All Creation Waits FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



December 24, 2023

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

+ + +

"In late fall, in the world's north, the sun glides low in the sky.

Light dims, the air cools, signaling every living thing.

Animals know what to do when the season of dark and cold spreads over the earth.

Every creature makes changes to its home, its body, its habits.

Every creature makes ready to wait until the earth wakes again into the light & warmth of spring.

Waiting in the cold dark will be hard but each creature knows...

The dark is not an end. It's a door. It's the way a new beginning comes."
- Gayle Boss, All Creation Waits



Open Table ~ Open Invitation

We celebrate Christ's presence in the Sacrament of the Table each week at Peace. Christ, our Host, meets us in this meal of grace and offers himself, fully embodied, in the bread and wine. He invites all to come and meet him in this Holy Meal.

+ GATHERING +

P – Presider C – Congregation L - Lector A – Assisting Minister ELW – Evangelical Lutheran Worship

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arr. Anne Krentz Organ CHRIS KINDEM, FLUTE/JON LACKEY, PIANO

WELCOME

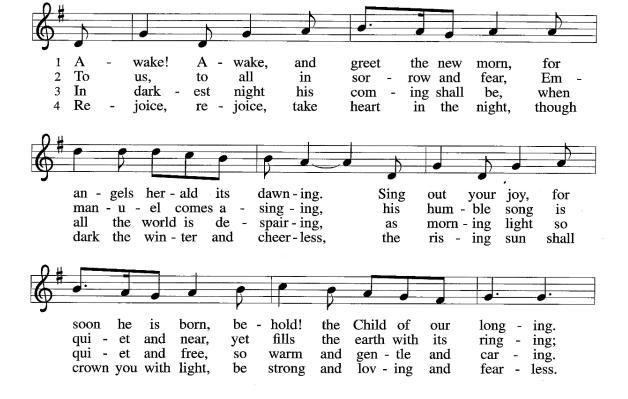
CALL TO WORSHIP Please rise as able in body or spirit as we gather at the font.

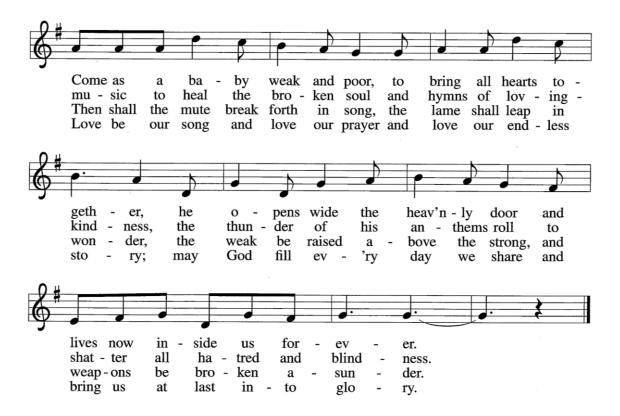
- P We gather as we live, in the name of God, our Creator, Liberator + and Sustainer.
- C Amen.
- P Dearly Beloved, during Advent we are called to rest our hearts in God as we await our Lord's appearing. Standing with the Book of Scripture in one hand and the Book of Nature in the other, we're learning how to trust that all life's rhythms find their source and end in God. Waiting in the cold dark is hard, but each creature knows...
- C the dark is not an end but a door; the way to a new beginning.
- P Today, in the deepest part of winter, while animals slumber, we keep watch for him who waits in Mary's womb, our bright Morning Star.
- C We wait for him, trusting God's promise to take on flesh among us.

GATHERING HYMN

Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn!

ELW #242

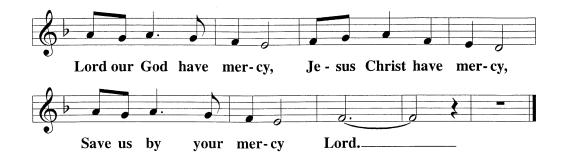




GREETING

- P The abounding grace of Jesus Christ, the steadfast love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.





PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

ADVENT LIGHTING DIALOG

Will and Ben Ward

Barbara Jones

ADVENT LIGHTING PRAYER

Let us pray. Dear God, as we light the fourth candle on this wreath, we remember the Holy Family and the animals who surrounded them at Bethlehem. Help us to connect our lives of faith with the natural world, and to heed your call for sacred communion. In the name of the Holy One who was, who is, and who is to come.

C Amen.

The Fourth Advent Candle is lit.

+ WORD +

PSALM: Psalm 95

The assembly joins the cantor on each refrain:



Cantor: Come, let us bow before the God who made us, Let ev'ry heart be opened to the Lord, For we are all the people of his hand. *Refrain*

> Here we shall meet the Maker of the heavens, Creator of the mountains and the seas, Lord of the stars, and present to us now. *Refrain*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW # 168





Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

- P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st Chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little-known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall.

Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God."

³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

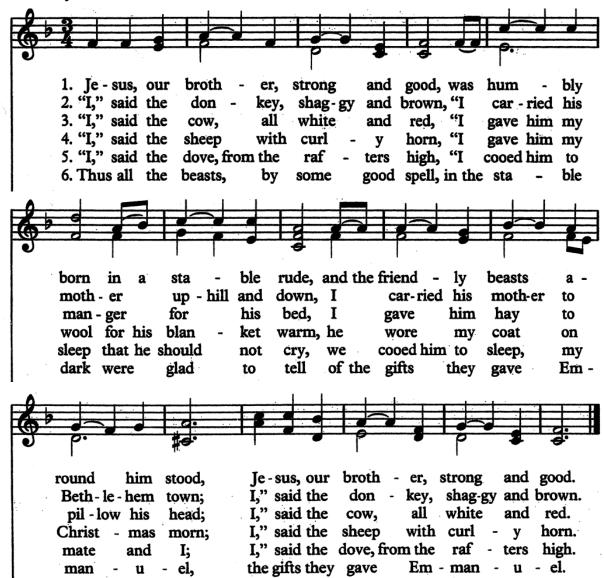
CHILDREN'S TIME

Shannon Williams

SERMON Pastor Erik Kindem

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Friendly Beasts



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Chris Kindem

A With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for church and world, all creation, and all who await God's day of restoration.

Petitions are offered that end with:

A Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

When all petitions have been offered:

A Listen to these and all our prayers, O God, and restore us with your great and tender mercy.

C Amen.

+ MEAL +

THE PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

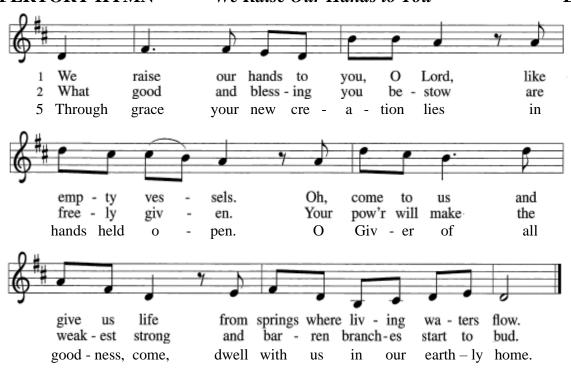
Your financial gifts today support the ongoing ministry of our congregation, cooperative ventures of ELCA congregations throughout Western Washington, and Evangelical Lutheran ministries around the world. We invite you to give generously! You can place your gift in the offering plate, mail in a check, or connect to our secure Tithely Giving Page via this QR CODE. Whatever size, your gift makes difference—thank you for your support!



OFFERTORY HYMN

We Raise Our Hands to You

ELW #690



OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Let us pray. God our provider,
- C by your merciful hand abundance springs up from 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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts!
- C We lift them to the Lord!
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and altender God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

- P You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new when he brings his reign of justice and peace. And so, with Earth and all her creatures, with the church on Earth and all the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
- C Holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life;

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

- P On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
- C Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
- C 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (ecumenical)

- P Gathered as one, we pray as Jesus taught us.
- C 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

- P In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.
- C Thanks be to God!

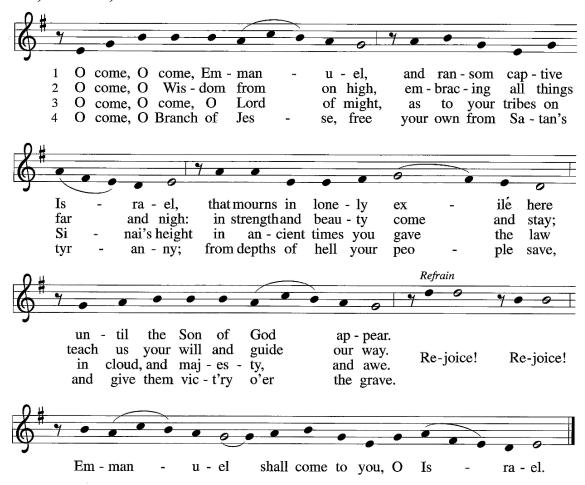
DISTRIBUTION

We commune processionally. Extend your hands to receive bread. A gluten free wafer is also available. Both wine (dark) and grape juice (light) are available in ceramic cups. Place your empty cup in the box at the end of the front pew on your way back. Children are welcome to receive when their parents believe they are ready, with the support of the pastor. Any who prefer a blessing may cross their hands over their chest as they come forward.

COMMUNION HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW #257



- 5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

 Refrain
- 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. Refrain
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

 Refrain

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- A Let us pray. 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.
- C Amen.

BLESSING

- P The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you, and the power of the Spirit + give life to you, now and forever.
- C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

ELW #271



A Go in peace. Christ is near.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"Sheep May Safely Graze"

J.S. Bach



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Pastor Erik Kindem's email:

Peace Lutheran web page:

Kathleen Keyes Office Admin.

Church Office hours:

Nicole Klinemeier, Youth Director

Jon Lackey, Minister of Music

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SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor Rev. Erik Kindem

Minister of Music Jon Lackey
Flutist Chris Kindem

Advent Dialogue Will and Ben Ward

Cantor Barbara Jones
Liturgical Assistant Chris Kindem

Liturgical Assistant Chris Kinde Acolyte Ben Ward

Children's Sermon Shannon Williams

Greeters Corinne Otakie, Jean Sides Ushers Scott Sunde, Barbara Hillier

Altar Care Kathleen Keyes

Communion Assistants Kathleen Keyes, Jean Sides

Coffee Server Shannon Williams, Barbara Hillier

Nursery Attendant Heidi Coy

Production Techs

Alan Jarvimaki, Alex Wren

Counters

Alan Jarvimaki, Kathleen Keyes

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Our mission goal for 2023 anticipates receiving offering income of \$25,819 each month. At the end of October we were approximately \$8,500 under our giving goal year to date.

Offering Income received December 2023

 12/03/23
 \$ 2,417.00

 12/10/23
 \$ 1,982.39

 12/17/23
 \$ 3,371.00

 Electronic
 \$ 3,770.41

 Total
 \$11,540.80

Thank you for your gifts which support God's mission at Peace, in the larger community, and internationally through the ELCA.

THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

Some of those oh-so-soft sweaters under your tree this Christmas might, when washed, do something you'd never want them to do – add microplastics to our oceans. Tiny polyester and acrylic threads, known as microfibers, have contributed 35% of the microplastic pollution in the world's oceans, making textiles the largest known source of marine microplastic pollution. About 2.2 million tons of microfibers enter the ocean every year. But you can stop them. Before you wash synthetic fabrics, bag them! Special laundry bags like Guppyfriend (available from REI) filter out microfibers so you can dispose of them properly. Learn more about how clothing impacts Creation on our website at https://www.peacelutheranseattle.org/?p=5528.

Pray for Creation: We ask God to make us instruments of humility, healing, and generosity as we join all creation to celebrate the gift of God's Son.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

<u>Christmas Eve Family Service @ 5:00pm</u> with costumes! Come one and all and be part of the drama. <u>Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service @ 9:00pm</u>, lessons and carols, message, Eucharist.

10:30 AM NEW YEAR'S EVE DAY WORSHIP

Join us next Sunday, 12/31/23, as we ring out the old year and ring in the new with a service of lessons and carols.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING JANUARY 28, 2024

Sunday, January 28, is our Annual Congregational Meeting. Please add it to your calendar! Following are some key dates to keep in mind as the day approaches.

- JANUARY 2 All annual reports from Peace ministries, committees, and task forces are due in the church office (electronic form, please!)
- JANUARY 14 Draft Budget review following worship (if needed).
- JANUARY 16 Church Council meeting to finalize Annual Meeting agenda and draft budget.
- JANUARY 21 Bulletin of Reports for Annual Meeting are available.
- JANUARY 28 Annual Meeting following worship.

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers: Sick/Recovering: Kathy Anderson; Cay Bell; Joyce Bitner; Mary Brocker; Jan Burt; Melanie Coulson; Heidi Coy; Karl Coy; Larry Cruse; Marsha Davis; Laura Dwyer; Joe Flint; Marge

Flint; Dawn Gringorten; Signa Gustafson; Donna Heiland; Maria Iriarte; Mary Jacob; Ken Keyes; Dee Levy; Justin Makboul; Evelyn Martinez; Eddie McDaniel; Pete McIntyre; Ken McPherson; Erin McPherson; Steve Metzler; Katrina Moore; Bill Morrell; Penelope Grace; Michelle Pierce; Rachel; Dana Rice; Irma Runge; JoAnne Spangler; Pat Spangler; Sean Stephens; Sarah Taylor; Pam Webber; Judy Wiggins; Patti Wunder.

<u>Homebound</u>: Jim Baker; Connie Benjamin; Lee Lamson; Jan Madsen

PROTOCOL FOR PRAYER LIST We will keep people on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise specified or unless you contact the Peace office to extend the time.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME

Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness, in a world that can be filled with alienation and



brokenness. In faithfulness to the Gospel and to our Lutheran heritage, we answer Christ's call to be agents of healing and safety, particularly for people who have been marginalized by our society.

As a Christian community, we invite all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives. We welcome people of all sexual

orientations and gender identities into the life and mission of our congregation.

PERMISSIONS

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POINSETTIAS WERE GIVEN

To "The glory of God" Given by:

The Bliss Family
Gussie Gannon
Boots & Paul Winterstein
Kathleen Keyes

In Memory of:

Jay Hauger, Deb Hauger Roald & Shirley Kindem

Julie Ells

Jack McBride Lynne McCracken

Arne Lund
Paul Hundley
Donald Hillier
Elizabeth Mills
Julia S. Outlaw

Joe Peters Loved Ones Thea Holton Cal Seibel

Bernice & Don Williams

Nicholas Toso Ethel Kaphingst Ann Detlefs Beryl L. Gaines

Grandma Lorraine Oliver

Elise Franchi Dorothy Gaston

In Honor of:

Addie, Dalton, Anna, & Luke (grandchildren) Our Family

Given By:

Nancy Hauger & Kindem Family

Kindem Family
Kindem Family
McBride Family
McBride Family
McBride Family
Helen Hundley
Barbara Hillier
Barbara Hillier
Gene Outlaw
Pidge Peters

John & Kathleen Fueger Janet & Larry Cruse

Jean Sides

Diane Shearer & Girls

Toso Family
Toso Family
Robert L. Gaines
Robert L. Gaines

Carmen & Alice Lunde

Heidi Gray Heidi Gray

Given By:

Mel & Mary Jacob Donna & David Kehle

Merry Christmas

The Lunde Family

