

# WELCOMING OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

## GATHERING

Prelude

*(PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE)*

P We gather today in the name of God; Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen!

HYMN

*Hark! A Thrilling Voice*

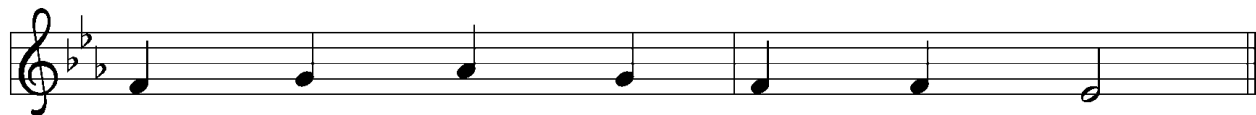
*ELW 246*



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we  
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age  
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don  
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,  
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,  
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,  
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy  
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!"  
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
one and all, to be for - giv'n;  
and with words of love draw near.  
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

C Amen.

P God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

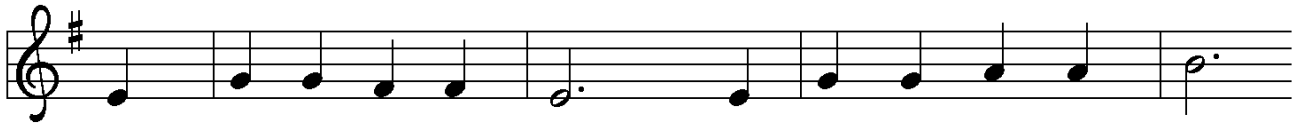
P Together we pray,

**C God of new beginnings, we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

P People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on † Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **C Amen.**

## KYRIE

s203



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## THE GREETING

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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Together we pray,

**C 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.**

## WORD

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### FIRST READING

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>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!"

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>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.

L The word of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-15a

<sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>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, <sup>12</sup>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? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

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P Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.

Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

**Amen.**

*the candle is lit*

P O come O come, Emmanuel

C let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

**PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**

## ACCLAMATION

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O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

## GOSPEL

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*Mark 1:1-8*

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

L The Gospel of our Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

*Of the Father’s Love Begotten*

*Choir*

*Jim Porter, flute*

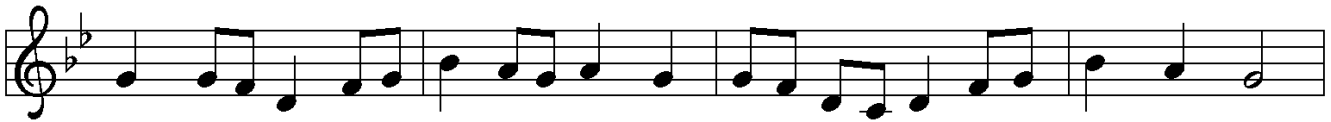
**SERMON**

Pastor Armen

**PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
 2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**A** Together we confess our faith,

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 OF INTERCESSION

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

*each petition concludes...*

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

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

C **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE (SPOKEN GREETING)

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P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

## OFFERING

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*In thanksgiving for God's blessing, we respond with our tithe and offering*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

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Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and



take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the



joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## OFFERING PRAYER

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A Together we pray,



**C God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

## **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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A Together we pray,

**C 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.**

## **DISTRIBUTION**

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As we celebrate the meal of our Lord, all are invited. If you are a guest and regularly commune at your church, you are welcome to commune here. For children who are not communing, please keep your hands folded and you will receive a blessing. Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are available at communion. Grape juice is in the inner section of communion tray, wine in the two outer rings. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please notify the server.

If you are unable to come to the altar rail and would like to receive communion in your seat, please notify an usher.

*after all have communed*

**P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. C Amen.**

A Together we pray,

C **Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

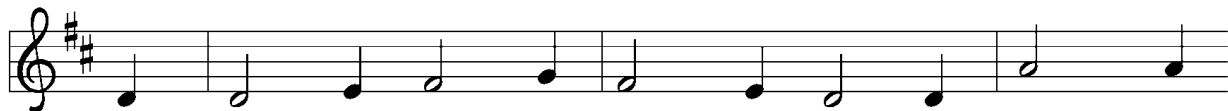
P God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**HYMN**

*On Jordan's Bank*

*ELW 249*



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

**DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Christ is near.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

## ***Faith's Weekly Announcements***

*Welcome to all of you attending this morning!*

### **Join us Wednesdays in Advent**

Our mid-week Advent worship continues this Wednesday at 6:00 pm. Please plan to join us.

### **Ladies Christmas Luncheon -- December 13th**

We will meet at 11:30 am on Wednesday at Farlows (2080 S. McCall Rd in Englewood). Today is your last opportunity to sign up. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. If you need more information, see or call Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383).

### **Pledges Due**

Have you turned in your pledge for 2024? If not, please do so right away as we need the information to plan the budget for next year. Forms are available by the little white church.

### **Christmas Flowers**

We still have a few poinsettias available for our Christmas decorating. Cost: \$10 each. Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex. (Please write legibly as your name and any dedication will be listed in the bulletin.) If you like, you may take the flower home after the second service on Christmas day. Place your checks, marked "poinsettias," in the offering plate.

### **Help Needed for Advent**

We need a few people to serve as ushers for the Wednesday evening advent services, and/or Christmas Eve. If you are willing to volunteer for this one-time job, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

**Attendance last Sunday: 66**

## Food Pantry

This week the food bank especially needs cereal. All donations should be placed in the bin in the narthex.

## Looking Ahead...

~ Christmas Eve we will have a regular 9:30 am service, then a 5:00 and 7:00 service in the evening.

~ Remember, we return to 2 services on January 7: 8:30 outside in the Memorial Garden and 10:30 inside.

## Wanted: Council Members

If you are a full member of Faith, you can be a member of the congregation council, assisting in the leadership of the church. Council members meet once a month and serve a 3-year term. This year's Nominating Committee includes Jim Taylor, Gene Newlon and Linda Bennett. If you are interested in serving, or need more information about the job, see one of them or call Barbra in the church office (941-697-3313).

## THIS WEEK AT FAITH

<b>Every week day morning</b>	6:30 am	AA meets at church
<b>Monday</b>	8:00 pm	AA meets at church
	10:00 am	Council
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:00 am	Work Crew
	9:00 am	Lutheran Chicks
	5:00 pm	Girl Scouts
	6:00 pm	Prayer with Grace
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:00 pm	Advent Worship
<b>Friday</b>	Office Closed	

## **WE PRAY FOR...**

Verna Newlon  
Tom Jackling  
Julie Petersen

Lou Taylor  
Emily Hoops  
Russ Kadera

Shirley Rice  
Jim Hardenstine  
Jeanette Porter

## **Serving Today**

**Altar Guild:** RoseAnne Woodliff

**Lector/ Worship Assistant:** Jim Taylor

**Ushers:** Harold & Linda Schultz, Marcia Wilkins

## **Your Church Council**

Steve Wolfe (President), Jeff Kamm (Vice President), Jeff Petersen (Secretary), Art Hanson (Treasurer), Ellen Lindhurst, Jim Taylor, Gene Newlon, Larry Bennett, Jay Fisher.

# **Faith Lutheran Church of Rotonda**

551 Rotonda Boulevard West – Rotonda West, FL 33947

(941) 697-3313

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Pastor Brian Armen, Cell (814) 248-0133

Secretary: Barbra Davis

Organist: Candace Montesi      Custodian: Cyndy Hoops

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**Secretary Office Hours: 9:00 Am – Noon (M-F)**

**PASTOR'S OFFICE: 10:00 – 1:00 (M-TH) AND BY APPOINTMENT**

*Our Guiding Principle: GOD'S GRACE WINS....*

*As we WORSHIP Jesus as our Lord and Savior*

*As we LOVE one another, welcoming everyone*

*As we SERVE, inspired by the Holy Spirit*

*As a deep FAITH is taught and caught*

*As we make WITNESS and MISSION our life*