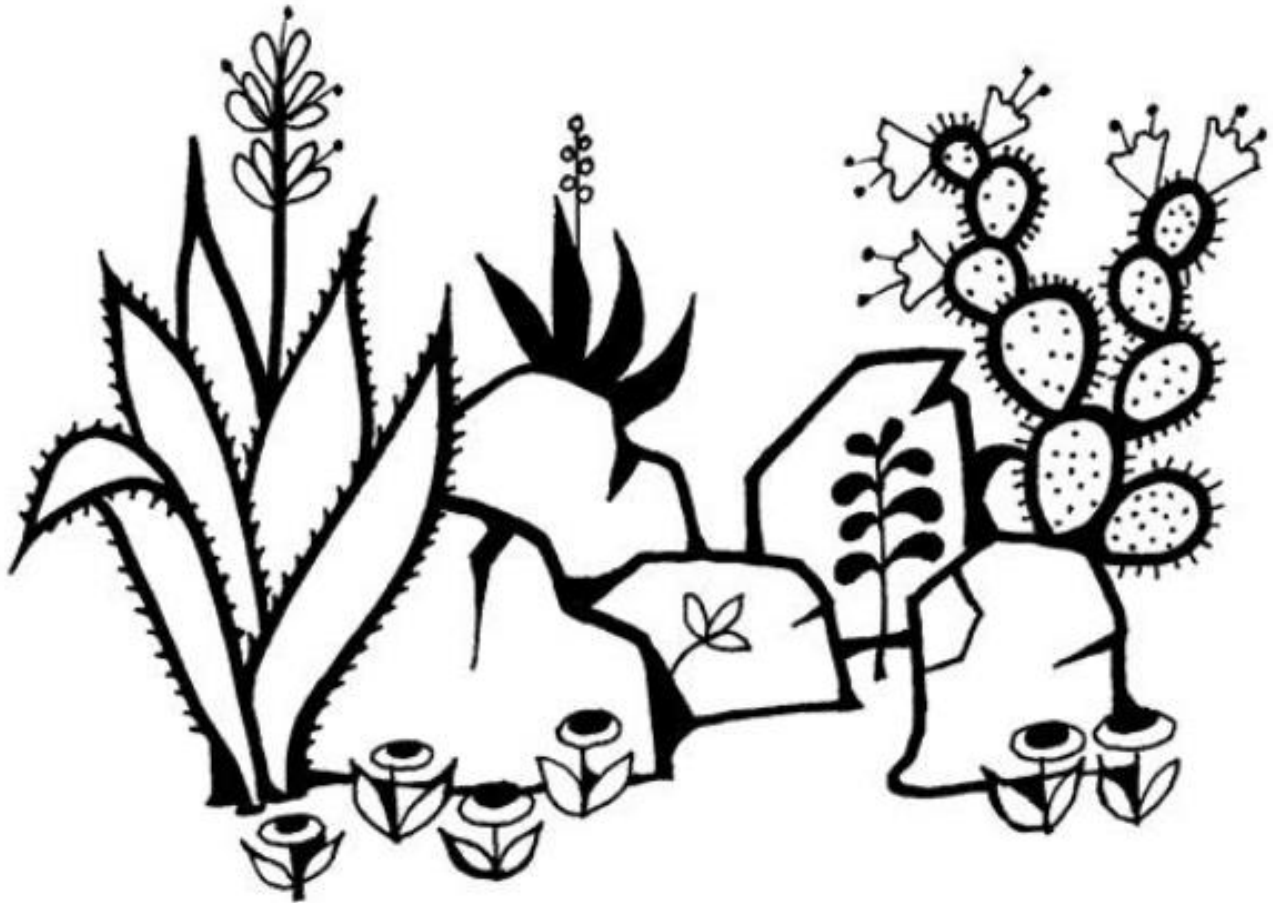




# Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



*We celebrate gathering together this  
third Sunday in Advent!  
As always, all are WELCOME here!  
December 10, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.*

The People of Covenant are called to:

**Gather, Grow and Go Serve**

...With God's Love!

# Welcome

**Thank you for joining us for Worship today!**

**WORSHIP ORDER – Sunday, December 10, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.**

*Congregation participation in **bold** in bulletin*

*ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymn Book, Setting 10*

*and the Holden Morning Prayer insert by Marty Haugen*

*\*=please stand*

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### Prelude

### Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 3

**\*Hymn** *Oh Come, O Come Emmanuel* vs. 5 ELW 257

### Blessing

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn** *Oh Come, O Come Emmanuel* vs. 6 ELW 257

### Welcome and Children's Time

**Service of Light** Holden p. 2

**Morning Hymn** Holden p. 2

**Psalm 141** Holden p. 3

### Greeting

May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives. **Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

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.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

### First Reading

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

*A reading from Isaiah the sixty first chapter.*

<sup>1</sup>The 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; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to 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. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. <sup>8</sup>For 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. <sup>9</sup>Their 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. <sup>10</sup>I 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. <sup>11</sup>For 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.**

### Vocal Choir

*An Invitation for Advent*

Ruth Elaine Schram  
arr. Douglas Nolan

## Second Reading

## 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

*A reading from first Thessalonians the fifth chapter.*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup>May 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. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

## John 1: 6-8, 19-28

*The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup>He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ” as the prophet Isaiah said. <sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” <sup>26</sup>John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing. The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

Pastor Wendy Moen

**\*Annunciation and the Magnificat**

Holden p. 7

**Litany and Prayers**

Holden p. 8

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Everlasting God, you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.**

**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness  
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**

**We are complicit in systems of exploitation.**

**We choose comfort over courage.**

**We are careless with creation's bounty.**

**Look upon us with mercy.**

**Turn our hearts again to you.**

**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways  
for the sake of our waiting world.**

**Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

## **Exchange of Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Let us share a sign of peace safely with one another.*

## **Announcements**

## **Offering Prayer**

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **Liturgy of Holy Communion**

## **Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Gathered into one by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray as our Lord taught us:*

## **The 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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.

Come, take your place at the table.

## Communion Hymns

*As the Grains of Wheat*

ELW 465

*By Your Hand You Feed Your People*

ELW 469

## Post Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

## Prayer after Communion

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## Blessing

Holden p. 9

## \*Sending Hymn

*People, Look East*

ELW 248

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**



*Care to contribute to our Church and ministries?*

Scan this QR Code to give digitally with Vanco Online Giving.

Or visit [www.covluth.org](http://www.covluth.org) and click 'On-line Giving'!



## Announcements:

- ✝ **What is the Doctrine of Discovery? Find information in the December 8th Friday email**
- ✝ Help us Grow in Community! Wear your nametag to each Worship Service- Thank you!
- ✝ Wed Evening Bible Study is on break for the Holiday- Join when we return mid in January
- ✝ **Parents Day Out- TODAY** kids stay 11am-3pm for fun while you shop. Sign up w/ Karla
- ✝ Join Book Group **Dec 14<sup>th</sup>** *Beautiful and Terrible things* Meeting at 1pm in Gateway room
- ✝ Christmas Services offered **Sunday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 9:30am, 4pm and 7pm.** All are invited to join!
- ✝ The office will be closed **Dec 25<sup>th</sup>** for the Christmas Holiday- Enjoy, knowing you are loved!
- ✝ **Lunch Bunch- 1<sup>st</sup> Wed of the Month at 11:30am** Announcing *January 3<sup>rd</sup>* location soon
- ✝ Feed the Hungry at St. Marks in Madison, 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month **Jan 12<sup>th</sup> 10:30a-1:30p**
- ✝ **Social Action is on break until January 15<sup>th</sup>** - work on inclusion here at Covenant with them
- ✝ Save the Date-Budget Listening Session **Jan 21<sup>st</sup>** and Annual Meeting **Jan 28<sup>th</sup>** Please Attend!
- ✝ Hospitality **Sign-Up in the Narthex**, bring treats whenever works for you- We're a team
- ✝ Thank you to our Vocal Choir Members: Kristin Johnson, Larry Judd, Angie Kettner, Eileen Nelson, Jack Nelson, Meghann Proper, Glenn Van Rossum, Jim Seamonson, Donna Tarpinian, Laurie Woodhouse, pianist Michelle Osterhaus, director Beth Gardner, for offering *An Invitation for Advent* today!

### WORSHIP NOTES

**Pastor:** *Pastor Wendy Moen; Acolyte: Alex Schumacher;*  
**Assistant Minister:** *Deb Oakland; Lector: Judy Heil;*  
**Greeters:** *Dan and Deb Oakland;*  
**Communion Worship Assistants:** *Judy Heil, Tom Nelson;*  
**Organist/Pianist:** *Michelle Osterhaus;*  
**Musicians for Advent:** *Denise Pigarelli, Meghann Proper, John Surrell;*  
**Ushers:** *Norm and Jean Sime, Mark Seamonson, Tom Christian;*  
**Sound/projection:** *John and Jude Surrell;*  
**Altar Guild:** *Norm and Jean Sime;*  
**Communion Prep:** *Jean and Norm Sime;*  
**Altar Flowers:** *A great way to celebrate any occasion with your church family!*

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