

# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD WORD & EUCHARIST LESSONS & CAROLS

CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25, 2022 10:00 AM  
LIVESTREAM & IN-PERSON



# BIENVENIDOS! EVERYONE IS WELCOME. THIS MEANS YOU.

**Welcome to First English Lutheran Church.** You're invited to fully participate in a community of faith and friendship that gathers for worship, relationship building, personal growth, and service in the community and the world. Following the example of Christ, this congregation welcomes you exactly as you are. We are committed to the work of racial equity, justice, and advocating for marginalized groups. We welcome people in all places on the journey of faith and life. We celebrate differences in age, appearance, economic status, ethnic origin, nationality, race, family configuration, marital or relationship status, political leaning, religious background, and those who are differently abled physically or mentally. Since 1989, FELC has openly welcomed persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions to full participation in the church and society. We're Lutheran, so that means we believe in grace for everyone. The good news of Jesus Christ, who brings us the love and mercy of God as a gift, liberates us to love as we are loved, serve as we are served, and give as we have been given much. We rejoice in the diversity that has nurtured and enriched the whole church. Whether you're from another faith tradition, a seeker and questioner looking for more to life and a place to explore, or even a lifelong Lutheran, we're glad to have you.

**To learn more about our history:** <https://www.felcaustin.org/information/aboutfelc/felc-history>

## ESTA LITURGIA/THIS LITURGY

If this is one of your first times to connect with FELC, **WELCOME!** Use the **online Welcome Visitors information form** and provide feedback on your visit: <http://www.felcaustin.org/forms/visitors>.

**We ask everyone worshipping in the sanctuary to respect each individual's safety needs and desires,** especially anyone at high risk for Covid complications. Masking is encouraged in winter months.

At First English, **we strive to use language** for God, Christ, and humanity **that is inclusive and diverse.** Our use of feminine, non-gender, and masculine names and metaphors for God, both biblical and contemporary, helps us to experience God more fully. Languages that include persons of all gender identities, sexualities, ethnicities, and color, helps us better reflect God's expansive love and diversity.

**Hearing assistance devices** are available for use. Two options are available: an earpiece, or a hearing loop for those who use hearing aids. Please connect with an usher if you would like a hearing assistance device.

**Children and adults are welcome here** to be fully present and fully themselves. There is a *Faith of a Child* children's time before the sermon.

**We welcome your generosity in person and online.** All of life is an offering to God. Before the offering time, which is near the middle of the liturgy, all worshipping in person are invited to place an offering in a basket located at the welcome table at either entrance. Offering baskets will not be passed during the liturgy.

In an effort to connect with the broadest number of people, **we livestream and archive our services and events for broadcast on the internet.** Your attendance at an event constitutes your consent to be included in filming, photographing, audio recording, or broadcast and for any other use in whole or in part, including promotion. If you prefer to avoid being filmed, please use a back pew.

**All Gender Restrooms** with changing tables are in the left side hallway as you face the front of the sanctuary.

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# ✠AL CONGREGARSE/GATHERING

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, YEAR A

*As we gather this morning, you are invited to have an open heart and mind.*

*We continue praying for and supporting the people and leaders of Ukraine as conflict continues.  
We light a candle in the chancel (with the colors of the Ukrainian flag) each week.*

## FRONT COVER ART

Sophia (Holy Wisdom), 2015 by Lyuba Yatskiv (Ukrainian, b. 1977). Design for the apse of the Church of Sophia, Wisdom of God, Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv, Ukraine.

## THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to scripture stories which recount the God's presence with God's people, the promise of a Messiah, and the Incarnation. Each lesson is followed by a carol that reflects on the lesson's message.

## VOLUNTARY

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!*

arr. Paul O. Manz(1919-2009)

*La asamblea se pone de pie. / The assembly stands, as able, to sing.*

*As the cross is carried in processions, you are invite to bow as a sign of reverence for Christ.*

## CAROL AT THE PROCESSION

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

text/music: J. F. Wade (1711-1786)

Adeste Fideles

- 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, O come, let us adore him,**  
**O come, let us adore him, 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***
- 3      **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,**  
**sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!**  
**Glory to God, glory in the highest: *Refrain***
- 4      **Yea, Lord, we greet, born this happy morning;**  
**Jesus, to thee be all glory given!**  
**Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain***

## **SALUDO/GREETING**

Beloved of God, the grace of Jesus Christ,  
and the community formed in the Spirit, are with you now.

**And also with you.**

## **CAROL OF PRAISE**

### ***Angels We Have Heard on High***

text: French carol, 1864  
music: *Gloria*, French 1902

**1 Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**2 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!**

**3 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!**

## **ORACIÓN DEL DIÁ/PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Gracious God, you come to us as Word, as light, as flesh.

Teach us to know you so well that our lives may befriend this world you have made,  
in the presence of the Holy Trinity, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*La asamblea se sienta. / The assembly is seated.*

## **BIENVENIDO A ADORAR/WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

*If this is one of your first times to connect with FELC, WELCOME!*

[www.felcaustin.org/forms/visitors](http://www.felcaustin.org/forms/visitors)

## ANTHEM

### *Up! Good Christen Folk, and Listen*

George Woodward (1901)

Ding-dong, ding: Ding-a-dong-a-ding: Ding-dong, ding-dong: Ding-a-dong-ding.

1. Up! good Christen folk, and listen how the merry church bells ring,  
And from steeple bid good people  
Come adore the new-born King:

2. Tell the story how from glory God came down at Christmastide,  
Bringing gladness, chasing sadness,  
Show'ring blessings far and wide.

3. Born of mother, blest o'er other, Ex Maria Virgine {of Mary, the virgin},  
In a stable ('Tis no fable),  
Christus natus hodie {Christ is born today}.

## FIRST LESSON

### Isaiah 40:1-8

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly remains seated.*

*Carols are sung from the red worship book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, in the pew rack.  
The assembly remains seated for the first carol..*

## FIRST CAROL

## #284 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

## SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

- <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —  
on them light has shined.
- <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
- <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## SECOND CAROL

## #287 Let All Together Praise our God (stanzas 1, 2, 3, 4)

*The assembly is seated.*

## THIRD LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

- <sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
- <sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.
- <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



*The assembly remains seated.*

**THIRD CAROL**

**#279 O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**FOURTH LESSON**

Luke 1:26-35, 38

<sup>26</sup> 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, 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." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The 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." <sup>38</sup> Then 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

**FOURTH CAROL**

**#265 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came**

*The assembly is seated.*

**FIFTH LESSON**

Luke 2:1-15

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.

<sup>8</sup>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!" <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."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

**FIFTH CAROL**

**#275 Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SIXTH LESSON**

Luke 2:21-28

<sup>21</sup>After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. <sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, [singing this song:]

*The assembly remains seated.*

**SIXTH CAROL**

**#313 O Lord, Now Let Your Servant**

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

**SEVENTH LESSON**

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly remains standing.*

**SEVENTH CAROL**

**#300 The First Noel (verses 1, 2, 4)**



## ORACIÓN/PRAYER

*Each intercession of the prayers ends with:*

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

## LA PAZ/SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*We offer signs and gesture of peace.*

*We are aware of others' desire for distance to be maintained and touch to be respected.*

*Those participating via livestream are invited to make a comment in the chat or to text someone.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## ✚COMIDA/MEAL

### PRESENTACIÓN DE LAS OFRENDAS

*We invite your generosity to support the mission of the church, and the care of those in need.*

*Offering baskets are on the Welcome tables at the entrances to the nave.*

*Worshippers may give online: [www.felcaustin.org/information/giving](http://www.felcaustin.org/information/giving)*

*The offering is our response to God's grace.*

*Time, labor, wisdom, skill, energy, wonder, rest, finances, resistance, prayers, protest, care, and play all serve God's purposes.*

## OFFERING MUSIC

### Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Johann Schop (1590-1664); harmony by J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light,  
and usher in the morning;  
O shepherds, shrink not with affright,  
but hear the angel's warning.  
This child, now weak in infancy,  
our confidence and joy shall be,  
the power of Satan breaking,  
our peace eternal making.

text: Johann Rist (1607-1667)

Come, dearest child into our hearts,  
and leave your crib behind you!  
Let this be where the new life starts  
For all who seek and find you.  
To you the honor, thanks, and praise,  
for all your gifts this time of grace;  
come, conquer and deliver  
this world, and us, forever.

text: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

*The assembly stands as bread, wine, money, and other gifts are presented and prepared.*

## OFFERING CAROL

### What Child is This?

text: William Dix (1837-1898)

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

2. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh:  
Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

music: Greensleeves, English tune, 16th c

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,

receive and bless these gifts we offer,

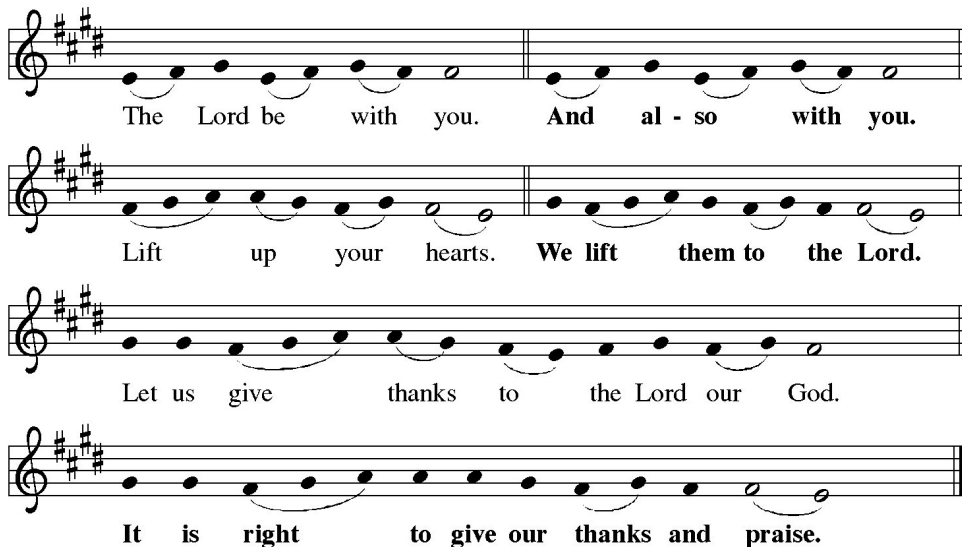
and join our hearts with the song of the angels.

Strengthen us to share the abundance of your grace upon grace,

poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

## GRAN PLEGARIA EUCHARÍSTICA

*Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert (1797-1828)*



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have opened the eyes of faith  
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,  
that, beholding the God made visible,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Michael Coffey

Holy and Wondrous God,  
you created space and time, . . .  
a world of love and justice may flourish.

In patient time you revealed . . .  
so caring community would grow.

In good time you sent Jesus . . .  
and new life to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed . . .  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Living with Christ in the gift  
of past, present, and future  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Christ of all time,  
be our companion on the way  
so we may live in faith, hope, and love.  
Come, Lord Jesus, into our time.

**Come, Lord Jesus**

Spirit of every moment,  
bless this and every table,  
and empower us to be  
the body of Christ in the world,  
so we humbly share ourselves  
through words and acts  
of courage and love.  
Come, Holy Spirit, into this moment.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Holy One, with people of every generation  
we give you all praise that we can sing and  
utter through Christ, in the Spirit,  
with all your church, in this eternal now.

**Amen.**

## PADRE NUESTRO/LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray 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.**

**Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,  
santificado sea tu nombre.  
Venga tu reino.  
Hágase tu voluntad  
en la tierra como en el cielo.**

**Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.**

**Perdona nuestras ofensas  
como también nosotros  
perdonamos a los que nos ofenden.**

**No nos dejes caer en tentación  
y líbranos del mal.**

**Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el  
poder, y tuya es la gloria,  
ahora y siempre. Amén.**

**PARTIENDO EL PAN/BREAKING THE BREAD** *Jesus, Lamb of God* Schubert; text: based on *Agnus Dei*

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

The first system of the musical score is written for voice and piano. The voice part is in the treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piano accompaniment is in the bass clef with the same key signature. The lyrics are 'Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.' The melody features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases tied across measures.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

The second system continues the musical score. The voice part and piano accompaniment maintain the same key signature and rhythmic patterns. The lyrics are 'Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.' The piano part provides a steady accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

The third system of the musical score. The voice part and piano accompaniment continue. The lyrics are 'Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,'. The piano part includes some chromatic movement in the bass line.

grant us peace, grant us peace.

The fourth and final system of the musical score. The voice part and piano accompaniment conclude the piece. The lyrics are 'grant us peace, grant us peace.' The piano part ends with a final chord and a fermata.

## COMMUNION INVITATION & DISTRIBUTION

*All baptized Christians, including children, are invited to the Lord's Supper.*

*We encourage you to participate in a way that is meaningful for you.*

*The Eucharist is offered to one side of the church at a time.*

*Ushers will direct you via the center aisle to a station to receive bread in your hand.*

*Then you may proceed to a station and receive a small cup, where wine will be poured.*

*Gluten-free wafers/grape juice are available. Please ask a minister.*

*Then make your way to your seat by a side aisle.*

*You are invited to kneel or sit in prayer, meditation, and singing.*

*If you are not communing, you are invited to come forward for a prayer of blessing.*

*If you desire communion or a blessing at your seat, please let an usher or minister know.*

## COMMUNION CAROLS

### Go Tell It on the Mountain

text/music: African American spiritual

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.

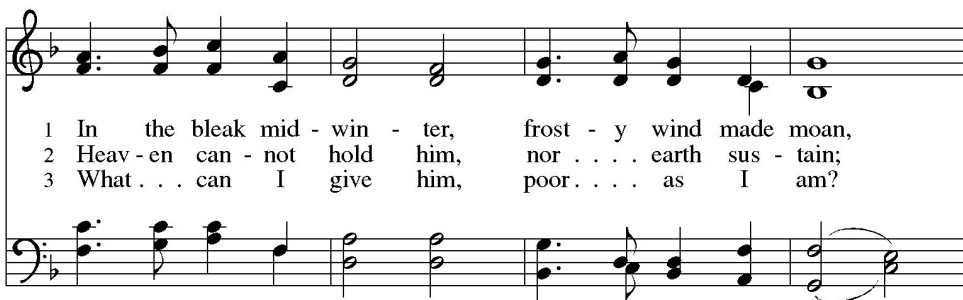
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.

and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

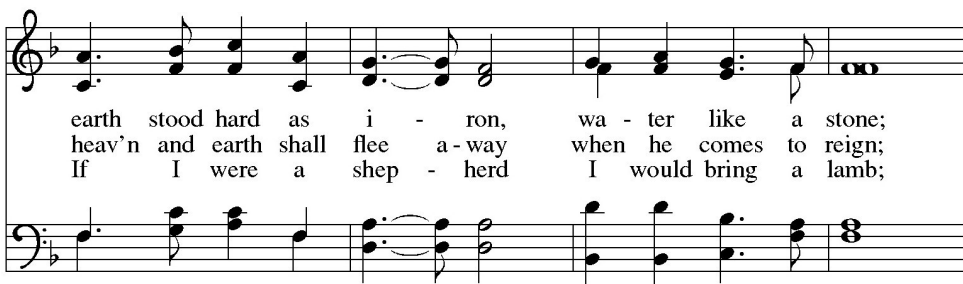
*Refrain*



## In the Bleak Midwinter



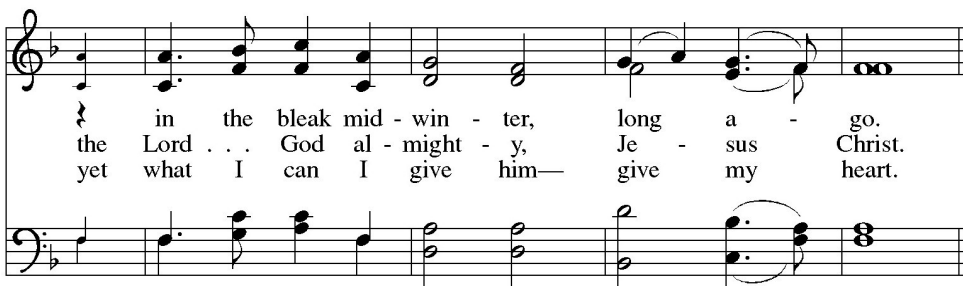
1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

*The assembly remains seated as we offer our thanks.*

## ORACIÓN DESPUÉS DE LA COMUNIÓN/PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of love,  
you have fed and blessed us with gifts of grace, truth, and life.  
As you have gathered us in wonder,  
send us forth as messengers of your peace and justice.  
Strengthen us to live the good news of your great joy,  
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## ✚ ENVIO/SENDING

### ANUNCIOS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*La asamblea se pone de pie. / The assembly stands.*

### BENDICIÓN/BLESSING

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the persistence of Mary,  
the humility of Joseph,  
and the peace of Christ go with you;  
almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you, now and forever. **Amen.**

### SENDING CAROL

### *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Music on Page 17

### DESPENDIDA/DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the Good News!  
**Thanks be to God!**

*As you leave today, you are invited to take  
a poinsettia plant—a gift from First  
English. Merry Christmas!*

### ENVIANDO MÚSICA Y HOSPITALIDAD/SENDING MUSIC & HOSPITALITY

*All are invited to a time of hospitality in the fellowship hall. Todos están invitados a la hospitalidad.*

“In Dulci Jubilo” (BWV 608)

arr. J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

*A Christmas Prayer by Martin Luther*

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled,  
Within my heart, that it may be  
a quiet chamber kept for Thee.

My heart for very joy doth leap,  
My lips no more can silence keep,  
I too must sing, with joyful tongue,  
That sweetest ancient cradle song:

Glory to God in highest heaven,  
Who unto all a child hath given  
While angels sing with loving mirth.  
A glad new year to all the earth! Amen.

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

**Christmas is the 12 day season** of celebrating the mystery of the incarnation, the embodiment of God's Word in human life – in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ. More than that, through God's grace in Christ, we celebrate that God's love, justice, and mercy dwells in us and through us in the world.

### **Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr—December 26**

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to die by stoning.

### **Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist—December 27**

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three Christian letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

### **The Holy Innocents, Martyrs—December 28**

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

## CHRISTMAS WEEK HOLIDAY

**The church office and child development center are closed December 23 and will open again on January 3, 2023.** If you have an immediate need, please call the church office and leave a voice message for Bryan Rust or Pastor Coffey.

## GROW IN SERVICE, WORSHIP, FORMATION, & CARE

To learn about our faith community, greet one another and visit our webpage. You'll find information about our weekly updates and emails, online connections, racial justice action, adult and children's formation, our Child Development Center, our serving, locally and globally. God loves. We love. Everyone!

<b>Webpage</b>	<a href="http://www.felcaustin.org/">http://www.felcaustin.org/</a> updates and news about ministry & mission
<b>YouTube, Facebook, &amp; Twitter</b>	YouTube: First English Austin Facebook: FELCAustin Twitter: @FELCAustin
<b>Communications Sign-Up</b>	Subscribe on our website to our weekly email news, praying, & other updates <a href="https://www.felcaustin.org/news/communications-sign-up">https://www.felcaustin.org/news/communications-sign-up</a>
<b>Online Giving</b>	Offer your stewardship in multiple ways: <a href="http://www.felcaustin.org/giving">www.felcaustin.org/giving</a>
<b>ELCA</b>	<a href="https://www.elca.org/">https://www.elca.org/</a> learn about our ecumenical, interfaith, & global mission
<b>Disaster Response</b>	<a href="http://www.elca.org/">www.elca.org</a> / —800-638-3522 give directly to Lutheran Disaster Response
<b>Immigration &amp; Refugee Services</b>	<a href="https://www.lirs.org">https://www.lirs.org</a> & <a href="https://www.casamarianella.org/">https://www.casamarianella.org/</a> for advocacy & donation

## PRAYER LIST: REQUESTS FOR PERSONS & FAMILIES

12/22/2022

We pray for:

the citizens, immigrants, and refugees, and the national, state, and local leaders of the United States;  
the people of Ukraine and of Russia; for all conflicts and places of gun violence, worldwide;  
God's guidance for our congregation and community as we begin a pastoral transition;  
all in need of healing, including those recovering from Covid-19;  
healing for Cecily, colleague of Nancy Baden, diagnosed with Leukemia and in treatment;  
Billye Dunnahoe, mother of Teresa Ringness, recovering from medical procedures;  
all traveling in these days, near and far.

We welcome your prayer requests for needs and thanksgivings for yourself, individuals, families, and situations.

**Please submit prayer requests for the FELC prayer list online:** <https://www.felcaustin.org/forms/prayer-request>

**The FELC Prayer Circle gathers** faithfully to pray. If you desire prayers offered (including confidentially) for you, your loved ones, needs and thanksgivings, our faith community, the church, the world contact Teresa at [ttbhip@gmail.com](mailto:ttbhip@gmail.com)

## STAFF

### Pastor

Michael Coffey [pastor@felcaustin.org](mailto:pastor@felcaustin.org)

### Director of Music & Office Administrator

Bryan Rust [office@felcaustin.org](mailto:office@felcaustin.org)

### Director of Child Development Center (CDC)

LaQuetha Ford [lford@firstenglishcdc.org](mailto:lford@firstenglishcdc.org)  
FELCDC: 512.478.5424

### Bookkeeper

Mary Lou Turnbull [payable@felcaustin.org](mailto:payable@felcaustin.org)

### Custodians

Teresa del Aguila, Jesus del Aguila

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL

### President

Allen Jensen

### Vice President

Nancy Neuse

### Secretary

Andrew Koepp

### Pastor

Michael Coffey

### Members-at-Large

Jerry Don Aguirre

Derek Bridges

Gwen Flory

Todd Jermstad

Mary Lou Larson

Teresa Ringness

Elizabeth Zimmermann

### Interim Treasurer

Joe Cain

### Financial Secretary

Gwen Flory

**FELIZ NAVIDAD! FRÖHE WEIHNACHTEN! JOYEUX NOËL! NOHELI NZIZA! EEDOOKH BREEKHA!**

*The people, congregation council, child development center board and families, & staff  
of First English Lutheran Church wish each person a blessed & merry Christmas!*

**First Sunday of Christmas / New Year's Day Zoom Worship & YouTube Livestream**

*NO in-person worship at the church building*

**Sunday, January 1, 2023 at 10:00 AM**

FELC Community Zoom link (at the end of each weekly email news)

The Zoom worship will also be livestreamed to our YouTube channel

**Epiphany House Blessings**

Epiphany is a traditional time for blessing of the home with readings, prayer, and chalking above the entrance to the home with a blessing for the year. As the magi visited the home of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus and brought gifts and blessings, we bless homes in the name of Christ.

**On January 4 Bryan Rust and Pastor Michael Coffey will visit homes north of FELC,  
and on January 5 they will visit homes south of FELC. Both days they will schedule between 10 AM and 3 PM.**

If you would like them to come to your home and offer an Epiphany house blessing, email Pastor Coffey  
([pastor@felcaustin.org](mailto:pastor@felcaustin.org)) to request being added to the list.

Blessings are performed outside at the front door, and you don't have to be home.

**SIRVIENDO/SERVING**

**Altar Care Server** Margaret Bruesch  
**Assisting Minister** Shannon Aguirre  
**Crucifer** Jerry Don Aguirre  
**Floral Care** Teresa Ringness

**Hospitality** Anne Wiebe  
**Lectors** Anne Wiebe  
Fred Woody  
Jerry Don Aguirre  
Nikki Northcutt  
Kathryn Coffey  
Monia Lund  
Michael Coffey

**Livestream Team** J. P. Northcutt-Benson

**Offering Counter**

Terry Porter

**Presiding Minister**

Michael Coffey

**Usher**

Terry Porter

**Music Ministers** FELC Choir

Elijah Aguirre, oboe;

Oliver Rajamani, percussion; Bryan Rust, director

*The Poinsettias are given to the glory of God by  
Katherine Houston & by Teresa Ringness in memory of  
Teresa's son, Jeffrey David Tice.*

*The Christmas Tree is given to the glory of God by  
Kathryn and Michael Coffey.*

*The handmade, colored bookmarks are a gift to  
worshippers offered by Barbara Wiederaenders.*



**GOD LOVES. WE LOVE.**

*Everyone!*

**DIOS AMA. AMAMOS.**

*Todos!*

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**WWW.FELCAUSTIN.ORG**

**512.478.1933 CHURCH**

**512.478.5424 CDC**

*a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—a sanctuary church body in the United States*