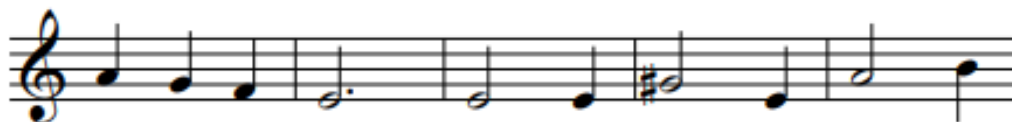
wait - ing has be - gun. We have start - ed
hum - ble shep - herds who filled with won - der
heav'n - ly har - mo - ny An - gels sing - ing
joy for - ev - er more. Christ - child in the



on our way, Time to think of Christ - mas Day,
at the sight of the Child on Christ - mas night.
"Peace on earth" at the bless - ed Sav - iors birth.
sta - ble born. Gift of love that Christ - mas morn.



Can - dle, can - dle burn - ing bright, shin - ing in the



cold win - ter night. Can - dle can - dle burn - ing



bright, fill our hearts with Christ - mas light.

Responsive Litany:

[In the smallest of steps into that of a new world, in the space of the brave and vulnerable, courage kisses peace on the forehead and gives a blessing:

that is what peace is to us, who are the weary ones.]

In the leaving, the peace of the letting go,

let there be this to hold onto:

the enduring of love, the persisting of hope,

the remembering of joy, the offering of gratitude, the receiving of grace,

and the blessing of knowing the peace in our hearts, as we offer ourselves to journey to meet you, our Holy one .

Adapted from Richardson, Jan. Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons

***Prayer of the Day:**

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FRLC Choir Anthem: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

———WORD———

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

A reading from Isaiah:

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Ann Rankila

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)

You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts
to you.

**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;

righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**
The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.
**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

A reading from 2 Peter:

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

***Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia**

(The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.)



***Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:1-8. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the 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.**

Children's Sermon:

The Reverend Kimberly Sturtz

Sermon:

The Reverend Kimberly Sturtz

Hymn of the Day: *We Are Waiting for Jesus

ACS 905

We Are Waiting for Jesus



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

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***Nicene Creed:**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified, who 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.

***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:

Ann Rankila

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all
who await God's day of restoration.

(A brief silence.)

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your
church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness
roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and
all its creatures. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase
cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and
diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake
of all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.
Amen.

***Offering Prayer:**

(Please stand as you are able as the offering is brought forward. If you did not place your offering in the plate as you entered the sanctuary, 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 our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

———MEAL———

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

All are welcome at the Lord's Table to receive the true presence of Jesus in the bread and wine. Communion will be distributed continuously using the form of intinction. After you have received the bread, you may "intinct" (dip) it in the wine or juice. Children not communing may come forward for a blessing. Commune with the pastor if you prefer a gluten-free wafer.

***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: Advent**

***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:**

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
Come, take your place at the table.

***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 Song: *Majesty of Heaven

~Chris Tomlin
Riversong Rising

Verse 1

Majesty of heaven
Your glory fills the skies
Light of the world
You are Lord of all

Verse 2

Humbled by Your presence
Amazed by who You are
Nothing compares
You are Lord of all

Chorus

To You the nations bow down
To You creation cries out majesty
All things You hold together
Your name will stand forever
Majesty You are majesty

Verse 3

Merciful and mighty
My heart is overwhelmed
You stand alone
You are Lord of all

Bridge

Your name above all others
High and exalted
Your kingdom shall reign forever
High and exalted

(REPEAT)

Ending

You are majesty

Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Matt Redman

CCLI Song #5869918

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***Prayer After Communion:**

Generous God,
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory
for all people to see together.
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.

————SENDING————

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

***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.

Sending Song: *Hark The Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven

~Paul Baloche
Riversong Rising

Verse 1

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye 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

Verse 2

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace
Hail the Son of righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Risen with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Chorus

King of Heaven come down
King of Heaven come now
Let Your glory reign shining like the day
King of Heaven come
King of Heaven rise up
Who can stand against us
You are strong to save
In Your mighty name King of Heaven come

Interlude

Oh oh

Verse 3

Christ by highest heaven adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King the newborn King

Ending

King of Heaven come King of Heaven come
King of Heaven come King of Heaven come
King of Heaven come down
King of Heaven come now
Let Your glory reign shining like the day
King of Heaven come

Charles Wesley, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Jason Ingram, Paul Baloche; CCLI Song #7019799
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Dismissal:

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

(Please remain in your pew/chair until the pastor processes to the narthex and you are invited by an usher to depart.)

Postlude:

Organist: David Fiebiger

***Thank you for joining us from wherever you are.
Remember, you are beloved and blessed!***

Advent texts by Rev. Rich Davis, Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, River Forest, IL.
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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:

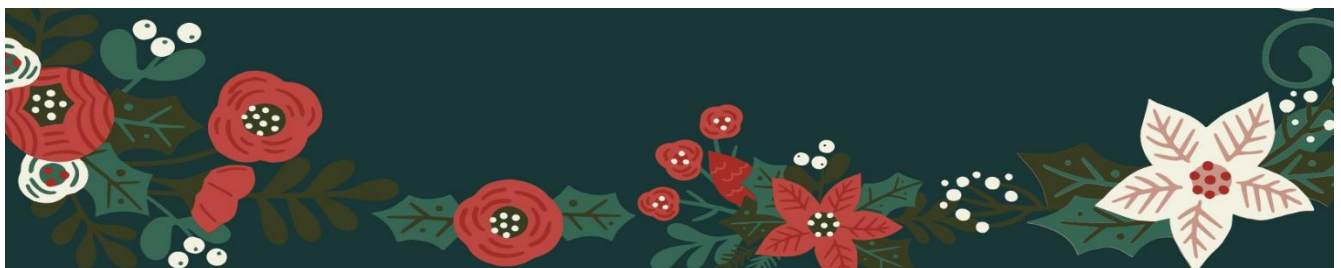
12/10 Sun: 10a – 2nd Sunday of Advent; Blended Worship
Worship In-Person/Online: Rev. Kim Sturtz;
10:45a - Noon – Sunday School; 11:15a – Coffee Fellowship
12/11 Mon: 6p – Adult Bible Study; 7p – Finance
12/12 Tues: 9a – Bulletin Deadline; 7p – Council; 7p – AA
12/13 Wed: 7a – D/NSSD; 7p – Choir
12/14 Thurs: 10:30a – W&M; 1p – WOFR; 5p – Riversong Rising
12/17 Next Sun: 10a – 3rd Sunday of Advent; Christmas Pageant
Contemporary Worship In-Person/Online: Rev. Kim Sturtz;
11:15a – Coffee Fellowship

It's time to warm up those bells! Here is the link to sign up for the
Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4CAA2EA7F85-45938771-2023#/>

FRLC will not be taking an entire day. Using this sign up to **ring at SuperOne—Two Harbors** allows you to pick and choose a time/day based on your availability. Don't wait to sign up! If you do not have Internet capability, call me and I'll look for an open spot for you.

Thank you for supporting the Red Kettle Campaign.
Sue Baker, 218-341-4181





Adult Bible Study will meet at 6 p.m. on December 4 & 11 and will resume Monday, January 8, 2024. Do you have a topic you'd like to explore? Reach out to Pr. Kim with your ideas.

Every Christmas, I help host a breakfast at CHUM with a group of volunteers. Our goal is to provide a hearty breakfast and much needed gifts to the folks using the overnight shelter. I've coordinated with CHUM to create a list of most needed items for the gift bags. If you can, please take a moment to look at the list and help where you can. Select the gift registry address (Heather Winesett) and items will be shipped directly to my house, and then our gift bag team will assemble 100 gift bags for Christmas morning.

Also please forward the link [Amazon Gift List](#):

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gi/guest-view/MC71QQSFVIY9>

to friends and family... it takes quite a community to bring this event together!

Thanks so much for your help, and blessings on your holiday season!

Heather Winesett

For more information or to volunteer contact:

Info@FeedingHearts.org

[218-391-0241](tel:218-391-0241), Heather Winesett

www.feedinghearts.org

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.

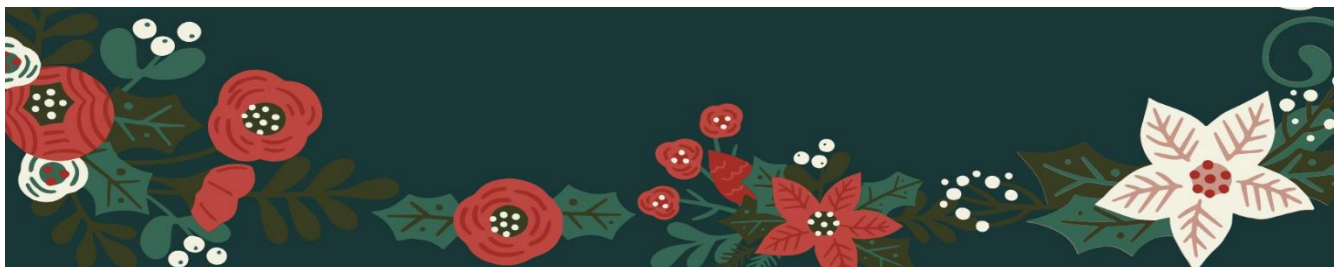
Our goal is to bring 100 packages/month; lately, we've fallen short and haven't met that goal. Thank you for helping to remedy this situation, and remember to check expiration dates before placing edible items in the baskets. Thanks!



It's that time of year again, Annual Reports are due!

Please submit your FRLC Annual Reports (Microsoft Word document in Tahoma 12 pt font) to frlc5310@gmail.com no later than Friday, December 29. Submitting prior to the due date is greatly appreciated and I have already received the first report!

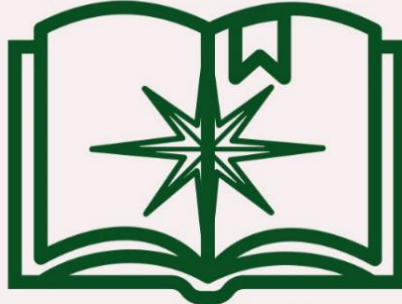
Thank you, Tiffany ~FRLC Secretary



A Storybook Christmas Pageant!

The story of Christmas with tales told by the actual people that experienced it!

French River Lutheran Church
Sunday December 17, 2023



During Worship 10 am!



✧ If your youth or child would like to be a part of the pageant: Please be in attendance in Sunday school or Wednesday Fish Force to receive an assigned role and practice ✧

"Let every heart prepare him room!"

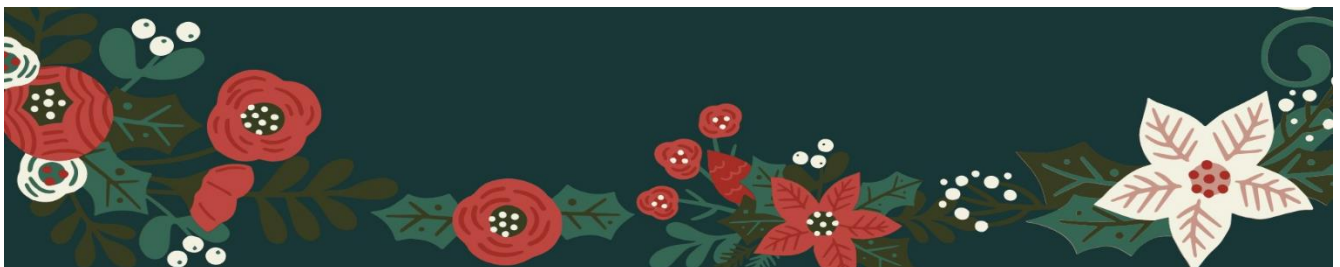
FRENCH RIVER LUTHERAN
CHURCH, DULUTH

CHRISTMAS
EVE
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2023
• 4 PM

All are welcome to join us in person or online!

<https://youtube.com/c/FrenchRiverLutheranChurch>



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: Marvin Slette (family of Loren Slette) 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; Family of Ingrid Hanson, in loss of step-daughter Tony Hanson.

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>December 10</i>	<i>December 17</i>
Worship Leader	Rev. Kim Sturtz	Rev. Kim Sturtz
Lector	Ann Rankila	Joanne Kronstedt
Altar Guild	Kathy Pierson	Lynne Compton
Ushers	Doug & Lynne C.	Kevin S. & Jacquie E.
Counters/ Worship Assistant*	ArMand Nelson/ Sheila Laiti*	T.B.D.
Coffee Fellowship	Bonnie Smrstick	Peggy & Sandy Dahlberg
Prayer Chain	Babs Strom 218.525.6200	

French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Rd, Duluth, MN 55804

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.

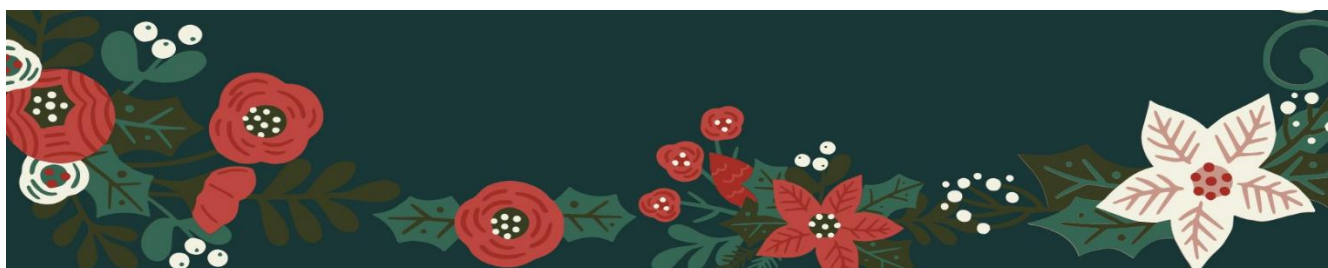
FRLC Mission: *“To live and love as God commands, accept His grace, and share the Good News.”*

Watch services at FRLC anytime! **YouTube live streaming of the service at**

<https://www.youtube.com/c/FrenchRiverLutheranChurch>

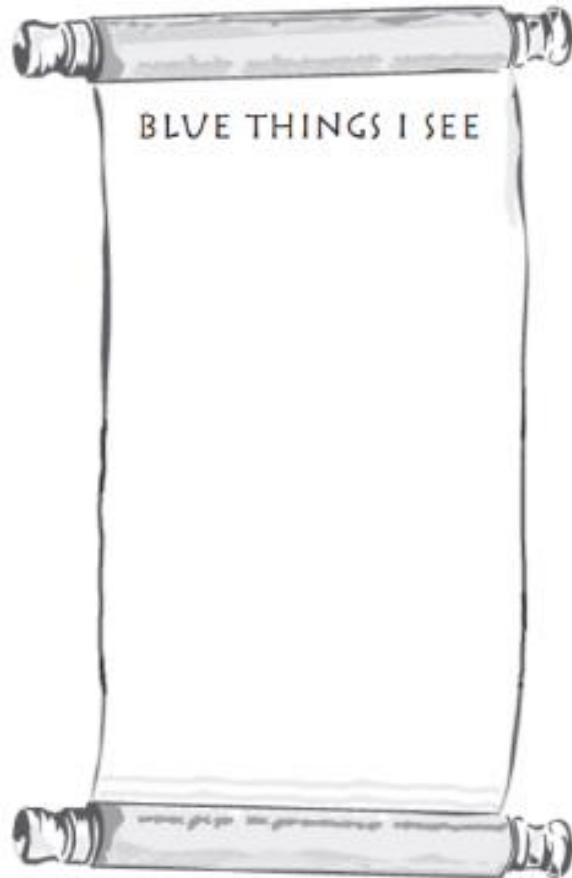
This link is also found on our church homepage and Facebook group. If you are unable to watch it live, you can view it any time after the service by following the same link

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



The color blue is used during the season of Advent.
Where do you see the color blue in your worship space?

Draw or list the blue things in your worship space.

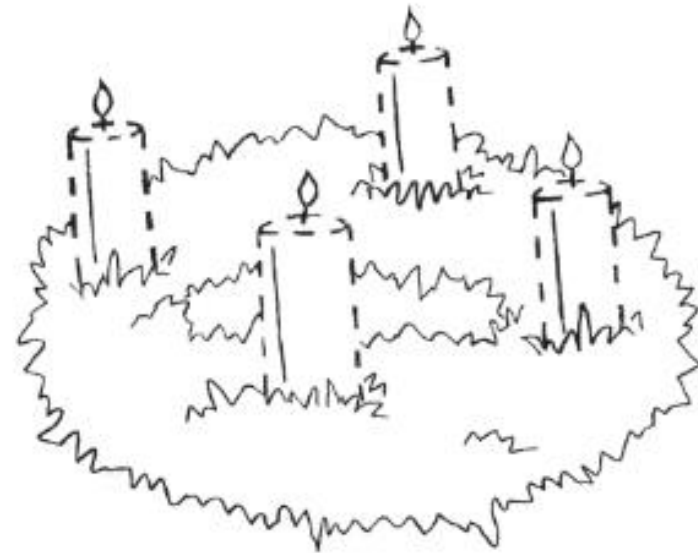


PRE-READER

Advent 2

- Today is the **2nd Sunday in Advent.**
- The color we use for Advent is **blue.**
- The color blue means **hope.**

Connect the dotted lines to complete the Advent wreath. Color the candles blue. Color the wreath green.





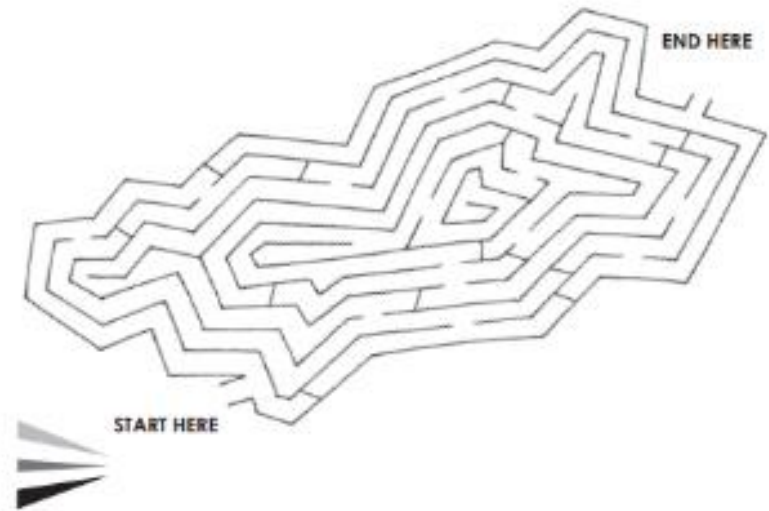
“Tell God you’re sorry for your sins! Turn your life around,” John said.

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ADVENT 2

John the Baptist told the people to make their paths straight. We need to stay focused on God.

Find a path through the crooked maze.



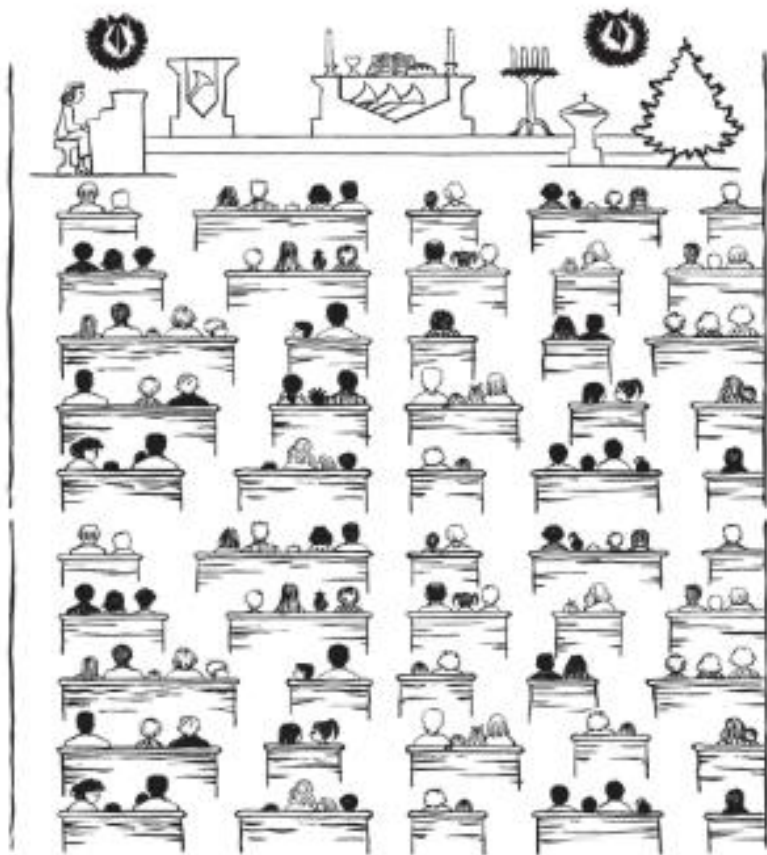
Unscramble the letters inside the Advent wreath to learn John the Baptist’s message today.



Ways to Gather

There are many ways to move to the front of this church. How many ways can you find?

Then circle the Advent images in the picture. Draw images that you see in your worship space that are not in this picture.



READER

Advent 2

- Today is the 2nd Sunday in Advent.
- During Advent, we **prepare** for Jesus.
- The color for Advent is **blue**.
- The color blue means **hope**.

Decipher Light

Figure out the pattern in the sets of letters below. Then, unscramble the letters to learn why the luminary is an important Advent symbol.

U ___ SR

KJ ___ H

E ___ CB

___ FED

___ QPD

I ___ GF

YX ___ V

P ___ NM

ONM ___

___ KJI

The luminary's light reminds us that Jesus is the

_____ of the _____ !





Look it Up!

In today's gospel, John the Baptist talks about the waters of Baptism. What did he say? Use the floating letters to figure it out. Some letters will be used twice! (If you need help, look up Mark 1:8.)

" ___ have ___ you with
___; but ___ will
___ you with the ___
___."



Both Isaiah and John the Baptist told people about God. They reminded people to get ready for the Messiah, God's chosen one. The vowels are all here, but the consonants are missing! Try to figure out the memory verse. If you need help, check out Isaiah 40:3 and Mark 1:3 in your Bible. Isaiah and John the Baptist say...

___ E ___ A ___ E
___ E ___ A ___
O ___ ___ E
___ O ___ I

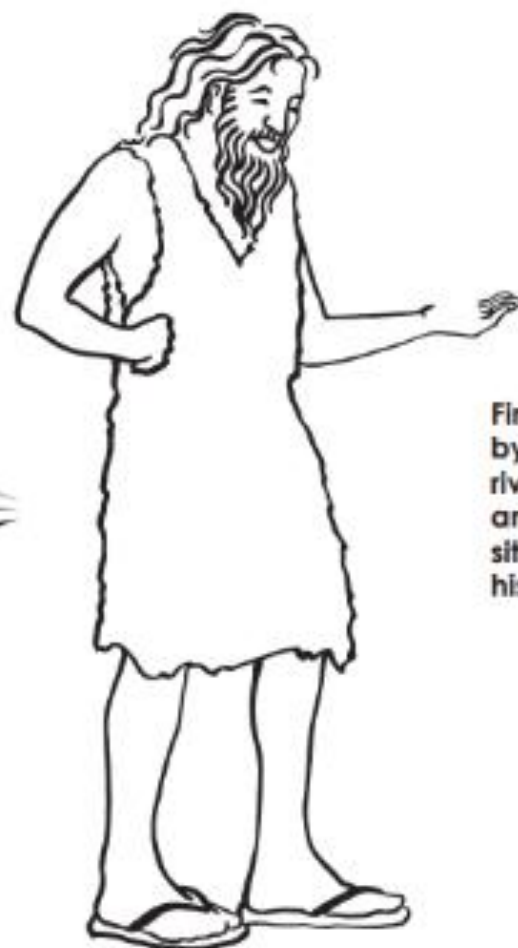
Memory Verse



Meet John the Baptist

God sent John the Baptist to help people get ready for Jesus. John said, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" John helped people get ready by baptizing them in the Jordan River.

John wore clothes made of camel's hair. He wore a leather belt. He ate honey and locusts. Locusts are big grasshoppers. Would you like to eat a grasshopper?



Finish this picture by drawing the river, John's belt, and a locust sitting on his hand.

