

Joy Lutheran Church

10111 E. Eagle River Loop Road, Eagle River, AK 99577

Office: 907.694.9601 www.joy-lutheran.com joylutheran@gmail.com

December 20, 2020

Greetings, favored one!
The Lord is with you

LUKE 1:28



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome to worship at Joy Lutheran Church

We are glad you are here, if you come every Sunday or if this is your first time at our church or any church at all. You're welcome if you know the Bible backwards and forwards, or have never really read it, if you know Jesus or are just curious to hear what He is all about.

We especially welcome those who could use a prayer right now, or an assurance that God loves them, those who are struggling, and those who are doing okay.

Whoever you are, whatever your past or present – God welcomes you as do we!

LIST OF MITIGATION RULES FOR IN PERSON WORSHIP

1. Wear your face mask. We have extras if you need one. Pastor will be more than 10 ft away and remove her mask while presiding.
2. Keep 3 empty chairs (ie 6 ft.) between you and anyone not in your household.
3. No use of hymnals.
4. Keep your mask on during singing and do not sing boisterously. Studies show that singing projects more air than coughing.
5. We will limit the worship service to approximately 35 minutes. The longer people share the same air space the greater the chance of spreading germs.
6. No contact during the passing of the peace. Stay at 6 ft. distances - sharing a peace sign, wave, hand over heart, or clasped hands and bow.
7. Offering plates are in stationary positions near entryways to avoid the passing of the plate. Thank you for your offerings!
8. We ask you to **FILL OUT THE SHEET OF PAPER** inside your bulletin and place it in the offering plate.
9. As you are dismissed, exit in a staggered rhythm to decrease proximity to one another.
10. If you use a bathroom, please clean all touchable surfaces before and after usage. Spray disinfectant and paper towels are available in each bathroom.
11. If you would like to visit after worship, we ask you maintain 6 ft. distances.
12. All coffee and food is suspended at this time - an exception is we will offer prepackaged food-to-go for Sunday School students.

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Introduction

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

Welcome/Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all,
C: and also with you.

Advent Confession

L: Lord God,
 we praise you for sending light into this world.
 We confess that we live as though
 the light had never defeated darkness.
 We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent
 to be among us and to live in us.
 We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season
 and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts.

**C: Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus.
 Prepare us for His return.
 Help us rejoice in the light
 so that your grace can illuminate
 the darkened places of our hearts. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

L: 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.



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
 2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Psalm**Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26**

¹Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing;
 from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

**2For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;
 you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

³“I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
 I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

**4I will establish your line forever,
 and preserve your throne for all generations.’ ”**

¹⁹You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:
 “I have set the crown upon a warrior
 and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

**20I have found David my servant;
 with my holy oil have I anointed him.**

²¹My hand will hold him fast
 and my arm will make him strong.

**22No enemy shall deceive him,
 nor shall the wicked bring him down.**

²³I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.

²⁴**My faithfulness and steadfast love are with him,
and he shall be victorious through my name.**

²⁵I will set his hand on the sea,
and his right hand on the rivers.

²⁶**He will say to me, ‘You are my father, my God,
and the rock of my salvation.’**

Reading

Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶And Mary said,

 "My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

 Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

 and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
 and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
 and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Children's Christmas Film (if completed) or Sermon by Pastor Karen

Hymn

Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723 (v. 1-2)



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -



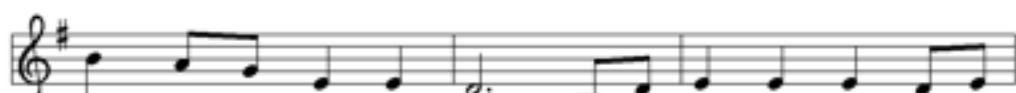
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

Prayers

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.

Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

(please exchange Christ's peace with a smile, nod, wave, or other non-contact sign)



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Benediction

L: Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Flowers are given
by Scooter & Roy



Worship Assistants for Today

Pianist:	Reader:	Acolyte:	Song Leaders:
Kathy Huntington	Blake Phillips	AbieLiz Lanehart	Mona Mitton

Christmas Eve Worship Services

- * 5:30 pm (indoor - limited attendance)
- * 8:00 pm (outdoor upper parking lot) Dress warm! For those who do not wish to stand, bring a chair.

We would like you to SIGN UP for the indoor service as space is limited. Sign-up sheet is on the Opportunities bulletin board.

The Worship Assistant Signup Sheet is Back!

We're going to start using a signup sheet again for volunteer worship assistants. It's on the Opportunities bulletin board.

FOOD PANTRY needs donations.. Its a rough time of year for many families. Bring donations (chili, soup, meats, TP especially needed) to the Church or write a check and earmark it for Food Bank or Chugiak Eagle River Food Pantry.

The TBA Theater Company (non-profit) has given hours of their time and expertise to put together our Christmas Film "Pageant" this year. Special donations appreciated. Earmark your check for TBA . Or give electronically (see Joy's website), select "special offering" and send an email to joylutheran@gmail.com stating it is for TBA.

Ice Candle Luminary Makers Needed - Ice candle luminaries needed for the outdoor Christmas Eve service. Talk to Pr. Karen. Please bring them to the church on or before Dec. 24.

Blue Christmas Service - Mon., Dec. 21, 7pm Online

Feeling “blue” this Christmas?

We wish to offer a space where the reality of life with its grief and pain can sit alongside the hope and light which is the real heart of Christmas.

Many of us who struggle with grief, illness and hardships may not resonate with the “Merry Christmas.” We particularly think of and pray for those who will be experiencing their first Christmas after the death of a loved one. We will be posting a pre-recorded worship designed to speak to these times. Please join us!

Midweek Advent Service - Tues., Dec. 22, 7pm

Our fourth midweek Advent service using ***Holden Evening Prayer*** will be posted online on our Facebook page.

Help Needed

Pastor Karen is looking for a family who plans to attend the 8:00pm outdoor Christmas Eve service to help her “pantomime” the Christmas story. Please let her know if you can help.

Sunday, December 27

Yes, we will be meeting for worship at 9:30am. The lessons speak to the bringing of infant Jesus to the temple to be blessed. The holy family encounters elders, Anna and Simeon, who speak beautiful prophetic words.

No Sunday School - Sunday, December 27

We hope the teachers will enjoy a little break!

Holiday Hours

Thursday, Dec. 24 Pr. Karen in, but office closed
JCDC closed at 3:00pm

Friday, Dec. 25 Church office & JCDC closed

Thursday, Dec. 31 Church office & JCDC closed at 3:00pm

Friday, Jan. 1 Church office & JCDC closed

Dear Members and Friends of Joy Lutheran Church,

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3 : 22-23)

Thank you for your faithful sharing of time, talents and financial contributions throughout 2020! The above scripture inspired the hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness" and reminds us that God's love and help is steadfast. This is an important message for us amid all the changes that 2020 has brought.

In the midst of Covid, we have managed to:

- offer both In-Person and Online worship
- begin our long-awaited Sunday School
- complete our Ministry Profile
- complete the post-earthquake repairs to the interior of our building
- form a Call Committee who is even now practicing their interview questions for potential candidate names they may receive after the New Year

Without your contributions we would be hard-pressed to continue the ministry God has called us to. We are on the cusp of calling a new pastor next year and your support is so very needed and appreciated. Our cup over-flows because we serve a generous God who calls us, likewise, to catch this generous Spirit.

I am grateful to serve with you here in this slice of precious time. Continue to pray for Joy Lutheran and the Spirit stirring us. We serve a wondrous God.

- *Interim Pastor Karen Sonray*