

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 - 10 a.m.**



Thank you to all who decorated our worship space.  
The Christmas tree is donated by the Quast family  
in memory of all the family members and friends  
who have passed away during the year.  
The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God  
by Kylie and Cameron Niman in remembrance  
of their grandmother Ethel Niman.

**Leading Today:**

**Worship Leader:** Pastor Martin Malina

**Reader:** Melvin Schwalm

**Musician:** Sharon Wirth

**Counters:** Jann Julien & Ken Roeske

**Honourary Assistant Pastor:** Diane Raddatz

**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.

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### WELCOME

### BELL RINGING

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

**GATHERING SONG:** *In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful* (T-10, x4)

**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.**

**READING: Isaiah 7:10-16** A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

**PSALMODY:** *Bless the Lord O My Soul* (T-3, x4)

**GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25**

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

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together,

she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

**SONG:** *Lord Jesus Christ* (T-15, x4)

### SERMON

### SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

**SONG:** *Wait for the Lord* (T-30, x4)

**PRAYERS;** (*response: O Lord, hear my prayer, WOV 772*)

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

### GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

### COMMUNION

**LORD'S PRAYER:** *Lord's Prayer* (T-54)

**COMMUNION SONGS:** *Jesus Remember Me* (T-11, x4)

*Eat This Bread* (T-7, x4)

*Ubi Caritas et Amor* (WOV 665)

### BLESSING

**SENDING SONG:** *O Come, O Come, Emanuel* (*verses on screen*)

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*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.*

