



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
INSPIRE. EQUIP. REACH.

SIGNS *of* CHRISTMAS

signs of

JOY

in our discouragement

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 13 • ISAIAH 40:1-11

December 13, 2020: Third Sunday of Advent
Signs of Christmas: JOY

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Message	Pastor Marty Tollefson
Assisting Pastor	Pastor Stephanie Tollefson
Music Minister	Michael Olson

PRELUDE:

Joy to the World – Fred Bock
Erik Johnson, organ; Michael Olson, piano

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.

The musical score consists of two systems of treble and bass staves. The first system contains the first four lines of lyrics. The second system contains the next four lines of lyrics. The third system is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the final line of lyrics. The music is in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

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:

Go, Tell It On the Mountain – arr. David Ferreira
Marlowe Kulish, Dorian Olson, Erik Johnson,
Paul Nelson, David Ferreira, Carl Wichman
Michael Olson, accompanist

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

SECOND READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

MESSAGE: Pastor Marty Tollefson

(continued on next page)

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Joy to the World* (ELW 267)

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

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.**

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 (from the Quick Links banner select "Donate Now")

 **TEXT TO GIVE:** Text 701.354.1495 with the dollar amount you would like to give

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

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:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – John Innes
Erik Johnson, organ; Michael Olson, piano

BENEDICTION & THREEFOLD AMEN

(continued on next page)

SENDING HYMN: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (ELW 270)

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
 Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

POSTLUDE:

A Carol Fantasy – Gilbert M. Martin
Erik Johnson, organ; Michael Olson, piano

*Order of worship printed from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress.
All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # 13275-L.
Music Reprinted under OneLicense.net #721505*



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
INSPIRE. EQUIP. REACH.

Winter Coat Ministry

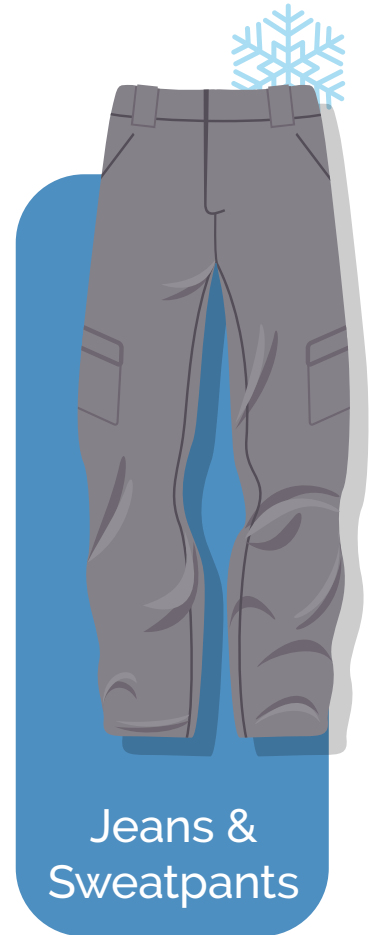
For many years, First Lutheran has partnered with local agencies supporting those in need in our community by supplying winter coats and apparel.



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 to
arrange a convenient
drop off time.



Men's & Women's
Shoes &
Boots



ski type
Gloves



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

INSPIRE. EQUIP. REACH.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Community Outreach Volunteers Needed

The homeless shelter community is seeking individuals who would be willing to connect with COVID-19 positive homeless residents via telephone on a daily basis through their quarantine period. These residents have been housed in isolation and have minimal if any contact with others. Please contact Polly Kloster, RN, Faith Community Nurse at FLC, pkloster@flcfargo.org, or 701.235.7389, if you are interested in reaching out through this ministry.

Care Bag Outreach Ministry Opportunity

The FLC Health Ministry Committee has assembled Care Bags to be distributed to parishioners in need. Each bag is filled with a variety of items to provide spiritual support and encouragement. This is especially important during our pandemic break from in-person worship and ministry. If you know someone who could use extra encouragement and support at this time, contact Polly Kloster, RN, Faith Community Nurse at FLC, pkloster@flcfargo.org, or 701.235.7389, to pick up a bag for delivery or to request a delivery. We would love to extend this support to as many people as possible through this outreach ministry!

SIGNS OF CHRISTMAS

The four weeks of Advent are a time to prepare for the coming of the Christ-child. Join us as we turn our hearts and attention to the SIGNS that lead us to the meaning of Christmas.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

LUKE 2:12

 **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**
INSPIRE. EQUIP. REACH.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

INSPIRE. EQUIP. REACH.

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 & 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:



ONLINE GIVING: www.flcfargo.org (click "Donate Now" in the quick links)



TEXT TO GIVE: Text 701.354.1495 with the dollar amount you would like to give



MAIL A CHECK: 619 Broadway, Fargo, ND 58102

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

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, Dewey Nielsen, Clark Hoffman, Peggy Isakson, Steve Brown, Kaity and George.*

The sympathy and prayers of First Lutheran are offered to the family and friends of **Milton Lakness**, brother of Joanne Drenkow; **Robert Buresh**, father of Diane Harrison; and **Alma Eggert**, mother of Jodi Hatlen.

CONTACT US:

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

email: info@flcfargo.org | Facebook: First Lutheran Church - Fargo, ND