



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

Seventh Sunday of Advent – Out of Time



December 24, 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

David, Deb Ellingson, & family

Luke 1:48-49

Advent Prayer L: Let us pray: God of mighty deeds and newborn sighs, you are nearly here. As we wait the final moments for your arrival, as we light the final candle on this wreath, open our hearts to recognize the great things you have done: acts of liberation, mountains moved, hearts changed, and

quiet moments of tender love. Reveal how you have paved a path to the hopeful future that is in store for us, and is now so near. **C: Amen**

Candle Lighting Hymn

'Out of Time'

SONG SHEET

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. 7

#257

Prayer of the Day

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, **C: and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

OT pg. 219

Luke 1:46b-55

L: ^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

C: ⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

L: ⁴⁸ for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:

C: ⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

L: ⁵⁰ You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

C: ⁵¹ You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

L: ⁵² casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

C: ⁵³ You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

L: ⁵⁴ You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,

C: ⁵⁵ the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

Second Lesson: Romans 16:25-27

NT pg. 126

Children's Message

Pastor Denise Fossen

Special Music

'Almost There'

Senior Choir

Words & Music by Michael W. Smith, Wes King, and Amy Grant. Arranged by Heather Sorenson.

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: Luke 1:26-38

NT p. 43

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

'He Came Down'

#253

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

'Prepare the Royal Highway' vs. 1, 2, 4

#264

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**

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.

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: whether you are ready for God's future or panicking at the last minute, God surrounds you. Keep alert; trust God; seek peace. **C: We Will! Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn

'Joy to the World'

#267

- 1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**
- 2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3. No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**
- 4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872.

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.

KDIO Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Roger & Barb Nornes in honor of their 70th Wedding Anniversary. [Radio broadcast cards are available on the information kiosk in the narthex; cost is \$100/week].


OFFERING UPDATE: Here are the expenses for November: \$18,989.29. Here is what we received: \$17,514.25. We deficit spent by \$1,475.04 You're also encouraged to visit our webpage for Online Giving at www.firstenglish.net. 


There will be a special fellowship after church next Sunday (12/31) to wish Pastor Denise farewell on her retirement. If unable to attend, please consider sending a card or note.

We need some volunteers for our New Year's Eve morning service. Please contact the office if you can acolyte, greet, or be our lector for the day.


Please pick up & fill out your pledges & opportunity sheets and put them in the box in the Narthex before the end of the year. We need new opportunity sheets each year, so that we know you are still interested and willing to continue volunteering. You can also pick up your giving envelopes for 2024.

If you want to receive a box of donation envelopes in 2025, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

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. 

"Caring Friends" to meet January 14th during coffee after church. If you are part of the "Caring Friends" group, please stop to check in, tell us who you are seeing and give us ideas for new ways to touch base. If you would like to become part of this group, just come to our informal meeting and see if it is something you'd like to try. Each one of us picks a person from our congregation who we will contact at least once a month either by phone or a visit. Some of the people on the list are in the nursing home, assisted living or just at home and unable to always come to church. Questions or if you know someone who would benefit from a monthly visit call Neva, 320-305-4964. 

GLLM's summer programs opened and spots are filling up fast. There is a \$50 early bird discount by Feb. 15th. If interested, we have flyers in the pickup room or office.

Christmas Poinsettias/Floral Arrangements have been given: in loving memory of Richard Janke from Patricia Janke; in honor of Barb & Roger Nornes' 70th Wedding Anniversary from Jackie Nornes and Jeff Nornes and family; in honor of Barb & Roger Nornes' 70th Wedding Anniversary from Linda Ranisate and family; in loving memory of 

Dallas I Hanson, Rev. LeRoy, & Carol Mueller from Marilyn Hanson; in loving memory of Mark Block from Terry and family; in loving memory of Joseph & Beverly Menne from Mark & Amy Block and family; in loving memory my Mom, Dad, and brother Joel from Marilyn Chindvall; in loving memory of Patrick Ketz, Marvin Vick, and Donald & Corinne Tiegs from Liz Ketz and family; in loving memory of Henry Domine from Jackie & Melvin Domine; in loving memory of Bill & Donna Hoel from their children; in loving memory of Adeline Brown, Alice Ellingson, and Herman Ellingson, from David & Debbie Ellingson and family; in loving memory of Mick Boone & Wes & JoAnn Strei from Richard & Marla Strei and family; & in memory of loved ones from Dean & Anita Longnecker.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Carol Barrett; Marcus Hanson, Arlen LaCombe; Gail Olson; Harris Selvig; Beth Swanson; Brandi Tweeter; Clara Zeek; Monty Athey, Paul Erdman; Beckett Foster; Rosie Frank; Larry Helgeson; Natalie Henneberg; McCoy Jipson; Zane Kilde; Brian Pribyl; Janice Redfield; David Scholberg; and Jerry Stotesbery. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Janet Anderson; Ricky Anderson; Arvilla Bergseth; Adeline Burgess; Ruth Hansen; Jim Hipple; Vivian Janssen; & Eleanor Nickolauson. ALL OUR MILITARY who are deployed to areas of conflict, especially Alexander Johnson (Ev Johnson's grandson). 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—December 24th (9 AM Advent Service)

Greeters: Neva Foster

Acolytes: Archer & Eliot

Organist: Kathy Haukos

Advent Volunteers: David, Deb Ellingson, & family

Tech Desk: Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson

Lector: Darin Ehrenberg

Ushers: Ron Athey & TBD

This Week's Ministry Assistants—December 24th (2 PM Christmas Eve Service)

Greeters: Neva Foster

Acolytes: **NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS**

Organist: Carol Ydstie

Lector: Kathy Randall

Tech Desk: Marina Thomson & Liz Ketz

Lay Assistants: Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg, Liz Ketz, Marilyn Chindvall, Sara Mattison

Ushers: Ron Athey, Russ Thielke, Gale May, & Vern Nickolauson

This Week's Ministry Assistants—December 24th (4 PM Christmas Eve Service)

Greeters: Neva Foster

Acolytes: Archer & Eliot

Organist: Carol Ydstie

Lector: Kathy Randall

Tech Desk: Marina Thomson & Liz Ketz

Lay Assistants: Tami Lundberg, Liz Ketz, & Marilyn Chindvall

Ushers: Glenn & Deb Henningson, Owen Dorry, & Kevin Fossen

Next Week's Ministry Assistants—December 31st

Greeters: NEED VOLUNTEERS

Acolytes: NEED VOLUNTEERS

Organist: Kathy Haukos

Lector: NEED VOLUNTEER

Tech Desk: Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson

Coffee Servers: Nornes

Ushers: Rodney Torgerson, Liz Ketz, Rob Randall, & Josh Wollschlager

FWV: Kim Anderson



Weekly Calendar

Sun – 12/24 CHRISTMAS EVE

NO SUNDAY
SCHOOL FOR
THE REST OF
2023

9:00 am Advent Worship – KDIO & Facebook Live Broadcast

2:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion –
KDIO & Facebook Live Broadcast

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion

Mon – 12/25 CHRISTMAS DAY – OFFICE CLOSED

Tues – 12/26 4:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at Fairway View

Wed – 12/27 NO Confirmation or Youth Group (Winter Break)

9:30 am Channel 3 broadcast

5:30 pm Channel 3 broadcast

NO CHOIR

Fri – 12/29 9:00 am Bulletins Printed

Sun – 12/31 NEW YEAR'S EVE (Pastor Fossen's Last Service)

9:00 am Worship – KDIO & Facebook Live Broadcast

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship

10:30 am Fairway View – Pre-recorded