



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
INSPIRE. EQUIP. REACH.

# SIGNS *of* CHRISTMAS

*signs of*

HOPE

*in our uncertainty*

**SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 29 • ISAIAH 35:1-10**

# November 29, 2020: First Sunday of Advent

## *Signs of Christmas: HOPE*

### WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Message	Pastor Laurie Neill
Assisting Pastor	Pastor Marty Tollefson
Music Minister	Michael Olson

### PRELUDE:

*Christmas Medley* – arr. Newell H. Long and Margaret Sisson  
Marlowe Kulish, clarinet; Michael Olson, organist

### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION

### OPENING HYMN: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (ELW 254)



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;

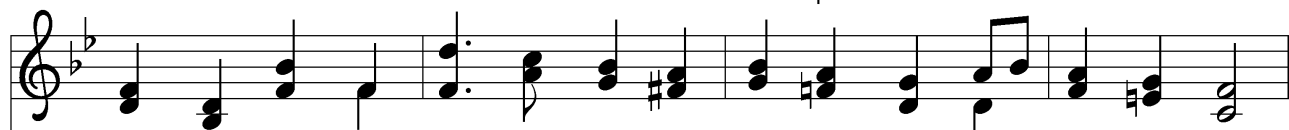


dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

HYMN: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (ELW 275)



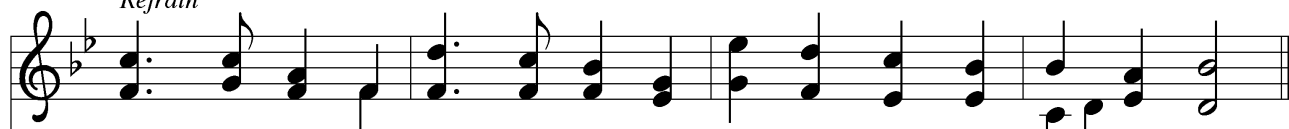
1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, 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.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
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.



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
Love from the beginning.  
Word made flesh.  
Breath of heaven.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P: Merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are not perfect.  
We have said and done things we regret.  
We have tried to earn your redeeming grace,  
while denying it to others.  
We have resisted your call  
to be your voice in the world.  
Forgive us, loving God.  
Give us your righteousness,  
the strength to put aside our failures,  
and the courage to try again.  
Amen.**

P: Dear people of God, hear the good news:  
Christ the Savior is born!  
You are loved and forgiven  
In the name of Jesus, who has come among us.  
You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved.  
Because God's love is given to you  
as the most precious gift of all.  
Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.

**C: Amen.**

## VOCAL ENSEMBLE:

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* – Swedish Folk Tune  
Bonnie and Terry Yoney, Carole and Mark Richman  
Michael Olson, accompanist

**MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT:** *Stewardship Giving*, Gary Inman

**OFFERING:**

**OFFERING OPTIONS**

Thank you for your new or continued generosity towards God's mission at First Lutheran Church. While we worship online, our stewardship continues. Offerings can be mailed to the church office and we also encourage you to use our online giving and texting options.

**Online Giving is an easy and convenient way to "set it and forget it."**



**ONLINE GIVING:** [www.flcfargo.org](http://www.flcfargo.org) (from the Quick Links banner select "Donate Now")



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**MAIL A CHECK:** 619 Broadway, Fargo, ND 58102

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**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 9:2a, 6; 11:6b

**SECOND READING:** Isaiah 35:1-3, 5-10 (The Message)

**MESSAGE:** Pastor Laurie Neill

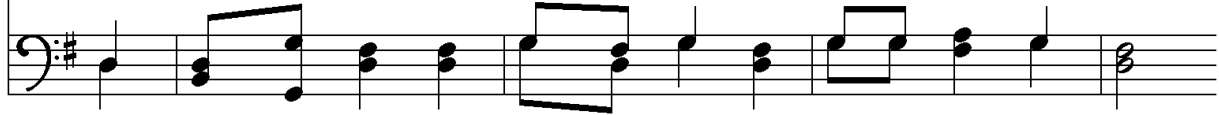
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HYMN OF THE DAY:

*Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (ELW 886)



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem - er's praise,  
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,  
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,  
4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.  
sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.



5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.  
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 FOR GOD'S PEOPLE**

**LORD'S PRAYER**    *(spoken by the congregation)*

**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.**

## **MUSICAL MEDITATION:**

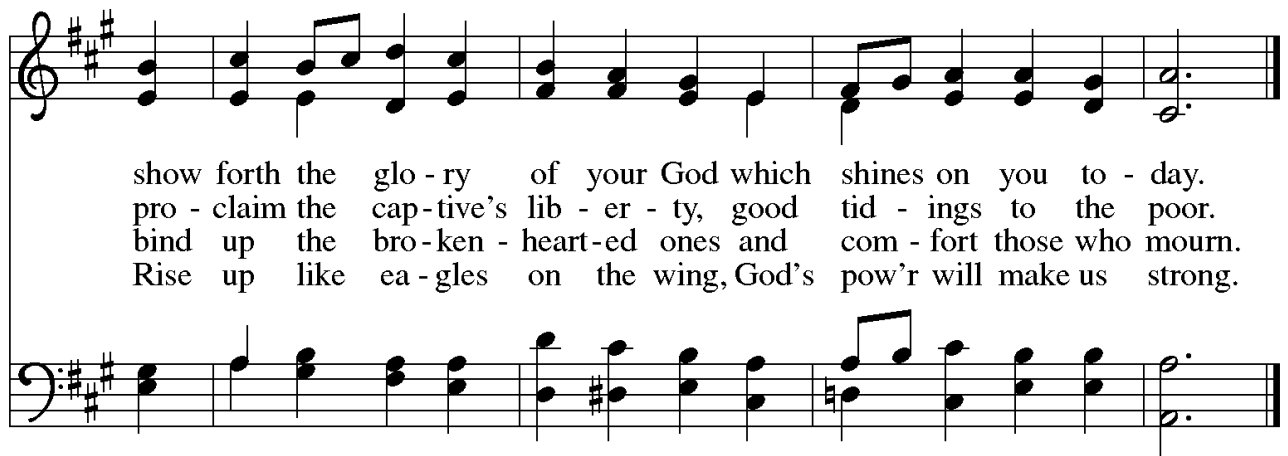
*Mary, Did You Know?* – Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene  
Naomi Wawers, vocalist; Michael Olson, accompanist

# BENEDICTION & THREEFOLD AMEN

SENDING HYMN: *Arise, Your Light Has Come* (ELW 314)



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

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## POSTLUDE

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* -- Wilbur Held  
Michael Olson, organist



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*32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday  
Service of Remembrance*

to honor and celebrate our loved ones



**Hanson-Runsvold  
Funeral Home**

This will be held virtually and live-streamed at  
[www.hansonrunsvold.com/SOR](http://www.hansonrunsvold.com/SOR)  
on Tuesday, December 1st at 6 p.m.

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*My Journey's Just Begun*

"Don't think of me as gone away,  
My journey's just begun.  
Life holds so many facets,  
This earth is but one."

*By Ellen Brenneman*



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# Winter Coat Ministry

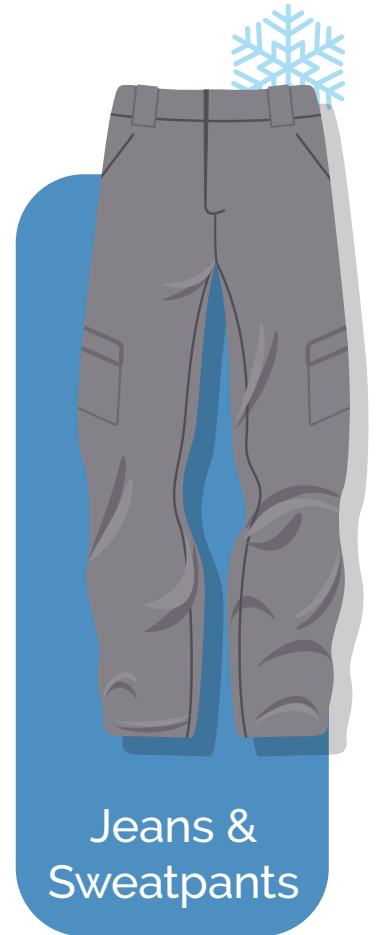
For many years, First Lutheran has partnered with local agencies supporting those in need in our community by supplying winter coats and apparel.



Men & Women's  
Winter Coats

Greatest need: L, XL, XXL

## KEY PARTNERS



Jeans &  
Sweatpants

Donations can be  
dropped off at  
the church.

Please call the church  
701.235.7389 or email  
[info@flcfargo.org](mailto:info@flcfargo.org) to  
arrange a convenient  
drop off time.



Men's & Women's  
Shoes &  
Boots



ski type  
Gloves



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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During the COVID-19/Coronavirus response, in-person worship at First Lutheran Church is suspended. However, we will broadcast worship on radio, television and online as noted below. Please join us for worship to praise Jesus and to stay connected as a faith community.



## ONLINE STREAMING ([flcfargo.org](http://flcfargo.org) & Facebook):

- Traditional Worship, Sundays, 9 a.m.
- Contemporary Worship, Sundays, 10:30 a.m.
- Face-to-Face Worship, Wednesdays, 6 p.m.



## TELEVISION:

- Fargo channels, Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.; and Sundays 1:30 p.m. (Midco 68, Sparklight 1068)
- Moorhead channels, Tuesdays, 7 p.m.; and Sundays 5 p.m. (Midco 99, Sparklight 69)



## RADIO:

- Sundays, 9 a.m., WDAY 970 AM and 93.1 FM

## SUPPORT FIRST LUTHERAN MINISTRIES:



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**MAIL A CHECK:** 619 Broadway, Fargo, ND 58102

## CELEBRATE PRAYER:

We as God's people believe in the power of prayer. Please pray for the following who have asked to be prayed for publicly: *Fran Nelson, Jordan Nettum, Mark Nettum, Michelle Reitan, Brenda Cummins, Amy Carey, Kathy Otheim, Jim Frisk, Gail Zimprich, Steve Brown, and George.*

The sympathy and prayers of First Lutheran are offered to the family and friends of **Alex Stoffel**, father of Kathy Ferreira.

## CONTACT US:

phone: 701.235.7389 (8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-noon Friday)

email: [info@flcfargo.org](mailto:info@flcfargo.org) | Facebook: First Lutheran Church - Fargo, ND