

FAITH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

▪ *Caring* ▪ *Sharing* ▪ *Praying* ▪ *Growing*

December 24, 2016

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



16548 Ferris Avenue, Los Gatos, CA 95032 | (408) 356-5055 | www.faitnlosgatos.org

Office Hours: Tues./Thurs. by appointment | Church phone answered 9 AM – 7 PM

For Emergencies: Pastor Anne (408) 406-8749 or Pastor Carol (831) 239-1254

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church. We are glad you are here this evening. We hope this worship service will be a time of joy and celebration as we reflect upon the birth of Jesus together through word and song.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Reconciliation

P: Friends in Christ, God knows our needs before we ask, and in our asking prepares us to receive the gift of grace. Let us open our lives to God's healing presence and confess to God in silence whatever has wounded us or brought injury to others, that we may receive mercy, healing, and wholeness, and become for each other ministers of God's grace.

(after a time of silent prayer...)

P: Merciful God...

C: **You know us inside and out. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

Assurance of Acceptance (Based on Isaiah 49:14-16)

P: There are times when all we see is the darkness; we may cry out, "The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me." But, God says to us, "I shall never forget you! I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands!" By the grace of Christ we are accepted and loved by God. Amen

Gathering Carol

O Come All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels:

REFRAIN:

O come, let us adore him, (3x)
Christ the Lord!

2. The highest, most holy,
Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing! (*Refrain*)

Call to Worship

P: The world is on the edge, taut with expectation

Something hovers just out of sight

C: Beyond our imagining...beyond our dreaming...beyond our hoping

P: God comes to dwell with us...and we are forever changed.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray...Loving God, open our hearts and minds to the promise that you are with us. You are with us now, in this moment, flowing like a secret spring in our innermost being. May the simple beauty of the birth of Jesus summon us always to love what is most deeply human, and to see your love reflected in those whose lives we touch. May the testimony of creation—in the stable animals and the very heavens—summon us to cherish all life, and to see your goodness in the beauty of this Earth.

C: We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. (*please be seated*)

Lighting the Advent and Christmas Candle

P: Dwelling in darkness the prophet Isaiah envisioned the dawning of a new day

**C: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them a light has shined.**

P: We light a candle of Hope....(*pause as the first blue candle is lit*)

**C: We keep vigil amid the sorrows, the fears and the violence in our world,
praying in hope for God's light to pierce into the deepest darkness.**

P: We light a candle of Peace ...(*pause as the second blue candle is lit*)

**C: We keep watch with the shepherds over the flocks and fields under our care,
opening our hearts to songs of peace on earth and good will to all**

P: We light a candle of Joy ...(*pause as the third blue candle is lit*)

**C: We prepare a space in our lives to receive God's wisdom, to dream God's
dreams, to watch for stars rising, to welcome God's gift of love touching the
world's sorrows**

P: We light a candle of Love ...(*pause as the last blue candle is lit*)

**C: We rejoice with all whose openness of spirit has provided a nurturing space for
Love's Light to be born into the darkest of nights**

P: We light the Christ Candle as we welcome the gift of Emmanuel, God with
us...(*pause as the white Christ Candle is lit*)

C: Where there is room, Hope, Peace, Joy and Love is born.

Carol:

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing over the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

WORD

THE ANNUNCIATION

1st Reading: Luke 1:26-33

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

Solo:

Mary Did You Know

THE BIRTH

2nd Reading: Luke 2: 1-7

AM: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.³ All went to their own towns to be registered.⁴ 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.⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.⁷ 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:**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
 The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n;
 So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav'n.
 No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

THE ANGLES' SONG

3rd Reading: Luke 2: 8-14

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Carol**Angels We Have Heard on High**

Angels we have heard on high,
 Sweetly singing over the plains,
 And the mountains in reply,
 Echoing their joyous strains.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo;
 Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
 Him whose birth the angels sing;
 Come, adore on bended knee
 Christ the Lord, the newborn king
 Gloria in excelsis Deo;
 Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE SHEPHERDS ADORE

4th Reading: Luke 2: 15-20

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Carol:

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn king"
Peace on earth, and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn king"

Reflection:

Pastor Carol Been

1. Holy Child within the manger,
 Long ago yet ever near;
Come as friend to every stranger,
 Come as hope for ev'ry fear.
As you lived to heal the broken,
 Greet the outcast, free the bound,
As you taught us love unspoken,
 Teach us now where you are found.

2. Once again we tell the story--
 How your love for us was shown,
When the image of your glory
 Wore an image like our own.
Come, enlighten with your wisdom,
 Come and fill us with your grace.
May the fire of your compassion
 Kindle ev'ry land and race.

3. Holy Child within the manger,
 Lead us ever in your way,
So we see in ev'ry stranger
 How you come to us today.
In our lives and in our living
 Give us strength to live as you,
That our hearts might be forgiving
 And our spirits strong and true.

Prayers of Intercession

AM: Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

AM: Holy God, from you comes all grace and righteousness. Bind your church together during this Christmas season, that we bear witness to the truth of the gospel throughout the world. Holy Child...**C: Be born in us tonight.**

AM: Holy God, all creation reveals your splendor and majesty. Guide us in caring for the earth and all it contains, and bring about favorable weather during this time of travel. Holy Child...**C: Be born in us tonight.**

AM: Holy God, in the midst of chaos, your Son was born for us. Instill in politicians, military leaders, and civil servants a desire for justice and peace. Holy Child...**C: Be born in us tonight.**

AM: Holy God, you care for your children in this and every place. Grant relief to those in fear, shelter to the homeless, community to the isolated, joy to expectant parents, relief to those who yearn for children, and healing to the sick (*especially those we name now silently or aloud...*). Holy Child...**C: Be born in us tonight.**

AM: Holy God, protect those who travel, comfort those who are alone, accompany those who celebrate, and make your presence known among those who gather around word and sacrament. Holy Child...**C: Be born in us tonight.**

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. Holy Child...**C: Be born in us tonight.**

AM: Bless the ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Saratoga, our sister congregation in our El Camino Real Conference as we lift them up in prayer. Holy Child...**C: Be born in us tonight.**

AM: Holy God, your Son became incarnate to provide salvation for all. Lead us by the example of the faithful departed as we await the blessed hope of the life to come. Holy Child...**C: Be born in us tonight.**

AM: Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

Sharing of God's Peace

P: Christ is born and gives the gift of his peace. May that peace be with you all.

C: and also with you (*please sit*)

The Offering

Carol:

What Child is This

What Child is this who came to rest;
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet;
While shepherds watch are keeping.

Chorus: This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh
Come Peasant King to own Him
The King of King's salvation brings
Let loving arms enthrone him. (*Chorus*)

Offering prayer:

P: 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 fields, with all the earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

MEAL

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.

Word of Institution

P: You, O Lord, sent Jesus to come live with us, to bring hope in times of fear, to bring 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 bread, 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.”

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 re-member 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.

The Lord’s Prayer

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

**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

SENDING

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The ushers will start the light on each aisle. Then each person will light the candle next to them. (please stand)

Carols:

“Peace, Peace” & “Silent Night”

Catherine and Stefan will start with singing “Peace, Peace”

The congregation will be invited to join in on “Silent Night”

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!
3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

(carefully blow out your candle and place it in the basket when you leave)

Benediction

P: May you be blessed with light that crushes the darkness. May you be blessed with love that pulls you close to those around you. May you be blessed with the peace of which the angels sang. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Carol:

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Those in Service Tonight

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Pastor: | Pastor Carol Been |
| Organist: | Catherine Ellacer |
| Ushers: | Bob Balcomb/Les Grundy |
| Altar Care: | Linda Perez |
| Flowers: | Susan Kimm/Korean Glory Church |

Prayer List

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Anna Lisa Holte | Thelma Spaziani |
| Mario Chissesi | Shirley Brothers |
| Marie Hughes | Mimi Shilov |

**Please let us know the names of those you would like included on the prayer list.

By request, names may be returned to the prayer list**

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

SUNDAY, 9:30AM.

Don't forget worship next Sunday January 1st!

Faith Lutheran's Hospitality Credo

Mission: By the Power of God: Caring, Sharing, Praying, Growing

Caring & Growing

1. All are welcome
We are inclusive
We value you being here

Caring & Praying

2. We expect to meet Jesus
Every Sunday when we gather
Communion/ Lord's Supper is open to everyone without restrictions

Praying & Sharing

3. Service
Worship on Sunday is when we gather to receive God's service to us, and to thank and praise God.
Serving our neighbor and the stranger is what we are sent out to do.
4. Grateful and Thankful
We know all of life is a gift and blessing from God.
We are sent out to be a blessing to everyone we meet.

Sharing

5. Sharing our resources
Financial: One of God's many blessings is our financial gifts
FLC shares 15% of all our offerings, plus the social concern of the month offerings
with:
The broader Lutheran church
The world
Our neighbors
Energy: We give our time and passion to 6 local community charities

Praying & Growing

6. We are human
We struggle with our lack of faith & human condition
We confess our sins
We repent – that is turn around to Jesus
We accept forgiveness, sometimes
We are blessed with God's love and forgiveness
As Lutherans, we live daily as both saint and forgiven sinner.
Which means we are human.