

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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Resurrection Lutheran Church is called by God, to reach beyond our walls and share the Good News, bringing Christ to the world through Prayer, Love, and Action.

Serving Our Neighbors by Sharing Our Blessings

Sunday, December 22, 2024—9:30 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

All are welcome to commune and receive Christ in bread and wine. Please fill out a communion card and give it to the usher when coming forward for Communion

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

WELCOME

CENTERING TIME

*2 minutes of silence to center our hearts for worship.
Our time will conclude after the centering music.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

P In this weary world,

C **we sing of joy.**

P In this fragile world,

C **we lift each other up.**

P In this beautiful world,

C **we look for God.**

- P In this tender world,
C **we hold onto hope.**
P This is the invitation of faith. So in this time of worship,
may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us God.
C **With hope in our hearts, amen!**

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

- P In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?
Where do we start?
C **Let us begin with tenderness.**
Let us begin with our hearts on our sleeve. Let us begin from a place of vulnerability and hope. Let us begin with love.
P Yes, let us start with love.
Today we light the candles of hope, peace, joy and love.
C **May the warmth of these lights be our cornerstone.**
May the truth in these lights help begin again.
P May it be so! Amen.

HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
(verses 7 & 8)

ELW #257

**7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. Refrain**

**8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. Refrain**

CALL TO CONFESSION

- P Hope can feel slippery.
One moment we may believe that change will come, that good will win, that the suffering of today will not be the suffering of tomorrow.
The next moment we can receive word of more gun violence, of more mudslinging, or yet another missile headed toward a group of humans.
Hope can feel slippery.
Fortunately for us, God's grace is not.
No matter what we are able to hold, God is able to hold onto us.
So trusting that God's grace does not let us go, join me in the prayer of confession:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P Gracious God,

You paint pictures of what could be,

C but we declare those visions impossible.

P You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb,

C but we spout skepticism and uncertainty.

P You dream of a more just day,

C but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon.

P Forgive us for losing sight of hope.

C Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is.

P Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it.

**C Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams,
and to not be afraid of either.**

With gratitude we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P Friends,

No matter what you hold onto,

and no matter what you let slip through your hands, God is holding onto you.

That good news will never change.

So hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

Today is a new day. Today, we have reason to hope. Today, we are forgiven. And
the same will be true tomorrow.

C Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

SHARING OF PEACE

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

Canticle of the Turning



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 -



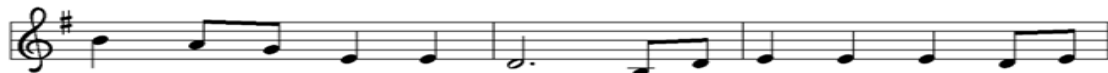
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



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.

Refrain



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.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

P Holy God,

C **The stories of Advent are stories many of us have heard before.**

We've arranged the nativity scenes.

We've read the children's books.

We've seen the movies.

We've sung the songs.

But as we come to your scripture this morning, we pray: help us begin again.

Clear the distractions from our minds. Center us in this space.

Move through the protective barriers we surround ourselves with and speak to us here and now.

We are listening. We are hopeful. Amen.

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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;

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

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Luke 1:46-55 (read responsively)

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷**and 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;

⁴⁹**for 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.

⁵¹**He 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;

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

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

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

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

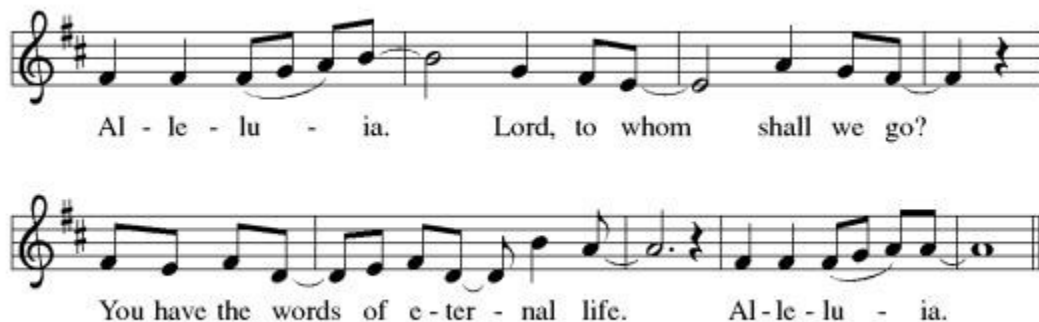
⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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

P The holy gospel according to Matthew

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁸Now 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. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But 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. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell

HYMN OF THE DAY

HOPE Is WORTH THE RiSk

NOËL NOUVELET ("Sing We Now of Christmas")

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Traditional French melody



Col - lege stu - dents ga - ther pro - tes - ting for peace
Young girls in I - ran to pro - test the re - gime
In Tai - wan the dream - ers flood the streets with blooms
Li - ber - i - an wom - en scarred by ci - vil war
Eth - nic mu - sic rings out from the Bal - tic Sea
Age to age and coast to coast peo - ple have stood



Stand - ing firm in spite of vio - lence from po - lice
Take off their hi - jabs to let their hair be seen
Sun - flow - ers and li - lies li - ber - ty's per - fume
Keep the peace talks go - ing by bar - ring the doors
As the peo - ple sing their right to li - ber - ty
Risk - ing some - thing big in hope of some - thing good



Em - pires will fight with force or pol - i - tics



Still the Spi - rit whis - pers, "Hope is worth the risk"

Author's note: This hymn was written in the midst of the Popular University for Gaza movement across college campuses in the spring of 2024. Spending time with the students at the University of Texas day after day, I witnessed the many creative ways they protested on the South Lawn, from screen printing to poetry workshops. None of this made the news, as those in power benefit from the narrative that protestors are violent. Wondering what other narratives have been similarly silenced, I was inspired to learn and write about creative acts of nonviolent resistance, highlighting the hopeful risk-takers across the world.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**C We believe in a God who gives us reason to hope, a God who fills our nights with stars,
who follows winter with spring, who dwells with and among us.
We believe that this God has dreams for creation, dreams of justice like a mighty stream and swords that will be beaten into plowshares.
Therefore, we push cynicism aside. We risk vulnerability.
We hold onto hope, and we declare:
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

**P Holy God,
We come to you today feeling tenderhearted. We are tenderhearted because life is hard.
Our spirits are bruised from the ups and downs,
from the onslaught of disappointment, fear, and grief. In the midst of this tenderness,
how do we risk hope? How do we hold onto you?
With honesty on our tongues,
we come to you today, God, to ask for your help. Show us how to hope.
Draw near to the most vulnerable places in our lives, to the places where hope feels out of reach.
Draw near to our depression and anxiety, to our addictions and sorrows.
Draw near to the problems that feel impossibly big.
Draw close to the places where hope seems out of reach.
And as you do, show us how to dream a better dream. When the night feels long,
point us to the candles.
When the world feels empty, fill us with bread from this Table. When grief threatens to capsize our boat, allow us to laugh.
When we feel alone in our loss, surround us with community.
In the ups and downs of this tenderhearted world, show us how to hope.
Show us how to live like Mary and Joseph, for they were courageous enough to believe the angel’s words. They were courageous enough to believe that change could come.
Give us the courage, the vulnerability, and the wisdom to risk the same.
With all the tenderhearted hope we can muster, we join our voices together to pray the words your son taught us to pray, saying...**

THE 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.**

OFFERING & OFFERTORY SONG

“We Are an Offering”

ELW #692

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering.
Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands,
Lord use our lives, they are yours:
we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be,
we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering,
we are an offering.



Scan to donate!

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C **God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,
and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all
those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION - *all are invited *gluten free wafers are available.*

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.

TABLE BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Nourishing God,

C Sometimes we tell ourselves that too much has taken place to begin again.

We think the world is too far gone.

We think we have made too many mistakes.

We tell ourselves that we couldn't possibly begin again.

But then we come to this Table and we get a glimpse of your kingdom. We come to this Table and all are welcomed, all are seen, all are fed. And just like that, we have hope. We have peace. We have joy.

Just like that, we begin again.

Thank you for the gift of this fresh start. Thank you for planting hope deep in our bones.

Thank you for meeting us in ordinary bread and juice to remind us that it's never too late to build your kingdom here.

We are grateful.

We are so grateful.

Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of glory,
+ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING MUSIC

STATING OUR MISSION

P Resurrection, what is our mission?

C Serving Our Neighbors by Sharing Our Blessings!

BENEDICTION

P As you leave this place,
may you have the wisdom to lean on one other.
May you have the courage to hold onto hope,
the compassion to do the good that is yours to do,
and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing.
For in a world full of dead ends, Advent invites us to begin again.
So start here. Start now.
Start with love and begin again. In the name of Christ, our new beginning, go in
peace.

C Thanks be to God! Amen.

Pastor: Darryl Thompson Powell
Director of Music: Henrietta Atkin
Oboist: Wayne Ryerson

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TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30 am Worship, Holy Communion
11:00 am Receive and sort Costco donation

THIS WEEK AT RESURRECTION

Monday, December 23

12:00 pm Food Pantry & Clothing Closet

Tuesday, December 24

10:30 pm Christmas Eve Concert
11:00 pm Worship Service

Wednesday, December 25

Thursday, December 26

7:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting

Friday, December 27

Pastor Darryl's Sabbath

Saturday, December 28

Sunday, December 29

9:30 am Worship, Holy Communion
11:00 am Receive and sort Costco donation

Online services are available via Facebook (www.facebook.com/rlcfp/live), YouTube (www.youtube.com/rlcfp or search for "Resurrection Lutheran Franklin Park YouTube") and Twitch.

Bible Study can be accessed via Zoom online (bit.ly/rlcfp-zoom) or by phone (312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 230 167 8868, Password: 9777). You can also watch without participating on YouTube (www.youtube.com/rlcfp).



The flowers today are from Sue & Pat Flanagan to the glory of God and the coming of his Son.



The month of December we will continue “Cereal Sundays” and also add “Soup Sundays”. Thank you all who continue to support our food pantry!

Share the Gift

The Franklin Park American Legion Post 974 family is again hosting the Stand Down, a program to support Veterans in need. It will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025, at the Legion Hall at 9757 Pacific Ave., Franklin Park, Illinois. They will provide a hot meal, toiletries, and blankets, as well as a chance to speak with Veteran Service Organizations and other groups, about VA benefits, housing, transportation, and other services. If this is a cause you would like to support, we are accepting cash donations through Sunday December 29th and Share the Gift will match those donations up to the first \$500 received.



PRAY FOR MEMBERS: Shari J, Rita V, Judy H, Russ S, Janet C, Lindsay, Valentina, Virginia S, June K and family, Janet G, and Donna T.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF RLC MEMBERS: Lenny, Winnie Z, Christian A, Rene V, Terry, Ronnie W, Anita, Joan P, Joyce F, Pastor Finney, Dana, Leena, Jacque, Diane L, Marilyn R, Ed, Emily F, Lori, Ayla, Curtis, Allen, Nancy, Susan, Victor, Richard, Sarah, John M, Mike I, Sharon V, Gary V, Sophia, Marina, Luisa, Cyndy W, John B, Atour, Billy G, Joyce S, Judy K, Lynn, housekeeping staff at hospitals and nursing homes, the homeless, Elaine R, Linda B and Scott B.

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Josiah G and Mike B.

