

4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 23rd, 2018 - 10 a.m.

Thank you to all who decorated
our worship space to make it beautiful
for the coming Christmas services.

The poinsettias on the altar are offered
by Kylie and Cameron Niman
in memory of their grandmother, Ethel Niman.

Leading Today:

Cantor: Marie Fortier

Reader: Melvin Schwalm




Assistant: Wayne Fortier

Honourary Assistant Pastor: Diane Raddatz

Piano/Organ/Choir Director: David Santry

Church Secretary: Debra Boyd-Chisholm

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Introduction to Taizé

What a gift silence and stillness can be, especially at the time of year when we are driven and bombarded by frantic activity and noise!

The Taizé prayer service invites us into a holy silence. In Taizé, France, the bells ring three times a day to call everyone to pause and gather at the church for prayer. In the middle of each common prayer there is a long period of silence, a unique moment for meeting with God. The songs are of a repetitive style. According to the founder, Brother Roger, it is in the repeating that the Spirit will well up inside us; the music embracing us into God's presence; the simplicity of melodies connecting with our innermost selves.

May the peace of Christ dwell in the depths of your heart this holy night, silent night. May you know this peace in the gift of silence and stillness.

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CANDLE LIGHTING: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*
(ELW 240, verses 1-4)

GATHERING SONG: *Come and Fill Our Hearts*
(ELW 528, x4 approx.)

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Let us pray. **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. Amen.**

SONG: *Stay with Me* (ELW 348, x4 approx.)

READING: Micah 5:2-5a A reading from Micah.

²But 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.

³Therefore 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.

⁴And 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; ^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

PSALMODY: *Bless the Lord, my soul* (see insert, x4 approx.)

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SONG: *Ubi caritas et amor* (ELW 642, x4 approx.)

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

SERMON

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: *(response for each petition,*
O Lord Hear My Prayer, ELW 751)

LORD'S PRAYER: *Our Father* (see insert)

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONGS:

Eat This Bread (ELW 472)

Wait for the Lord (ELW 262)

Jesus Remember Me (ELW 616)



BLESSING

SENDING SONG: *O Come, O Come, Emanuel* (ELW 257)

All who desire communion with Jesus and approach the sacrament with faith, are welcome at the Lord's Table. While both the common cup and individual glasses are offered, we encourage the use of the common cup to emphasize the unity we share in the Body of Christ, the church (please indicate your preference to the servers). A non-alcohol option is available in the tray. You may also partake of bread only, or come to the table for a blessing only.

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