



First English Lutheran Church

9 NW 3rd Street; Ortonville, MN 56278

Reverend Denise Fossen

Lisa Berdan, Senior Choir Director

Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson, Missionaries/Tanzania

First Sunday of Advent - Uncertain Time



November 12, 2023

"Out of Time"

9:00 am

PREPARATION

Prelude

Bells

Welcome & Announcements

GATHERING

Greeting & Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Call to Worship

P: We gather today. **C: It is time to worship!**

P: We listen for God. **C: It is time to hear!**

P: We receive God's grace. **C: It is time to be loved!**

P: We leave in peace. **C: It is time to serve others!**

P: As we wait for Jesus' arrival, Emmanuel, God-with-us, is already here in this time and place.

Prayer of Confession:

P: People of God, when we think that we have nowhere ...Holy one,

C: We have not stayed awake. We have missed you when you appeared in our neighbors, in strangers half a world away, in the suffering planet. We have wasted the time and the skills that you gave us and assumed we were powerless to mend the breaches in our world. Sometimes, we even gave up on your mercy, justice, and love. God, is it too late for us? Speak tenderly to our anxious hearts. Tear open the heavens and heal what we have done. Amen.

P: People of God, God's judgement... we will witness wonders. **C: Amen.**

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Stattelman Family

Matthew 25:13

Advent Prayer L: God of already's, nevers, and everything in between: It is hard for us to sit with uncertainty. We do not know when you will return, we do not know if it's too late to prepare, we do not even know exactly how to get ready. As we light the first candle on this wreath, dwell with us in this

uncertain time. Meet us in the space between always and never. Help us name our grief for what's past, and our hope for what's to come. **C: Amen**

Candle Lighting Hymn

'Out of Time'

SONG SHEET

(See Attached Song Sheet for the Sheet Music)

1. Out of time, out of space, now we hope for better days, keeping watch when the waiting wears us down. Drawn out thin, pulled in tight, searching for the break of day, will we ever find you drawing near?

(Refrain): You come to us from just beyond, you call to us from out of time, you tear the heavens open wide, shining love across the star-lit sky.

2. Time flows fast; make it slow, give more time for all we love. Time grows long; turn our waiting to its end. In our years, in our days, God, your goodness is at work. Can it be you might be drawing near? *(Refrain)*

3. When the earth yearns for peace and the people cry for bread with a hunger that you alone can fill, we will pray, we will work, we will all prepare the way, and in time we find you drawing near. *(Refrain)*

By: Linnéa K. Clark & Emily Trubey-Weller. Copyright © Barn Geese Worship 2023.

Greeting

pg. 147

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

Hymn of Praise

'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel' v. 1

#257

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite. Music: French processional, 15th Cent.

Prayer of the Day

P: O God of justice and love, **C: you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

First Lesson: Amos 5:18-24

OT pg. 662

Psalm 70

ELW Psalm 70

L: ¹ Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.

C: ² **Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;**

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

L: ³ Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

C: ⁴ **Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your**

salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"

L: ⁵ But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

NT pg. 159

Children's Message

Pastor Denise Fossen

Special Music 'Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burnin''

Sr. Choir

Traditional Spiritual arranged by Greg Gilpin

Gospel Acclamation

'Alleluia'

#175

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994, and the Taizé Community.

© 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc. agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave. Chicago, IL 60638.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

NT p. 21-22

P: The Holy Gospel according to... **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: The Gospel of the Lord... **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Denise Fossen

Hymn of the Day 'Will You Let Me Be Your Servant' vs. 1-3

#659

1. Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953. Text © 1977 Scripture In Song (c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music). Music: Richard Gillard, arr. Betty Pulkingham, b. 1928.

Apostle's Creed

p. 105

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers for the People of God

P: Hurry, God. Hear our prayers **C: Tear the heavens and come down.**

MEAL

Offering Collection and Presentation

Offertory Hymn

'As the Grains of Wheat'

#465

(Refrain): **As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were gathered into one to become our bread; so may all your people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you.**

1. As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst, may we share the presence of your love. (Refrain)

2. Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come when all creation shares this feast with you. (Refrain)

Text: Didache, 2nd century.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Music: Marty Haugen. Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

Offertory Prayer

P: Loving God, For the time we have, we say: **Thank you.**

P: For the gifts we offer, we say: **C: Thank you.**

P: For the chance to help others, we say: **C: Thank you.**

P: For the people whose lives will be better because of these gifts, we say:

C: Thank you.

P: For the ways you are changing the world, we say: **C: Thank you.**

P: We pray in the name of Jesus, who appears wherever people need our help **C: Amen**

GREAT THANKSGIVING (spoken)

p.152

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

'Holy, Holy, Holy'

pg. 153

Holy, holy, holy Lord. Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

p. 154

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

Distribution Hymn:

'Lamb of God'

pg. 154

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

© 2006, Augsburg Fortress Text: English Language Liturgical Consultation.

Distribution Hymn:

'Abide with Me'

#629

1. Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away; change and decay in all around I see; O thou who changest not, abide with me.

3. I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r? Who like thyself my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.

4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness. Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if thou abide with me!

5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes, shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies; heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847. Music: William H. Monk, 1823-1889.

Distribution Hymn:

'Be Thou My Vision'

#793

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art: thou my best thought both by day and by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord. Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r, raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always: thou and thou only, the first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 Light of my soul, after victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931. Music: Irish traditional.

Distribution Hymn:

'In the Singing'

#466

1. In the singing, in the silence, in the hands expectant, open, in the blessing, in the breaking, in your presence at this table,

(Refrain): Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace; Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.

2. In the question, in the answer, in the moment of acceptance, in the heart's cry, in the healing, in the circle of your people, *(Refrain)*

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931 Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

Eucharistic Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

SENDING

Benediction

P: God our Creator, who made the starlit sky, blesses you. Jesus our Redeemer, † who arrives at just the right time, blesses you. The Holy Spirit our Enlivener, who sparks hope for the hopeless, blesses you. You are blessed in the name of God, the Three in One. **C: Amen.**

Dismissal

P: As you leave this place, remember: even when you travel through uncertainty, God travels with you. Keep alert; trust God; seek peace.

C: We Will! Thanks be to God.

Sending Song

'I Know That My Redeemer Lives!' vs. 1, 2, 8

#619

**1. I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my ever-living head!**

2. He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives eternally to save; he lives exalted, throned above; he lives to rule his church in love.

8. He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same; what joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt. Music: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793.

Bells

Postlude

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*Psalm 139:14. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.*

In other words, "created to be..."

If you have pastoral needs, please call Pastor Denise anytime at 763-516-2026.

Welcome to all visitors and guests! May the joy of Christ fill you as we worship today. Friendship Pads are at the ends of each pew (by middle aisle). Fill them out, pass them on to your neighbor(s), and send them back to the middle aisle. Please join us downstairs following worship for coffee and fellowship.


KDIO Radio Broadcast is sponsored in memory of Gale and Ann Haukos from Kathy Haukos and family. [Radio broadcast cards are available on the information kiosk in the narthex; cost is \$100/week]. 2024 cards are in the box.

OFFERING UPDATE: Here are the expenses for October: \$21,335.74. Here is what we received: \$21,931.22. You're also encouraged to visit our  webpage for Online Giving at www.firstenglish.net.

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Nola Lockwood whose birthday is today, Adeline Burgess whose birthday is this Thursday, and Roger Nornes whose birthday is Friday.

This advent season we are looking for volunteers to help with our Sunday advent services by reading scripture, a prayer, and lighting the candles. Please contact someone in the office if you would like to help us out.

Thanksgiving Eve service is Nov. 22nd at 7:00 pm. Our Thanksgiving Eve. donations will be donated to the Food Shelf. We also need some acolytes, ushers, and greeters to help with that service. Please contact the office to volunteer.

Coffee Fellowship needs volunteers to continue. Please contact the office or sign-up in the fellowship hall if you're willing to help to prepare  & serve coffee. If no one volunteers to serve, we won't have coffee fellowship that Sunday.

CentraCare will be offering 3 Grief Support Groups for 7 weeks during the holiday season when the intensity of grief can be stronger. In Ortonville, the sessions will be at the Robrt Ross Building (Golf room) at 450 Eastvold, from 3:00-4:30 pm 11/16, 11/30. 12/7, 12/14, 12/21, 12/28, and 1/4. See posters for more info on registration.

The Prairie Five Nutrition Program is hosting a “Celebrating Nutrition Week” November 13-17th. There will be free rides from homes to the meal site at Ortonville Lakeside Apartments. Entertainment and speakers will start at 10:30 am with a meal to follow at 11:30 pm (call 320-839-3304 to reserve a meal). See posted flyers for more information.

The new Photo Directory is available online! If you haven't had your picture taken and would like to upload your own photo, then you can go to our website, www.firstenglish.net, click on Member Directory. Once on the Instant Church Directory page, click on "First time signing in? Create Login" link" to set up a free account to view the directory on their website and in their app (available on Android & Apple devices). Your email must match with a member in our directory, if you have any problems gaining access, contact Barbara in the office. Once you have logged in, you can click on “Edit My Family” (found by clicking the hamburger ≡ icon in the app; or the top right menu on the website). Then click “import image” to add a photo. If you need to change any of the information, like your address, you can do that too. Paper copies of the directory will be available at a later date.



Stonecroft Ministries Women's Connection will be meeting on Tuesday, November 14th at 5:30 pm at Tabor Methodist Church in Big Stone City, SD. Speaker will be Joyce Buseman of Centerville, SD. Her topic is “Insurance for a Secure Future.” Special feature will be Hanne's sweater mittens, personal rings and things of Sisseton, SD. Special music will be provided by Wanda Berry of Ortonville (soloist accompanied by Lee Kanten). The cost is \$6.00, and you can register with Carol Rabe at 605-862-8570 or just be a walk-in. Free nursery by reservation.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Ricky Anderson Jr., Carol Barrett; Marcus Hanson, Arlen LaCombe; Gail Olson; Harris Selvig; Russ Thielke; Brandi Tweeter; Clara Zeek; Monty Athey, Paul Erdman; Beckett Foster; Baby Rosie Frank; Larry Helgeson; Natalie Henneberg; Baby McCoy Jipson; Zane Kilde; Brian Pribyl; Janice Redfield; David Scholberg; and Jerry Stotesbery. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Janet Anderson; Arvilla Bergseth; Ruth Hansen; Jim Hipple; Vivian Janssen; & Eleanor Nickolauson. ALL OUR MILITARY who are deployed to areas of conflict. If you would like a name added/removed, please contact the church office.



REMINDER: Calendar and other important information is on our website at www.firstenglish.net and on the bulletin board (kiosk) in the narthex. The church office number is (320)839-2527.

This Week's Ministry Assistants—November 12th Beginning of Advent

Greeters: Kaitlyn Burdorf & Meadow Schablin **Acolytes:** Archer & Lola
Organist: Marilyn Hanson **Lector:** Kathy Randall
Tech Desk: Matt Karels & Marina Thomson **FWV:** Marla Strei & Jane Debner
Ushers: Glenn Henningson, Ron Athey, Art Vollmer, and Larry Dahle
Lay Assistants: Jim Foster & Lori Strei **Advent Volunteers:** Stattelman Family
Coffee Servers: Kari Dorry & Michelle Bauer

Next Week's Ministry Assistants—November 19th

Greeters: Lynne Giese & Amelia Zinski **Acolytes:** Rylie & Bailey
Organist: Lisa Berdan **Lector:** Liz Ketz
Tech Desk: David Ellingson & Marina Thomson **Coffee Servers:** TBD
Ushers: Dean Longnecker, Josh Wollschlager, Russel Thielke, & Dick Strei
Advent Volunteers: Ann & Sara Mattison

Next Week's Ministry Assistants—November 22nd Thanksgiving Eve

Greeters: **NEED VOLUNTEERS** **Acolytes:** **NEED VOLUNTEERS**
Organist: Carol Ydstie **Lector:** Kari Dorry
Tech Desk: Marina Thomson & Marge Dragseth **Ushers:** **NEED VOLUNTEERS**

Weekly Calendar

Sun – 11/12 BEGINNING OF ADVENT

- 9:00 am Worship – Communion – KDIO & FB Live
- 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship & Sunday School (Christmas Practice)
- 10:30 am Fairway View Worship Pre-recorded
- 4:00 – 5:15 pm Cantata Practice

Mon – 11/13

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting

Tues – 11/14

- 8:30 am Day of Love
- 4:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner at Fairway View

Wed – 11/15

- 9:30 am Channel 3 broadcast
- 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8th grade)
- 4:30 pm Confirmation (9th grade)
- 5:30 pm Youth Group (7-12th grade) & Channel 3 broadcast
- 7:00 pm Senior Choir (cantata practice)

Fri – 11/17

- 9:00 am Bulletins Printed

Sun – 11/19

- 9:00 am Worship – Stewardship Emphasis – KDIO & FB Live
- 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship & Sunday School (Christmas Practice)
- 4:00 – 5:15 pm Cantata Practice



November 12, 2023,

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 25:1-13

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

God of promise, we wait for the time when all the world shall know your perfect peace and justice, and you shall reign over all creation in love. Keep us alert and active in your work while we wait, in Jesus name. Amen.



Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

"Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."
(Matthew 25:13)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Ten brides waiting on a bridegroom. Five were prepared. Five were not, and they missed their opportunity. Will you be ready?



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Do people live as if Jesus might return any day? How might your community look different if people lived as if Jesus was on his way?

What is one thing you can change about your behaviors so that you are behaving as if Jesus was going to return at any moment?

For the littles: Is waiting easy or hard? Why? Jesus can give us patience as we wait.



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God grant you patience. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Make a bucket list of 5-10 things you would like to do before Jesus' return. Challenge yourself to plan and do one of the things on your list. Consider how the items on your list benefit others, and how they might change you for the better.



Go Deeper: Read and reflect on the readings for each day of the week.

Monday, Psalm 78; Joshua 24:25-33; 1 Corinthians 14:20-25

Tuesday, Psalm 78; Nehemiah 8:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Wednesday, Psalm 78; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 24:29-35

Thursday, Psalm 123; Judges 2:6-15; Revelation 16:1-7

Friday, Psalm 123; Judges 2:16-23; Revelation 16:8-21

Saturday, Psalm 123; Judges 5:1-12; Matthew 12:43-45