



# 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

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

*ELW 288*



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

C Amen.

P In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Together we pray,  
**C** **Holy God, we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.**

**P** I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. ✠ In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.  
**C** **Amen.**

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## **HYMN OF PRAISE**

*ELW 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.

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## **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.**

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## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Together we pray,  
**C** **Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

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### FIRST READING

*Colossians 3:12-17*

<sup>12</sup>As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

L The word of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

### ACCLAMATION

*ELW 279*

4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

### GOSPEL

*Luke 2:41-52*

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

<sup>41</sup>Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his

parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” <sup>49</sup>He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

L The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Armen

PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

**HYMN**

*Once in Royal David’s City*

*ELW 269*



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid’s cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav’n a - bove;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

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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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L Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout  
time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.  
*each petition concludes...*

L Merciful God,  
C **receive our prayer.**

P Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these  
prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in  
Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

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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

*ELW 282*

1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

## OFFERING PRAYER

A Together we pray,

**C Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

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.**

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*ELW 283*

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him,  
born the king of angels: O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

## 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. If you prefer grape juice to wine, please raise an index finger when the server comes to you. If you require a gluten-free wafer, 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** **We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**P** The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

**C** **Amen.**



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

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

*Welcome to all of you attending this morning!*

### ***Altar Flowers***

The flowers on the altar this week were given by:

~ Larry & Linda Bennett in celebration of their anniversary

~ Carl & Sandy Despreaux in celebration of their 58<sup>th</sup>  
 anniversary

## **Note – Office Closings This Week**

Our secretary, Barbra, will be taking holiday/vacation time on Monday, Tuesday and Friday this week.

## **Food Pantry**

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

## **Sign up Now for the Faithful Families Course**

A nine-lesson curriculum called “Faithful Families” will be held here at Faith starting on January 5<sup>th</sup>. The course is taught through group discussions, recipe taste tests, and activities to encourage individuals and families to set goals for leading healthier lives. It will take place Wednesdays, January 5 – February 16, from 1:00 to 1:45 PM. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.

## **Ladies New Year Luncheon at Stefano’s**

On Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, the ladies of Faith will meet at Stefano’s Restaurant, 401 S. Indiana Avenue (in front of Beall’s Outlet). They have a lovely menu, with selections of salads, soups, burgers and assorted sandwiches, as well a large breakfast menu. **See their menu on the bulletin board.** We will order off the menu and have separate checks. No maximum number, so the more the merrier!! Please sign up if you will join us!! If you have questions give me a call – Kathie Wiley, 941-662-5383. See you there!

Attendance last Sunday: 86

Advent Wednesday: 17

## Thank Yous

A big thank you to all those who volunteered to be bell ringers for the Salvation Army this month!

Faith family,

I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for all the prayers, encouragement and support. I really appreciate it and hope to be able to come visit soon! I miss you all!

Brandy

## WE PRAY FOR...

Gary Wilkins

Lois Howell

Roger DeMeritt

Tom Jackling

Kent Neilson

Colleen Stender

Harold Schultz

Chris Cameron

Mike Williams

Jerry Faught

Nancy Smith

Cyndy Hoops

David Howe

Elaine Young

Patricia Banting

Richard Enderle

Joanne Best

Merrilee Warner

Persecuted Christians

## Serving Today

**Altar Guild:** Mary Lou Fitzgerald

***First Service:***

**Lector/ Worship Assistant:** Jay Fisher

**Usher:** Art Hanson

***Second Service:***

**Lector/ Worship Assistant:** Jim Taylor

**Ushers:** Larry & Linda Bennett

## 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
		Office closed for Christmas
<b>Tuesday</b>		Office closed
<b>Friday</b>		Office closed for New Year's

### Electronic Giving

To contribute to support God's work, you may visit our web page <https://alivingfaith.org> and use the "Give" button.

## 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

Choir Director: Charlene Howe

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*