



## GATHERING

*Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church. We are glad that you are here this evening! We hope that this worship service will be a time of joy and celebration as we reflect upon the birth of Jesus together through word and song. You will find all the hymns in the red hymnal.*

### Prelude

### The Invitation of the Bell

**\*Gathering Song— “Joy to the World” ELW 267 vs. 1,2,4**

### WELCOME

#### \*Greeting

**P:** Christ is born! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of god, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

**C:** and also with you.

### Prayer of the Day

Please join us for our weekly **worship** service at 9:30 am Sundays!

**All are invited to Faith’s Sunday school** starting at 8:30 am Sunday mornings. All children are invited to come for this time of lessons, songs, and activities.

**For more information** about our activities here, visit us online at <http://www.faithlosgatos.org>.

#### *Office Hours*

*Pastor Anne Carlson*

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*Tues. and Thurs. afternoons*

*And by appointment*

***For emergencies dial***

***(408) 406-8749***

*\*Church phone is answered from*

*9:00 AM—7:00 PM*

## The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle—This week Ghana and Nigeria

Give thanks for: Pastors, priests and evangelists and other church workers for their mission endeavors. Those who search for ways to provide clean water. The education ministry of churches. Coffee and cacao, palm groves and coconut, yams and peanuts. The indigenous woven cloth and work in bronze.



*Merry Christmas*

**C: Almighty 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 proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*Gathering Song "Angels from the Realms of Glory"**  
ELW 267 vs. 1,4

### THE PROPHECY

AM: Prepare the Way! Make straight paths for God's son.

**C: How do we know this is The One? Perhaps there is another.**

AM: Prepare the Way!

This is the Word made flesh, our brother and our friend.

**C: How do we know this is The One? Are you sure there is not another?**

AM: This is Mary's little boy child, born in a manger.

**C: Oh, this is the Incognito God, who hides in human skin and has suffered human pain.**

AM: Prepare the way! This is Immanuel, God with us.

**C: We bow in humble submission to worship our God.**

**Lighting of the Wreath and Christmas Candle**

**Advent Song:**        **“Maranatha”**        **vs. 4** *see below*

Refrain: Come, Lord, come Lord Jesus.  
Give your people hope.  
Come, Lord, Come Lord Jesus,  
and lead your people home.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, promised so long ago.  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God is with us at last. **R**

**P:**We are called to prepare the way for a Hidden God. We look for our gods to have power, money, and position. We want our gods to be big and strong, able to defend us and make us feel secure. We don't look among the weak and the defenseless for a god. We don't seek any god among the poor and oppressed. No one would look for God in a stable. But, today we light these candles, as we prepare for our Surprising and Amazing God, who continues to appear in the most unexpected places and among the feast favorable of persons.

**Carol:**        **“All Earth is Hopeful”**        **ELW 266** vs. 1 & 4

**WORD**

**THE ANNUNCIATION**                    Reading: Luke 1:26-33

AM: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings,

- Agnes and Wally Alvin (Brothers Family)
- Florence Bratton (Brothers Family)
- Noble and Frank Brothers (Brothers Family)
- Lisa Brothers (Hernandez/Brothers Family)
- Carol Herring (Linda Perez)
- Chuck Biller (Sharon Biller)
- Joe Spaziani, Husband and parents  
(Thelma Spaziani)

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In Honor of...

Sharon Biller (Thelma Spaziani)

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Term Pastor: Pastor Anne Carlson  
 Organist: Catherine Ellacer  
 Ushers: Bob Balcomb/Les Grundy  
 Altar: Joanne Peronto  
 Flowers: Sharon Biller

“In Memory of her husband, Chuck Biller”



Poinsettia Dedications  
 2015



In Memory of . . .

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Joy Zeiher (Bob Zeiher)

Marvin and Polly Spotswood (Balcomb Family)

Frederick, Dorothy, Gregory and Ursula  
 Zimmerman, James Kingston, George Kingston II  
 (Kingston Family)

“favored one! The Lord is with you.”<sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.<sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.”<sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.<sup>32</sup> He 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.<sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

**CAROL: “The Angel Gabriel” Solo: Catherine Ellacer**

**THE BIRTH** Reading: Luke 2:1-7

AM: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.<sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.<sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered.<sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.<sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.<sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**CAROL: “What Child is This” ELW 296 (all verses)**

## THE ANGEL'S SONG

Reading: Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

**CAROL: “Angels We Have Heard on High” ELW 289**  
(all verses)

## THE SHEPHERD'S ADORE

Reading: Luke 2:15-20

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they

Silent night, holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light

radiant beams from your holy face,

with the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at your birth,

Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

### \*Benediction

### \*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

*Please extinguish your candle now and  
leave in the basket in the Narthex as you depart.*

## SENDING

### THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*Let each person light the candle next to him/her. The unlit candle should tip toward the lit candle. Hold the candle very still, keeping it away from anyone near you.*

**Carol: “Silent Night, Holy Night”**

*See below*

*Solo will start by singing “Peace, Peace, Peace”. The congregation will be invited to sing “Silent Night” at the appropriate time.*

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav’nly hosts . . . sing, allelulia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**CAROL: “Go Tell it on the Mountain” ELW 290** (all verses)

### REFLECTION

**Pastor Anne Carlson**

**CAROL: “Love Has Come”**

**ELW 292** (all verses)

### Prayers of Intersession

AM: Made alive with God in Christ, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

*A brief silence.*

AM: Let us pray for the church throughout the world; for those who proclaim the gospel; for teachers of the faith; for poets, artists, and musicians; and for all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

AM: For the earth, your beloved creation and our fragile home; for rivers and woods, mountains and valleys; for marshes and oceans, towns and cities; for shepherds, ranchers, and all who care for animals. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

AM: For those who govern and for all in authority; for those who work to bring lasting peace to the land of Jesus' birth; and for all who protect the lives of children. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

AM: For innkeepers and travelers; for those whose needs for food or shelter depend upon the generosity of others; for those struggling with addiction; for those who suffer neglect, and for all who are sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

AM: For this assembly; for those celebrating their first Christmas; for those whose joy is diminished by loneliness or loss; for those absent from us; and for those who are far from home. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

AM: We pray for the world. This week from the Cycle of World Prayer we especially lift up Ghana and Nigeria. May they live in your peace and protection. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

AM: Bless the ministry of Hope Lutheran, Santa Clara, our sister congregation in our parish and we lift them up in prayer. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

### **Invitation to the table**

P: Come to the banquet, for nothing and no one can take your place. This is God's table, and Jesus is the host of this meal. It is a table of grace and it is all we will ever need.

Come, for all are welcome.

### **Distribution and Carols**

CAROL: "Away in the Manger" **ELW 277**

CAROL: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" **ELW 282**

### **Post-Communion Blessing**

Great and saving God,  
you have gathered your scattered people  
around gifts of grain and wine,  
the body and blood of our Savior Christ.  
As we, like shepherds, return on our way,  
may we proclaim all we have heard and seen,  
praising You in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus,  
our Savior and Lord. Amen

Then Jesus gave it to them all saying:

“This is the cup of forgiveness, which I give for you and all people. Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, do it to remember me.”

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, and make them holy, so that we, your people, being fed by holy things, may share hope and peace, joy and love with the world; through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, now and forever.

**P:** Let us now pray together in the way that Jesus taught us:

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**C: 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**

**AM:** With thanksgiving, we remember all who have died (*especially*) and those whose lives have inspired us to deeper faith, more passionate service, and stronger love. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Pondering the mystery of your love, we offer our prayers in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh.

**C: Amen.**



**\*Sharing of God's Peace**

P: Peace of the Lord be with you

**C: And also with you**

**Offering**

P: In response to all that God does for us, it is appropriate that we give in return . . .

We will now receive our offering.

**CAROL: "I AM SO GLAD" ELW 271 vs 1,2,5**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Good and loving God,  
we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,  
who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace.

As you have blessed us with your gifts,  
let them be a blessing to others.

With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven,  
we shout for joy at the coming of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**MEAL**

**Communion Prayer**

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 God thanks and praise.**

P: You, O Lord, sent Jesus to come live with us, to bring hope in times of fear, to ring peace in times of danger, to bring joy in times of darkness, to bring love—your love—in every time.

P: On the night before he died, Jesus had supper with friends, and took break, saying:

“Blessed are you Holy God, Maker of all, for you bring forth bread from the earth.”

Jesus broke the bread and gave it to all saying, “This is the bread from heaven which I give for you.”

Later, Jesus took a cup, saying:

“Blessed are you, Holy God, Maker of all, you give us wine to remember your sacrifice.”