

Sunday Celebration

Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 4, 2022 ~ 10:30a

Lutheran Church of the Foothills ~ Tucson, Arizona

Assembly speaks responses in dark print.

P: Presiding Minister leads

A: Assisting Minister leads

L: Lector/Proclaimer leads

Welcome to Lutheran Church of the Foothills

We are grateful to have you joining us in worship today. Please note the following information so that your time with us is spiritually uplifting and comfortable.

Holy Communion: All are welcome to receive the Lord's Supper. You do not need to be a member of Lutheran Church of Foothills or any other church to have a place at the Lord's table. There is no age requirement. It is God's table, not ours, and all are invited. If you are spiritually hungry, come and be fed.

How to Commune: At the ushers' invitation, come up the center aisle to the Pastor and hold your hands out to receive the host (wafer). After placing the host in your mouth, you may pick up an individual cup of red wine or white grape juice to drink. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. After you drink the cup, place your empty cup in the lined basket before returning via the side aisle to your seat. If you prefer to remain seated, please indicate this to the usher and communion will be brought you.

Offering: Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministry of Lutheran Church of the Foothills. You can place your offering in the basket in the back of the center aisle before service begins, give online at our website, or scan the QR code found in the worship liturgy. "Sunday Dollars," loose dollars placed in the basket, are automatically designated for our current month's Community Service emphasis.

Recordings: This service is being recorded and live streamed.

Pray-Ground: We enjoy having our children in worship, and we delight in their ability to see and experience all that is happening in the worship space. We invite you to sit anywhere you are comfortable. There is a special place in the front, pulpit side of the sanctuary designated the Pray-Ground, where children can worship, wiggle, play, color, learn and grow as part of our faith community. Adults are encouraged to sit where children can see them when they are using the Pray-Ground, in case they need assistance.

Restrooms: Restrooms are located down the east hallway between the activities room and the front entrance of the building. These restrooms are handicap accessible and each contains a changing table. There is a gender neutral facility in the Learning Center, located at the end of the west hallway past the church offices.

Hearing Assistance: Please switch to a T-coil setting on your hearing aids to take advantage of the induction loop. The ushers can provide you with headphones to wear during the service if you so desire.

Large Print Bulletins: If you desire a large print bulletin, please request one from the ushers as you enter the worship space.

Front cover image: "Mary's Golden Anunciation" by Carmelle Beaugelin. Inspired by Luke 1:26-38 | Acrylic, gilding paint, canvas collage on handmade reclaimed paper



FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...

God meets us in our fear

Prelude “The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came” *setting by Elain S. Dykstra*

Welcome to Worship

Pastor Naomi Hartman

Please stand as you are able.

Lighting of Advent Candle

A: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, “What are you afraid of?” From the voices of different generations, hear their answers.

Various generations speak.

(Candle lighting)

A: May this light be a reminder that Christ is coming. God was with generations before, God is with us today, and God will be with us tomorrow. Even now, God is on the way.

Amen.

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” (sing verses 1 & 2) (ELW 240)



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Confession and Forgiveness

P: Fear can be a good thing. It can help us be attentive while driving down the highway. It can alert us to possible accidents. It can motivate us to do our best.

However, fear can also be harmful. For so many of us, fear of the other, fear of failure, or fear of the unknown has led us to make sinful choices in our lives—choices such as building walls or tearing others down.

Today, in confession, we ask for mercy and pray for guidance. As we confess, we come before an entirely merciful and loving God who says to us, “Do not be afraid.” Let us pray:

P: Patient God,

you know just how often we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love. You know just how often we allow fear to take the place of logic, fanning unhealthy fires in our lives. You know just how often we tuck your words, “Do not be afraid” on dusty shelves and in the back of closets, stubbornly holding onto our own point of view. Forgive us for giving fear the microphone. Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection, which spark and feed so much of our fear, to recenter us in love. With hope we pray.
Amen.

P: Family of faith, even when we forget God's words, God does not forget us. Even when we lose our way, God does not lose us. Even when we fall short or make mistakes, God forgives and holds onto us. We are known, forgiven, and loved. Thanks be to God!

Amen.

Greeting

P: May the grace of God, the love of Christ  and the fellowship of the Spirit present from generation to generation be with you all.

And also with you.

Opening Prayer

A: We pray together. (*A brief silence.*) Holy God,
whether it's through angels or music, friendships or sermons, study or nature—when you speak, we long to hear it. In a world as chaotic and broken as ours, we could use your words of hope and healing. With gratitude we pray. Amen.

Please be seated.

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

L: A reading from Isaiah. . .

. . . Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(The gospel reading)

. . . The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Children's Message

Pastor Naomi Hartman

Message

Pastor Naomi Hartman

Celebration Choir Anthem: “Canticle of the Turning” *arr. Anne Krentz Organ*

Choir

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 - All



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.

Choir

2 Though I am small my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy shall 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 (All)*

3 From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. *Refrain (All)*

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 (All)*

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near and the world is about to turn.

Please stand as you are able.

An Affirmation of Faith for Advent

A: Les us affirm our faith together:

We believe in a God who knows our fears.

We believe in a God who says, “Be not afraid.”

**We believe in a God who kicks off her shoes
and wades into the muck of our lives with us.**

**We believe in a God who stitches herself to our heels, and
invites us to dance.**

**We believe in a God who hemmed stars into the night sky
so that we can find our way home,
and who sends us friends with open doors,
so we can find our way to love.**

**We believe in a God who finds us in our fear
and does not leave us alone.**

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

A: Holy God, we take a deep breath in and know that you are here, for where two or more are gathered, you are there. You never leave our sides. Like a protective mother hen, or the sun who circles the earth, you carry us with you.

So today, we bow our heads with tender spirits and ask that once more you would lean in close. Hear our prayers.

Buoy our hearts. Send your Spirit rushing through us like a mighty wind. For these days, God, we have much to fear.

We fear the return of a COVID variant that could once again shut down the world. We fear the rising tide of violence.

We fear global warming. Will our grandchildren have trees to climb?

We look at our own lives and are afraid that we aren’t making much of a difference, that we might be forgotten at the end of the day. We fear rejection, we fear grief, we fear not being enough.

A: Holy God, the muck of our lives is deep. At times, it feels like we're swimming in it. And so we come to you today, because you are a God who said, “Do not fear” 365 times in scripture—once for every day. You are a God who has

inserted yourself into the corners of our lives, refusing to let us go, refusing to leave us alone.

And so we rest in that. We empty our pockets of our fears and give them to you, trusting that you will hold them tenderly, just as you hold us. Today we hold up to you Holly, Linda, Tina, Lance, Tom and Mitzi, Preston, Jeannette, Victoria, Jim, LaVonne, the Jones family, Joy, Arliss and family, Ronnie and Michelle, Jan, Alberta, Trina, Francine, Anna, Larry, Sue, and the people of Ukraine. We also pray for those we now name aloud or silently.

A: You whisper, “Be not afraid.” You promise to never leave our side. You call us “Beloved.” May that be enough for today.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Our Offering of Gifts

Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministry of Lutheran Church of the Foothills. Place your offering in the baskets at the entrance to the sanctuary, make your offering online at <https://www.foothillslutherantucson.org> or scan the QR code with the camera app on your phone.



At this time the ushers will bring the offering baskets forward to the Assisting Minister.

Offering Prayer

A: We join together in our Community Service prayer for December:

God of abundance, you welcome all your people into your loving embrace. Teach us to share that same welcome with those in our community who find themselves in a new, unfamiliar land seeking safety, freedom, and a fresh start. Help us to share generously the abundance which you provide through gifts to four sponsored families this Christmas season. We give thanks for the work of Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest for inviting us into this partnership.

Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

Holy Communion

P: “Love Comes Running”

Poem prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org

I remember
the first time I was afraid.

I was a child.
It was a nightmare.

(You remember those pesky monsters under the bed.)

I remember
minutes felt like hours.

I begged
the sun to rise.

*(Fear always begs
the sun to rise.)*

Eventually,
after minutes that felt like hours,

I cried out.

My dad came running.

He sat at the edge of my bed.

He said there is no reason to be afraid.

He checked the closet and the floorboards. He rearranged my pillows.

He said, “*I can stay.*”

And that’s when I learned that when you are afraid, love always comes running.

Love says, “*I can stay.*”

That’s what God does for us.

God sits at the edge of the bed.

God checks the closet and the floorboards. God says, “*Be not afraid.*”

God stays until sunrise.

Love always comes running.

Three hundred sixty-five times in scripture God reminds us “Do not be afraid”, not because fear is not real, but because God promises to be present with us.

Sitting with us in the moments of our deepest fears and brokenness, God promises not only to be present but to feed our spirits with the gifts of grace. Even on the night of his arrest Jesus sat at the table with his closest friends, addressing their fears and reassuring them with promises of his presence in a meal every time they

celebrate it in years to come. With all gathered together, Jesus took bread, giving thanks and breaking it, saying, “Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup, and giving thanks he gave it for all to drink, saying “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

As often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup we are embraced by God and reminded again that in our fear and uncertainty love comes running, the presence of God reminding us that we are God’s beloved children.

Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray together as Jesus taught us:

**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

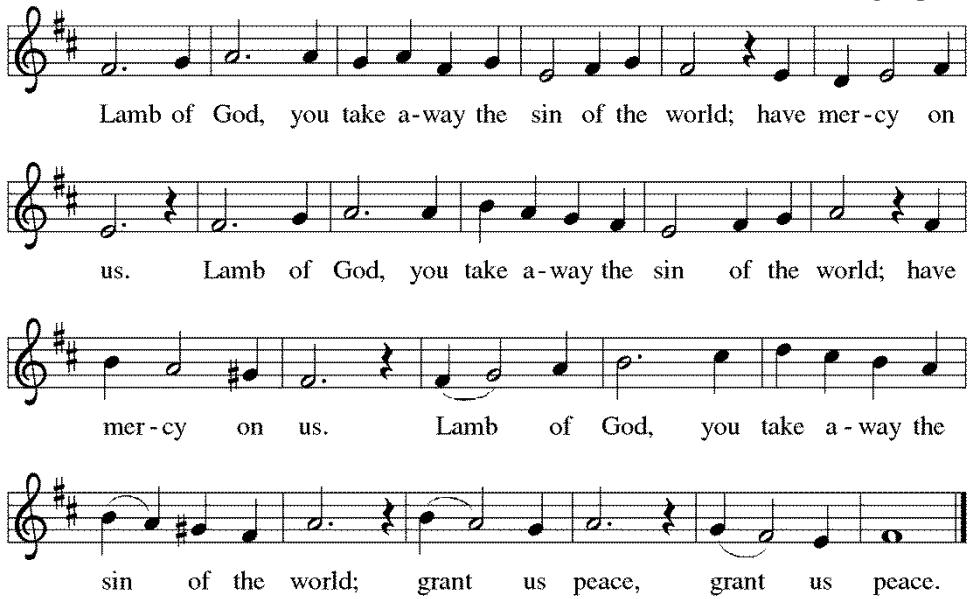
P: Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

Please be seated.

We experience the presence of our Lord in gifts of bread and wine, and all are welcome to Christ’s table. Worship musicians and volunteers will be served first; then the ushers will direct the assembly forward row by row.

Communion “Lamb of God”

(ELW Setting 4 p. 154)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



Song during Communion “O Day of Peace”

(ELW 711)



1 O day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce de - vor the small;



guide us to jus - tice, truth, and love, de - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes.
as beasts and cat - tle calm-ly graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all.



May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re - lease,
Then en - e - mies shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac - cord;



till by God's grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace.
the hope of peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: JERUSALEM, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918

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Song during Communion “What Feast of Love”

(ELW 487)



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
 What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?
 What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
 This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: DeLores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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Blessing after Communion

P: May these gifts of grace from this table, the bread of life and the cup of blessing, strengthen and nourish your faith, and lead us to Bethlehem's manger.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

A: We give you thanks, most gracious God, that you have fed us with the bread of heaven and given us a foretaste of Paradise. Enliven us to be your body in the world and to serve those who are in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Mission Moments

A: If you have a ministry message to share, please come forward to the microphone so all can hear you.

Please stand as you are able.

Blessing

P: As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation,

we have been claimed and loved.

From generation to generation,

God has been by our side.

From generation to generation,

we are not alone.

The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth, saying, "Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and come back soon." May it be so.

Amen.

Sending Hymn “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

(ELW 254)



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.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Sending

A: Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Postlude “Variations III & V”

from “Prepare the Royal Highway” setting by Elain S. Dykstra

We thank those who are serving for worship this morning:

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Naomi Hartman

Assisting Minister: Mark Hill

Ushers: TJ Ford & Lonnie Jenkins

Proclaimer: Laura Hollengreen

Communion Servers: Nancy & Ed Landes

Worship Preparation: Vicky Kuzel

Announcement Slideshow Creator: Marty Lueking

Audio/Visual Team: Stewart McDonald & Liz Zidel

Organist: Ralph Geror, Jr.

Pianist: Dr. Ji Sun Lee

Celebration Choir and Music Director: Dr. Andy Bade

Other Musicians: Kathleen Rogers, Ulrich Michael, Ariadne & Noah Wolgemuth

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About our Community Service Prayer for December:

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest (LSS-SW) is a nonprofit organization affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and works to help stabilize people in crisis and transition in 4 main areas of service: aging and disability, children and family, emergency, and immigration and refugees. Working with volunteers and Co-Sponsor Teams, Immigration and Refugee Services provides housing, help with navigating life in a different culture, employment support, and more. See more information on the Community Service table in the lobby.

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“Mary’s Golden Annunciation” by Carmelle Beaugelin

Inspired by Luke 1:26-38 | Acrylic, gilding paint, canvas collage on handmade reclaimed paper

Mary’s Golden Annunciation explores the moment of encounter between Mary and the angelic messenger. This unusual encounter may have been startling to young Mary—a soon-to-be teen bride turned, possibly, unwed mother. Yet, with holy bravery in the face of communal isolation, she accepts the call to be a surrogate mother to a son who is to be the savior of her people and the son of God. There is not much commentary regarding Mary’s consent to motherhood. She is often portrayed as a humble, yet passive, “accepter” of a fate predestined for her. But I wonder, what if the angel had appeared to Mary and she had declined? Would her name be erased from historic and religious memory in favor of another willing young virgin? *Mary’s Golden Annunciation* depicts not only a remarkable encounter, but also the moment that divinity in human form was conceived. It is my speculation that the divinity of God entered Mary’s body no sooner than Mary’s “yes” went out from her mouth. In a time when women had few options other than marriage, Mary’s consent to a potentially unwed motherhood is a brave act of subversive agency. In Mary’s “yes,” uttered in her Magnificat, we see the transformation of a young teenage girl from fearful to determined, from simply accepting to deciding, from passivity to agency, from betrothed to surrogate mother of God—an honor rarer than gold. Perhaps the most remarkable annunciation in this passage is not the messenger’s revelation to Mary, but Mary’s “yes” to the call.

—Carmelle Beaugelin

Lutheran Church of the Foothills
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Office hours: Tuesday through Friday, 9:00a-3:00p

Lutheran Church of the Foothills is a member of the Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). As a Reconciling in Christ community, we welcome all to our congregation.



Our church newsletter, “Weekly Footnotes,” is distributed for the community of Lutheran Church of the Foothills via email or postal mail (to subscribe, visit the bottom of the homepage of our website). Printed copies are available on the Activities Counter in the lobby.

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Council:

Executive committee: Laura Hollengreen, Bryan Daum, Liz Zidel, Gary Anderson.

At-large members: Mark Olson, Kristen Birner, Marty Lueking.

Staff:

Organist: Ralph Geror, Jr.

Pianist: Dr. Ji Sun Lee

Celebration Choir and Music Director: Dr. Andy Bade

Office Administrator: Stacy Bade, office@foothillslutheran.org

Pastor: The Reverend Naomi Hartman, pastor@foothillslutheran.org

WORSHIP + SERVE + NURTURE + GROW