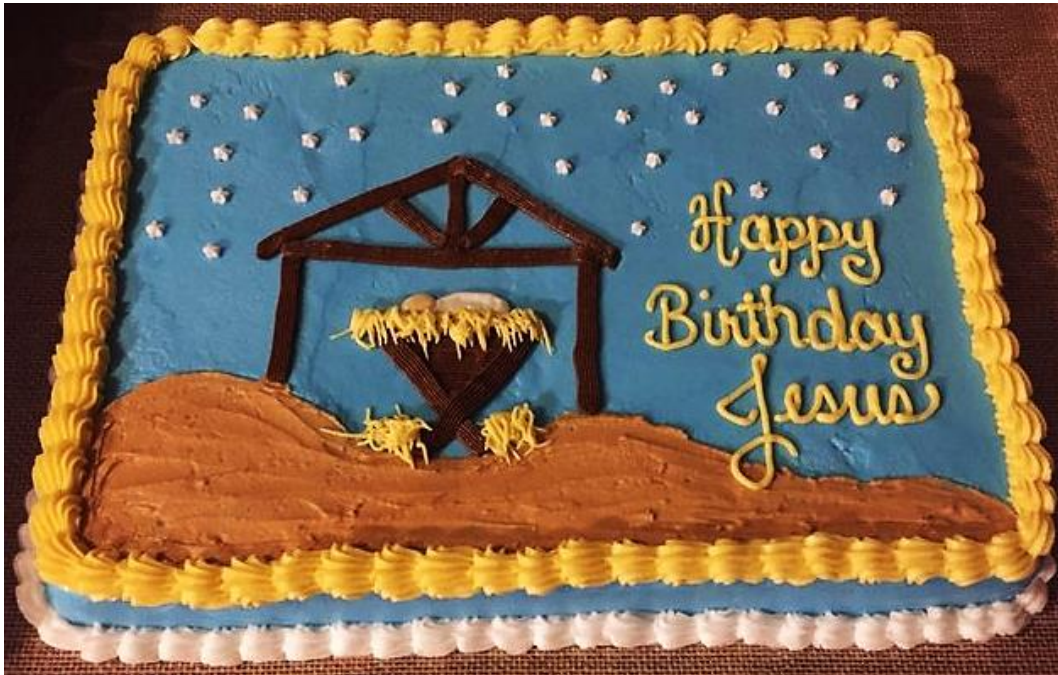


Third Sunday of Advent



Our Christmas Traditions

December 17, 2023

Followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all...
an adventure for life!

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

In Preparation for Worship

- Within the sanctuary please remember that some people use this time of silence to prepare for worship.
- Whenever the cross is carried in procession through the congregation, we turn to face the cross to signify our way of life as followers of Jesus.
- Large-print bulletins and copies of the worship order are available; ask an usher for assistance.
- Assistive hearing devices are available from the ushers.
- Please silence your cell phone.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Please be respectful of people who use this time to prepare for worship.

Prelude *Hyfrydol / He Shall Feed His Flock* arr. Anna Laura Page

Advent Candle Lighting *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*



3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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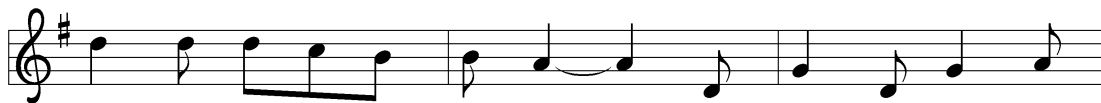
Welcome

Please stand in body or spirit

Hymn **Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn**



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the friendship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be
peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
Refrain
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of
vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -
le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

Please be seated



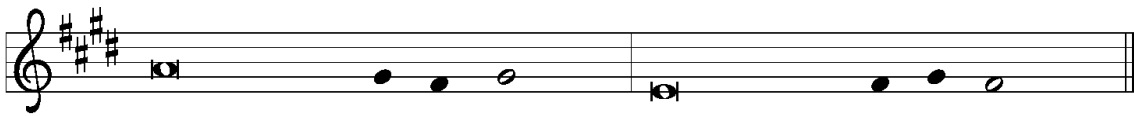
WE PROCLAIM THE WORD

Reading **Isaiah 61:1-4** (New Living Translation, inclusivized)
A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me,
for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.
God has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted
and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be
freed,
sent me to tell those who mourn
that the time of the Lord's favor has come,
and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies.
To all who mourn in Israel,
God will give a crown of beauty for ashes,
a joyous blessing instead of mourning,
festive praise instead of despair.
In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks
that the Lord has planted for his own glory.
They will rebuild the ancient ruins, repairing cities destroyed long ago.
They will revive them,
though they have been deserted for many generations.
"For I, the Lord, love justice. I hate robbery and wrongdoing.
I will faithfully reward my people for their suffering
and make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants will be recognized and honored among the nations.
Everyone will realize that they are a people the Lord has blessed."
I am overwhelmed with joy in the Lord my God!
For God has dressed me with the clothing of salvation
and draped me in a robe of righteousness.
I am like a bridegroom dressed for his wedding
or a bride with her jewels.
The Sovereign Lord will show justice to the nations of the world.
Everyone will praise God,
whose righteousness will be like a garden in early spring,
with plants springing up everywhere.

May we open ourselves to what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Amen.**

Psalm 126



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts
of joy.**

**Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done
great | things for them."**

The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.

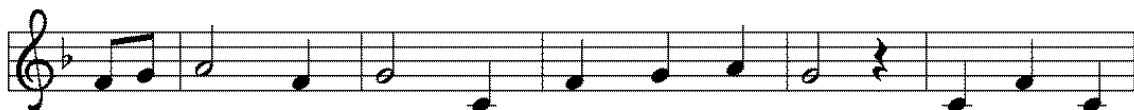
**Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**

Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.

**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.**

Please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation



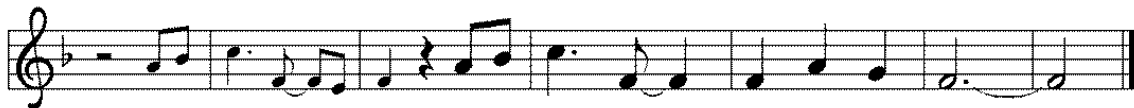
Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel

John 1:6-8 (The Message, adapted)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

Glory to you, O Lord.

There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light.

When religious leaders from Jerusalem sent a group of priests and officials to ask John who he was, he was completely honest. He didn't evade the question. He told the plain truth: "I am not the Messiah."

They pressed him, "Who, then? Elijah?"

"I am not."

"The Prophet?"

"No."

Exasperated, they said, "Who, then? We need an answer for those who sent us. Tell us something—anything!—about yourself."

"I'm thunder in the desert: 'Make the road straight for God!' I'm doing what the prophet Isaiah preached."

Those sent to question him were from the Pharisee party. Now they had a question of their own: "If you're neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet, why do you baptize?"

John answered, "I only baptize using water. A person you don't recognize has taken his stand in your midst. He comes after me, but he is not in second place to me. I'm not even worthy to untie the strap of his sandal."

These conversations took place in Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing at the time.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

Children's Christmas Program

Malcolm Highland
Rosalie Highland
Ruby Jacobs
Auden Neal
Elinn Neal
Ryland Neal
Caroline Ott
Kathryn Ott



OUR CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Ashley Bird
Michelle Clemence
Julie Johnson
Karen Rider
Heidi Sherer
Wendy Stoica
Kathleen Zwanziger

Musical Reflection

Come, Come Emmanuel

setting by Joel Raney
Senior Choir

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

Come, Desire of nations, come,
Bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Emmanuel, Rejoice!

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess our faith in the Triune God as expressed in these historic words:

**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.**

Community Prayers

Let us pray....

After each petition: "Receive our prayer,"

Your mercy is great.

Amen.

Included in our daily prayers are those with special needs or concerns:

Bebe McCoy, Robin Stokes, Bonnie Hegreiness, Heidi Carman, Mary Kennedy,
Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs, Kathie and Nancy Ehrich and their sister Betty Weaver,
Jeremy Davis, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt and her sister Jan, Brittany Parsons,
Mary Bowling's sister Val, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Maddie Sutphin,
Skye Andree, Julie Larson and husband Eli, Kathleen Zwanziger, Carolyn Moehring,
Kris Kauffman, Mary Watts, Emily Ott's aunt Kathy Richter, Dottie Odrosky,
Pastor Tim Muller, Heidi Sherer, Kathy Denhard

The people of All Saints Lutheran Church in Worthington; Redeemer community member
Dora Pinder

Time with the Young People

Sharing the peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*Members are encouraged to move around the sanctuary to greet each with a hearty handshake or a hug.
For those who have special concerns or who do not wish close contact, please offer a sign of blessing to let
others know you are more comfortable greeting them from a distance.*

*We will continue to take a moment to greet those who are worshiping via livestream before greeting those
in the sanctuary.*

WE SHARE HOLY COMMUNION

*Jesus invited all who were hungry for food, healing, justice, and joy to
share this communion meal.*

Since this is his meal, and he is present to us in it, all are welcome.

In body or spirit, please stand

Offertory All the Music Sung and Played Here

Bless the talents we are bringing, for we offer you our best.

If our gifts are not in singing, may our joyful noise be blest.

If our world is ever silent, may we sign to you above.

Touched by grace, may each one present offer back your song of love.

SONGS OF GRACE: New Hymns for God and Neighbor. © 2009 Discipleship Resources. All rights reserved. Purchasers of this volume are granted permission to use the texts included in public worship. Acknowledgement of the author and source is required with each use.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

This is the table of Emmanuel -- God-with-us. This is the place where bread and wine remind us how to live and love as those who inhabit God's time, and work to build God's Beloved Community. This is the place where we recognize that the one for whom we wait is also the one who is already, and always, here with us.

So come! Whether you are watching for the dawn, or dreading first light, whether you are waiting with hope, or hiding your face, come with quiet confidence. Here Emmanuel watches for our coming, and waits with love and joy to welcome us in.

The story of Emmanuel is the story of God – waiting to inhabit time, who took on flesh and form, and lived among us, so that we might re-imagine life. It is the story of Jesus – waiting to be betrayed, who shared supper with his friends, where he took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take this and eat. This is my body, broken for you. Do this to remember me.” And after supper he took the cup and gave it to them, saying, “This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. It is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me.”

And so, taking this bread and wine, we remember and celebrate the waiting which began to change the world; and we join our voices with all who still wait and work for that change to come to completion:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

God of grace, as we follow the example of Jesus, send your Holy Spirit upon us, and on these gifts of bread and wine. May we find the imagination, the courage, and the strength to use our waiting times to build your Beloved Community of joy, justice, and peace, for which we now pray:

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.**

Sharing the Meal

The gifts of God, for the people of God. Jesus welcomed all to this meal.
So do we.

Please be seated

You may come forward to receive the elements, remain seated and use the pre-filled communion cups available at the door, or let an usher know you'd like to be served in your seat. Wine is in the outer rings of the tray, grape-apple juice in the inner ring. Gluten-free wafers are available on request, ask Pastor.

Hymn

He Came Down

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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Hymn

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f' rings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

Please stand in body or spirit

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy Mystery, the earth still waits for its healing. May we who are part of that waiting take and use the waiting times to re-imagine how we can be healers of creation. Open our hands and hearts to embrace and use the uncertain times to learn how to live and love. So may our watching and waiting join with that of Emmanuel to realize your beloved community here on earth.

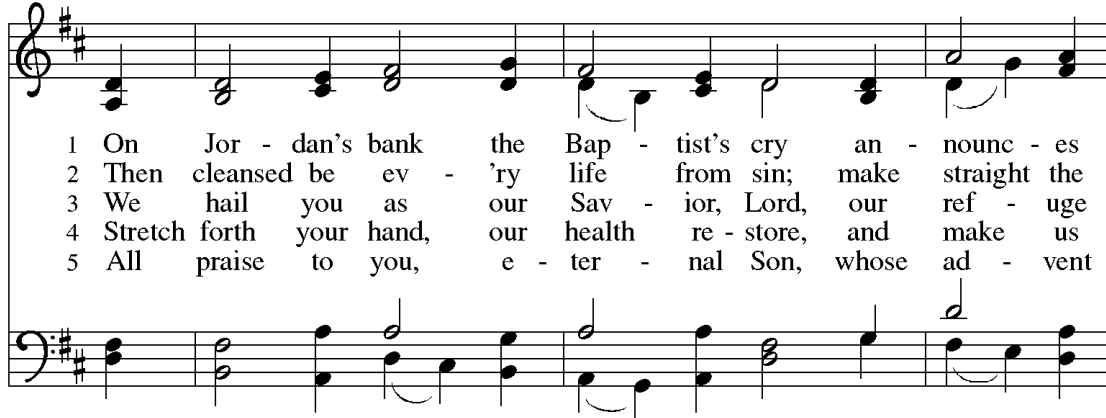
Amen.



WE ARE SENT

Hymn

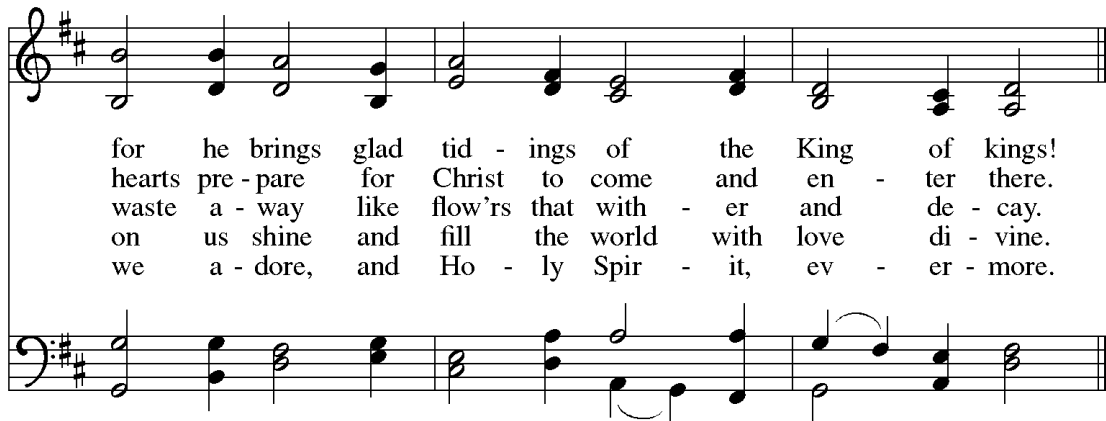
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



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 - en,
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.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Blessing

Amen.

Announcements

Postlude

People Look East

Wayne Leupold

To fulfill the Mission Endowment Fund's guidelines, the Special Funds Team (SFT) is seeking suggestions for the use of the funds for 2023. Please use the **pink** form to nominate possible recipients. Complete it and place it in the Sunday offering plate or leave it in the church office. Suggestions are due by **Sunday, December 24**. The SFT will then make its recommendation to council for action by the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January. See **Reflections** newsletter for more details.

***OU Professor to lead discussion of
Gaza-Israel war***

**Adult Ed Class
December 17 - 11:15 am**

We welcome Bexley resident Loren Lybarger, professor in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies at Ohio University, to talk about the context for the war between Israel and Gaza.

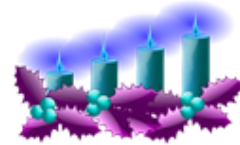
Loren lived in the West Bank and Gaza strip as well as in Egypt for more than eight years during the 1980s and 1990s

In-Person and Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88957366923?pwd=TnV6cFB4ZUpET25USTgzZ0dZlhnQT09>

Meeting ID: 889 5736 6923 = Passcode: 383835

Phone only: 1-312-626-6799



Advent Wednesday evenings

December 6, 13, 20

6:15 Advent Desserts

7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer

**Sign up on the bulletin board outside
the library to serve as cantor or to
provide dessert at 6:15**



Christmas Eve Worship

7:00 pm

In-Person and Livestream

Christmas Day Worship

10:00 am

In-Person and Livestream

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7sGE88YtJrLWuGWO0sS-yw>



Bible Study Tuesdays + 1:00 pm

In-Person and Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82259660622?pwd=R2p>

[HTW1bHR0N1FHbFRZdStqbk9Bdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82259660622?pwd=R2p)

Meeting ID: 822 5966 0622 = Passcode: 435549

Phone only: 1-301 715 8592

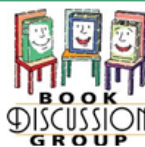


Coffee and Conversation

Wednesday, December 20

10:00 AM-11:30 PM – Narthex

Honest exploration of questions about faith and life



Wednesday, January 17
7-8:30 pm

This Land Is Our Land: An Immigrant's Manifesto

by Suketu Mehta

Copies are available in public libraries.

IN-PERSON and ZOOM

<https://us02zoom.us/j/86581504887?pwd=ZkFSV2tK>
[M2xE d3dyK1RvSURJYlFuZz09](https://us02zoom.us/j/86581504887?pwd=ZkFSV2tK)

Meeting ID: **865 8150 4887** +++ Passcode **274918**

Phone Only: **312-626-6799**



Birthdays this week:
19 – Darren Baldogo
19 – Joe Darst
19 – Novella Hinkle
21 – Kolya Larson

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Presiding Minister	David Shull, Pastor
Assisting Minister	Julianne Johnson
Cantor	Scott Steiner
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Jon Disbro
Verger	Michelle Clemence / Wendy Stoica
Communion Prep	Wendy Stoica
Producers	Scott Steiner, April Smith
Hospitality	Karen Rider

*Flowers are given by **the Phillips family** in memory of **Lisa Price**.
Noisy Offering will go to LSS CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence*

THIS WEEK AT REDEEMER DECEMBER 17 - 24

Today	8:45 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School Christmas Program
	11:15 am	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Education
Monday	7:00 pm	Congregation Council
Tuesday	1:00 pm	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Bible Study
Wednesday	10:00 am	Coffee and Conversation
	6:15 pm	Advent Desserts
	7:00 pm	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Holden Evening Prayer
Saturday	10:00 am	Chime Choir Rehearsal
Next Sunday	8:45 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
	7:00 pm	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Christmas Eve Worship

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614.237.1263 + info@RedeemerLuth.com + www.RedeemerLuth.com
Office hours –9am-1pm, Mon-Wed; 9am-noon Thu
A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America