

Service of the Word for the Home and for ZOOM
Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Are You Online? Join Zoom Worship!

Please email Caitlyn in the office at officefelc@zoominternet.net to be added to the email list for a link to the service.

Not Online? Join Us Over the Phone!

+1 301 715 8592 US
Meeting ID: 956 305 5281
Password: 408299

Today is the third Sunday of Advent! As you prepare your home worship space for Advent, consider setting up an Advent wreath—a ring of four candles or lights. There is no hard and fast rule about what color the candles have to be. Four blue candles, three purple and one pink candle, or four white candles, are traditional. You can also use LED lights or electric candles or flashlights. The image of the Advent wreath is to remind us of the light of Christ that comes into the world.

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true,
to you be praise and glory for ever!
Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth
as a burning and shining light.
May we your servants rejoice in his light,
and so be led to witness to him
who is the Lord of our coming Kingdom
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.
Blessed be God for ever.

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

To make our hearts ready for the Holy Spirit, let us confess the sin which separates us from God and our neighbor and seek the forgiveness God offers us in Jesus Christ.

Silence for reflection

Gracious God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ God gives the power to become the children of God, and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

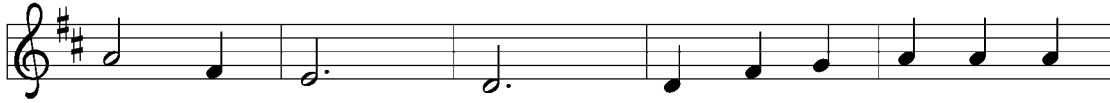
Amen.

HYMN *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
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GREETING

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

KYRIE

HYMN OF PRAISE *O come O Come Emmanuel, sts 1 and 6*

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.

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE JESSE TREE

Let's pray through the season of Advent! At the end of this bulletin is an explanation of the Jesse tree and devotions based on the Jesse tree symbols for each day of the week. These devotions will also be put online on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/firstenglishbutler.

THE WORD

FIRST READING **Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge

that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 126 *read responsively*

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

²**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."

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We welcome the gospel:

Alleluia! I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"
as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY *online*

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in Christ's promised return, let us lift up all our concerns and requests to God. The response after each petition is, "Hear our prayer."

God of hope, we thank you that nothing separates us from your love. Help us, your church, to live through these challenging days as witnesses to your presence. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of justice, we plead for an end to hunger and strife throughout the world. Especially today we remember the people of Yemen, Ethiopia, and other lands torn apart by civil war. Convert the hearts of those who love strife to seek peace. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of righteousness, heal our nation. Give us all a heart to seek the common good; guard the safety of those who serve in public office, and inspire us to live in ways that reflect your goodness. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of healing, give clear vision, endurance, and regular rest to all health care workers who care for covid patients. We remember those who work at Butler Hospital, Concordia, St. John's Specialty Care Center, Sunnyview, and all other places that we know that are of concern to us...*(pause for silence)*...Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of light, teach us humility and patience during these difficult days. Guard us from complacency in taking precautions that help others stay safe and healthy. Show how to serve those who are struggling in ways that preserve their dignity. Help us to be gentle with one another and with people around us. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of steadfast love, relieve the pain of those who are sick or injured, those who are grieving, those who are anxious or worried about their income, and those who are in despair. We name before you those most on our minds and hearts...*(Pause)*. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of new life, by the resurrection of your Son death has lost its sting. We remember before you all who have died, and pray that you would give us with them a mantle of praise. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Almighty God give new courage to your people who trust in your love. By the advent of your Son, raise us to the joy of your kingdom, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Finally, as Jesus have taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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.

THE SENDING

BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

HYMN

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Linda Mathias	Assisting Minister
Judy Wadding	Reader
Sue Morrow	AV Assisting Minister
Melody Kamerer	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Susan Farrell and Sue Morrow	Counters

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Pr. Kimberly, Christiaan, and Claudia van Driel in memory of Gerrit van Driel and in honor of Edwin van Driel.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 12/14	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting
Tuesday, 12/15	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
Wednesday, 12/16	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
	7:00 PM	Advent online service
Thursday, 12/17	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting
Saturday, 12/19	9:00 AM	AA Meeting
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Kimberly is seeking pictures of your home nativity scenes (or creches) for use in Christmas Eve services and on the Sundays after Christmas. Please send digital files to pkfelc@zoominternet.net. If you have a hard copy of a photo, you can drop it by the office as well. Deadline is Wednesday, December 16 for inclusion in Christmas Eve. Thank you!

This Sunday, December 13th is the last day to donate to our 2020 Christmas Tree Drive for our Butler County Children and Youth. Your generous donations will make this Christmas more special for these children. Please use the special line of your offering envelope and make your check payable to First English Lutheran Church. Thank you!

EPIPHANY January-February 2021

Hymn #507 in ELW Hymnal – “O God of light, your word a lamp unfailing,
shall pierce the darkness of our earthbound way...”

As a part of this church year season, which follows Christmas, we ask for help from each of you!

You will receive a letter from FELC about designing a star to be hung at the church. It will include helpful information.

The star from your family will join with the stars of all the other families!

Further information is on its way about the art pieces, date to be completed, etc.

Please watch for a letter in your mailbox (to come a little later in December)! Looking forward to hearing from you!

The 2021 Flower Chart is posted. If you would like to sign-up for a date in 2021, please let the church office know (724) 283-2378 or officefelc@zoominternet.net.

PRAYERS

Janice Critchlow, Pastor Karl Schoch, Anne Ferguson, the family of Dan Hanczar, Jeanette Cunningham, Marsh Miller, Ida Miller, Helen Wagner, Deanna Golden, the Lawson family, the Bodnar family, Tyler Jacob Huey, Meredith, Mary and Eleanor, Larry, Frederick Miller, Edna Hartman, Jim Buehler, Justin Buehler, Cyndy Halin, Gene Fozard, Cindy Regis & her daughter Angie, Josh, Aryl Bashline, Dave and Diana Braun, David and Gina & family, Ida Miller, Shirley Sellers, Crystal, the family of Mary Heist, Gayle Wynn, Mary Maloney, the family of Ryan Warheit, the family of Scot Taylor, Claude, Audrey & Jonah Clark, Ed Beck, the family of Jim Templet, all those affected by the wildfires in California and Colorado, the family of Edgar Nieto, the family of Marjorie Ellis, Anita, the family of Frances Cypher, Jamie and Kaitlin Sprague, Graham Cannon, Becky Wyckoff, Larry Hamil, Jan Nieto, the family of Mildred Dollhopf, Sandy Snyder, David and Emma Lee Hartle, the family of Hailey Matheson, Ryan, Forest and Marietta White, Christine Pflugh, Asyiah, the family of Nancy, the family of Jean Purvis, Joyce Hall, Bruni Bilowich, Karen Vavro, Doug Horner, Sandy, Lisa, Wendy, Rhonda, Judy M., Mary Ellen, Claudia, Karen, Kitty Walker, Hope & Bruce Keeler, Gina Ambrosio, Elizabeth, Jena Wright, Tad Sellers, Ralph D'Antonio.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

The LORD's promise to David

Luke 1:46b-55

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

Romans 16:25-27

The mystery of God revealed in Jesus Christ

Luke 1:26-38

The angel appears to Mary