

December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Ringing of Bell

PRELUDE *In the Bleak Midwinter*
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ELW# 272

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L Lord of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

**All We who have so much to do
seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.**

L We who are anxious over many things
dream of your love coming among us.

**All We who are blessed in so many ways
dream of the complete joy of your kingdom.**

L We whose hearts are heavy
dream of the love of your presence.

**All We are your people, walking in darkness,
yet dreaming of the light.
Come, Lord Jesus!**

♪ *Piano plays as liturgy continues: Creator of the Stars of Night #245*

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY: CANDLE OF LOVE

L What do you dream of...
(silence)

L I dream of music, sunrise, home, hope, love.

**A Today, as we draw near to Christmas Day,
we light the candle of love.**

Light Candle

L May this light burn bright as a reminder
that God is here and God is love.

**All We are not alone. Thanks be to God
for a love like that. Amen.**

♪ *Music Ends*

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

L God of Good news,

**All You say to me, "You are highly favored,"
but I struggle to see how that could be.
You say to me, "Do not be afraid all the time.**

L You say to me,
"Even the impossible is possible, just look at Elizabeth!"
Hope slips through my hands like water.

**All The impossible still feels impossible.
Teach us to pray, sing like Mary,
laugh like Elizabeth, trust like the angels.
Forgive us when we can only do one at a time,
or none at all.**

L God forgives you.
May God's guiding arm surround you.
May you know love.

READING: LUKE 1:26-45

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.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your

greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

MUSIC: Canticle of the Turning vss. 1 & 2 ELW #723

1 *My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?*

*REFRAIN: My heart shall sing of the day you bring,
let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.*

2 *Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. REFRAIN...*

MESSAGE: Pastor Julie Rogness

MUSIC: Canticle of the Turning vss. 3 & 4 ELW #723

3 *From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. REFRAIN...*

4 *Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. REFRAIN...*

ADVENT CREED:

**We believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth.
The one who is full of patience, who is not afraid of silence,
who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise.
The one who is beyond bluster and flurry,
and who does not jostle for attention.**

**We believe in God the Son, Savior of creation,
who slipped into Bethlehem one night, mostly unnoticed,
who lived thirty years without headlines or hurry,
who frequently took time alone with his patient Father,
who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant,
who stood quietly before the noise of his accusers,
whose silence overpowered their words,
who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens, empowers,
renews, and refreshes, sometimes arriving with obvious power,
sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper.**

**We believe in one God who patiently waits for us
and who longs for us to do the same. Amen**

PRAYERS — SHARING OF PEACE — OFFERING OF GIFTS

BLESSING

P As we go, may we have the strength to dream wild dreams
of justice, peace, and joy that overflows.

All May we have the humanity to listen to the dreams of others.

P May we have the confidence to trust
that the God who heard the cries of the Israelites in Egypt,
hears our dreams as well.

**All And may we have the conviction to return to this space,
for our best dreams are those we dream together.**

P In the name of God the original dreamer,
Jesus the dream come true, and the Holy Spirit
who enables us to be those who dream.

All Amen.

DISMISSAL Go in peace, go in love.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *He Came Down* ELW #253

PARTICIPANTS

PASTORS: Julie Rogness, ASSISTANT: Jim Gould; PIANIST: Annette Thunhorst SOLOIST: Jim Gould
TECH: Jim Braaten, Steve Johnson, Bill Lewis, Dan Rogness, Holly Aldorfer, Heidi Haugen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ADVENT LITURGY: Call to Worship, Candlelighting, Confession & Forgiveness, & Affirmation of Faith — Adapted from *Those Who Dream*, Words for Worship by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org — Used with permission.

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MUSIC: **Reprint & Podcast/Streaming Under OneLicense.Net #A709489**

— *In the Bleak Mid-Winter*, Piano Arrangement, John Purifoy, © 2003 Lorenz Publishing Co.

— *Creator of the Stars of Night/CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM-Harmonization* **SKU #32079** Lutheran Book of Worship, © 1978, Augsburg Fortress

— *Canticle of the Turning*, Words & Music **SKU #00762**; Text: Rory Cooney, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

— *He Came Down*, **SKU #00114** transc. & arr. John Bell © 1990, Iona Community, GIA Publications Inc., Agent

CONNECTIONS

Look for LiveStreamed/OnLine Connection after 8:50 – Find us on our Website – follow directions for Link - Website: **flickenyon.org**

Facebook: **First Evangelical Lutheran Kenyon MN** - Recorded Worship will become available later in the day on our church

Website - Pastor E-Mail: **firstpastorkenyon@gmail.com** - Pastor Phone: 952-994-1201 - Church E-Mail: **firstlutherankenyon**

@gmail.com - Church Office Phone: 789-5261

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Sid Strandemo, Faye Marcuson, Ron Grose, Barb Schaller, Lila Cole, Colette Flom, lone Overby, Lynn Fromm (sister of Ed Fletcher), Bernie Mattson, Eloyce Berg, the Sackett Family.

CALENDAR

Thu/Dec 24	3:00	Christmas Eve Pre-Recorded Worship
Thu/Dec 24	4:30	CHURCH PARKING LOT – SEE BELOW
Sun/Dec 27	9:00	SE Mn Synod Worship-PreRecorded

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Silent Night, Holy Night Christmas Eve worship will be pre-recorded and available On-Line at **3 PM** on Christmas Eve. At **4:30** - join us in the parking lot -- **or Live on First Lutheran Facebook Page** -- for a reading of the Christmas Story, a live nativity, Holy Communion and the singing of Silent Night. Bring a flashlight or a candle & lighter as we social distance in our vehicles.

MORE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPTIONS . . .

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP BY ST. PAUL AREA SYNOD & ST. PAUL REFORMATION

Available early on Christmas Morning, Fri. Dec. 25. View the service on

Synod's Website: **spas-elca.org** or Facebook Page: **saintpaulareasyndod**

CONCORDIA COLLEGE-MOORHEAD – SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS - WORSHIP RECORDING

View on Concordia Website: **concordiacollege.edu**

NEW "Christ In Our Home" DEVOTION BOOKS Available

Pick up a new devotion book at your convenience without entering the church. Find them in the closed tote container **Outside** the Handicapped Entrance. Please snap lid closed after taking a devotional.

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 Forest St., Kenyon, MN 55946

Sunday December 20
Worship Bulletin



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



L · O · V · E