



Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



*We celebrate gathering together this
Christmas Eve Family Worship Service!
As always, all are WELCOME here!
December 24, 2023 at 4:00 p.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 24, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.

Congregation participation in bold in bulletin

ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymn Book,

**=please stand*

GATHERING

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

Prelude

Welcome

***Gathering Hymn**

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

Prayer

Holy God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our 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 9: 2-7

A reading from Isaiah the ninth chapter.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with

righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Vocal Choir

A Little Light Was Born

Michael Barrett

Gospel

Luke 2: 1-20

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Story: *The First Christmas for Kids* Dylanna Press of Blue Wave Press

*** Hymn**

Away in a Manger

ELW 277

Story: *The Little Shepherd* by Elizabeth Jaeger Illustrated by Irene Montano

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

Homily

Pastor Wendy Moen

***Hymn**

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

The Prayers

Wonderful Counselor, increase our joy as the church gathers on this holy night to sing of our dear Savior's birth. May the story of salvation live in the hearts of all who sing of its wonders. God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, you have broken the yoke of sin's burden through the birth of your Son. Comfort those whose burdens distract them from the deeper peace of this holy night and grant them a restful mind. God of peace, **Hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, uphold all who are in sorrow or need of your divine goodness and mercy. We remember with thanksgiving all who have died and who now rest in your peaceful light. God of love, **Hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Announcements

Offering

Offering Prayer

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Liturgy of Holy Communion

Great Thanksgiving

God, you made us, and the world and everything in it.

All the good we see comes from you.

You have always loved us, but people have not always loved you.

You sent Jesus to show us how to live and to bring us back to you again.

Words of Institution

On a night – kind of like this, with some people – kind of like us, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his friends and family, saying: “Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this and remember me.”

Again, on that same night, kind of like this night – when Jesus was gathered with some people kind of like us - after supper, He took the cup, and having given thanks for it, he said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, given for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this and remember me.”

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

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

Communion Hymn

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Once in Royal David's City
The First Noel

ELW 276
ELW 269
ELW 300

Post Communion Blessing

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

Post Communion Prayer

Send us your Holy Spirit so that this bread and wine can be for us, the body and blood of Jesus, and through this food, give us strength to live as your people. Help us care for your world and for each other in the way that Jesus showed us. **Amen.**

Reading

John 1: 1-14

A reading from John the first chapter.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*** Hymn of Light**

Silent Night, Holy Night!

ELW 281

The Congregation is invited to hold a glowstick or light a candle.

SENDING

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

Blessing

May the Lord God, who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. In the name of Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The candles are extinguished.

*Sending Hymn

Joy to the World vs. 1,4

ELW 267

Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.



Care to contribute to our Church and ministries?

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Or visit www.covluth.org and click 'On-line Giving'!



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Announcements:

- ✝ Christmas Services offered **Sunday, Dec 24th 9:30am, 4pm and 7pm.** All are invited to join!
- ✝ The office will be closed **Dec 25th** for the Christmas Holiday- Enjoy, knowing you are loved!
- ✝ **Lunch Bunch- 1st Wed of the Month at 11:30am Jan 3rd** *Join at BBJack's in Cottage Grove*
- ✝ Safe Surrender information/orientation meeting planned for **Jan 7th afternoon** more to come!
- ✝ Join Book Group **Jan 11th** discussing *The Last Supper Club* Meeting at 1pm in Gateway room
- ✝ Feed the Hungry at St. Marks in Madison, 2nd Friday of each month **Jan 12th 10:30a-1:30p**
- ✝ **Social Action meets January 15th** - work on inclusion here at Covenant and within Stoughton
- ✝ Budget Listening Session Scheduled for **Jan 21st** join to hear the hard work discussed for 2024
- ✝ The American Red Cross reports major blood shortages- Give Blood at Covenant **Jan 22nd**
- ✝ Annual Congregational Meeting planned **Jan 28th** Member voting required and appreciated!
- ✝ Wed Evening Bible Study returning in Jan- Plan to Join weekly at 5pm in the Gateway Room
- ✝ 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 *A Little Light was Born* today!

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: *Pastor Wendy Moen;*

Assistant Minister: *Judy and Matthew Heil;*

Lector: *Kristin Johnson;*

Greeters:;

Communion Worship Assistants: *Kathy Andrusz, Judy and Matthew Heil;*

Organist/Pianist: *Michelle Osterhaus, Meghann Proper;*

Christmas Musicians: *Denise Pigarelli;*

Ushers: *Tom Christian, Norm and Jean Sime, Gary Tarpinian;*

Sound/projection: *John and Jude Surrell;*

Altar Guild: *Norm and Jean Sime;*

Communion Prep: *Jean and Norm Sime;*

Altar Flowers: *Given by Gloria Carpenter!*

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