



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Running Out of Time



December 3, 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

BJ, Michelle, & Wiley Bauer

Isaiah 64:1a

Advent Prayer L: Let us pray: We wait for you, O God. We wait for you to come and save us. We wait for you to end what hurts us. As we light another candle on this wreath, arrive in our hearts, our homes, our world— even as we still wait. You promise that all evil will cease one day. Give us a glimpse of that today. **C: Amen**

(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. 4

#257

4. O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

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: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, **C: and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9

OT pg. 538

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

NT pg. 127

Children's Message

Pastor Denise Fossen

Special Music

'Almost There'

Sr. Choir

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

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.

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

'My Lord, What a Morning'

#438

(Refrain): My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning; oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.

- 1. You will hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. *(Refrain)***
- 2. You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. *(Refrain)***
- 3. You will hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. *(Refrain)***

Text & Music: African American spiritual

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

'Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence'

#490

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descending comes full homage to demand.

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way; as the Light of light, descending from the realms of endless day, comes, the pow'rs of hell to vanquish, as the darkness clears away.

4. At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry: "Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-1885, alt. Music: French folk tune, 17th cent.

Text sts. 1-3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and adapt. © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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**

SHARING THE MEAL

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 pow'r 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

P: God our Creator, the abundance... Do this for the remembrance of me.

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:

'Fling Wide the Door'

#259

1. Fling wide the door, unbar the gate; the King of glory comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the Savior of the world who brings his great salvation to the earth. So raise a shout of holy mirth and praise our God and Lord, Creator, Spirit, Word.

2. He is the rock of our belief, the heart of mercy's gentle self. His kingly crown is holiness; his scepter is his loveliness; he brings our sorrows to an end. Now gladly praise our king and friend, and worship him with song for saving us from wrong.

3. Oh, happy towns and blessed lands that live by their true king's commands. And blessed be the hearts he rules, the humble places where he dwells. He is the rightful Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, creator of the world, our only strength for good.

4. Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ; our hearts are open wide in trust. Oh, show us now your lovely grace, upon our sorrows shine your face, and let your Holy Spirit guide our journey in your grace so wide. We praise your holy name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943. Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. hymnal version. Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Distribution Hymn:

'Rejoice, Rejoice Believers'

#244

1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear; the evening is advancing, and darker night is near. The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh. Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

2. The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near; go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear. The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.

3. The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore, shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more. Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold; in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.

4. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907. Music: Swedish folk tune.

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: whether you are waiting for a new beginning or just waiting for something to end, God is sustaining you. Keep alert; trust God; seek peace. **C: We Will! Thanks be to God.**

Sending Song

'Soon and Very Soon'

#439

- 1. Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**
- 2. No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King, no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King, no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King, Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**
- 3. No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**
- 4. Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King! Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

Text & Music: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945. Text & Music: © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing.

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 by your gifts to the endowment fund. [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 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.



May the God of all consolation be with Carol and Vern Bell in the passing of his sister Kathy Smith on November 26th.

Birthday wishes go out to Carol Newman whose birthday is this Wednesday, the 6th, and Sharron Johnson whose birthday is Friday, the 8th.

Dish towels, cloths and scrubbers are on sale today with the proceeds benefiting the FELC Women's group.

The students planning on attending the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans will be having a bake sale on Sunday, December 10th before and after church. If you would like to donate baked goods to their event, please contact Archer Dorry at 320-305-1839 or at archerhdorry@gmail.com.

The Giving Tree has the opportunity to give to **Katie's Kicks** and **Trojan Takeout**. Katie's Kicks is a non-profit program that gives new shoes to Ortonville area school students. All shoes are purchased new and kids are able to pick out their own pair. So far this year, the program has served 120 kids. Trojan Takeout sends home a weekly bag of food to help curb hunger in children over the weekend and holidays. There are no income requirements, it's confidential and no one will be turned away. Thank you for sharing in these and other local needs.

We are looking for some volunteers for our holiday services. Can you help with our Christmas Eve morning and/or afternoon services, or on New Years Eve morning? Contact the office to be a lector, acolyte, lay assistant, greeter, usher or help Marina with the tech desk and sound system.

God's Creations Fundraiser Calendars are in! They can be bought in the office or in the Narthex following church if you'd like one! They're \$8.00. You can bring cash, or if you'd like to pay by check, please write them out to FELC Youth.

Abiding Faith Free Lutheran Church will be hosting a Hymn Sing tonight at 7:00 pm. There will be a free-will offering taken and distributed between Big Stone County Food Shelf and Project Christmas. See the poster in the Narthex for more information.


It Only Takes a Spark Cancer Walk will be hosting a Bake Sale and Holiday Shopping Day at the Big Stone City, Community Center Sat. December 9th from 9 am – Noon. If anyone would like to donate baked goods to help them raise funds for cancer patients, please call or text 605-880-0385. See posters in the Narthex for more information.

If you would like to give a poinsettia or Christmas Flower to FELC during this advent/Christmas season, please bring or have it delivered to the church office the week leading up to Christmas. Don't forget to let us know who it is from and memorial/in-honor-of information so that we can list it in our Christmas Eve bulletin. If you want your poinsettia back, please put your name on it.

Stonecroft Ministries Women's Connection will be meeting on Tuesday, December 19th at 5:30 pm at Tabor Methodist Church in Big Stone City, SD. Speaker will be Levi Wadell of Marvin, SD. He is the part-time youth coordinator at Central Church in Milbank. He will tell of his work with the youth and his faith walk. Jim Wagar of Odessa, MN, accompanied by guitar, will lead group singing of Christmas Carols. This cost is \$6.00 and there is a free nursery by reservation. You can register with Carol Rabe at 605-862-8570 or you are welcome to be a walk-in.

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church is hosting an Advent Salad Luncheon from 11:30-1:00 pm on Wed, Dec. 6th with a free will offering benefiting the Swift County Food Shelf.


Photo Directory Pictures Will Be Taken Next Week before and after the service. Bring your whole family if you want to get a nice family photo added to our directory. There are 'how to' instructions available next to the newsletters in the narthex if you wish to upload your own photo yourself. You will need to create an online account to do that.

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. 

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.

The Bellingham Bloodmobile is set for Tuesday, December 12, 1-6 p.m. at the Bellingham Community Center. Regular or Power Red donation appointments can be made by calling Audrey Volkenant at (320)568-2385 or online at redcrossblood.org/Bellingham location or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor app. There will be a drawing for a Red Cross t-shirt quilt made by local quilters that day.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Carol Barrett; Marcus Hanson, Arlen LaCombe; Gail Olson; Mary Lou Olson; Harris Selvig; Russ Thielke; 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 3rd

Greeters: Glenn Henningson & Bryson Karels **Acolytes:** James & Brianna
Organist: Lisa Berdan **Lector:** Kristi Ehrenberg
Tech Desk: Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson **Coffee Servers:** Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg
Ushers: Brent Zahrbock, Dean Strand, Vern Nickolauson, & Larry Dahle
Advent Volunteers: BJ, Michelle, & Wiley Bauer **FWV:** Ranet & Jim Schmeichel
Lay Assistants: Sara Mattison & Brent Zahrbock

Next Week's Ministry Assistants—December 10th

Greeters: Marge Dragseth & Lexi Kaye **Acolytes:** Eliot & Archer
Organist: Amy Adelman **Tech Desk:** Matt Karels & Marina Thomson
Coffee Servers: Boards of Christian Ed & Youth & Family
FWV: Paula Reisdorph & Marge Dragseth
Ushers: Liz Ketz, Eldon Knutson, Darin Ehrenberg, & Harley Helgeson
Advent Volunteers: Julie Hipple, Jocelyn Showalter, & Marilyn Hanson

Weekly Calendar

- Sun – 12/3** 9:00 am Worship – Communion – KDIO & FB Live
10:00 am Coffee Fellowship & Sunday School (Christmas Practice)
10:30 am Fairway View Worship LIVE
4:00 – 5:30 pm Cantata Practice
- Mon – 12/4** 10:00 am Staff Meeting
7:00 pm Council Meeting
- Tues – 12/5** 8:30 am Day of Love
11:30 am Day of Love's Christmas Dinner
4:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at Fairway View
- Wed – 12/6** 9:00 am Circle 4 Bible Study in Church Lounge
9:30 am Channel 3 broadcast
11:00 am Circle 4's Christmas Lunch
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
- Fri – 12/8** 9:00 am Bulletins Printed
- Sun – 12/10** 9:00 am Worship – Sunday School Presents 'Signs of Christmas' – KDIO & FB Live
10:00 am Bake Sale, Birthday Cake & Coffee Fellowship
Pictures will be taken for the Photo Directory
10:30 am Fairway View Worship Pre-Recorded
4:00 – 5:30 pm Cantata Practice

