

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Missouri Synod*



## Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024

Divine Service, Setting One – LSB 151

8:00 am & 5:00 pm

\*livestreamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

### AS WE GATHER

Are you feeling the joy? At this point in the month of December, studies show that many people are *not* feeling joy. Many people are feeling overwhelmed as they approach Christmas, feeling stressors that include not having enough money, missing loved ones, and anticipating family conflict.

No matter how we come to our time of worship today, even if stressed, distracted, and frazzled, what great timing to hear what God speaks to us in this season and each day. From all our Readings today, we hear of joy! It is a joy not based on our own momentary perspectives of how things should go, but rather a joy from God's eternal perspective for our sake and what has freely been done for us.

As our Advent season continues, **may our true joy be found in the one for whom we prepare—Christ**, who was born for us and who is with us and for us and is today in our midst as He comes to us in the means of grace.

[Rev. Eric J. Edwards](#) ✝ [Rev. Christopher Beck](#) ✝ [Rev. Liwei Sui](#)

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# ✠ ✠ ✠ GATHERING ✠ ✠ ✠

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC – *Once He Came in Blessing* (arr. John Leavitt)

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

## HYMN OF INVOCATION – LSB 357 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vv. 1, 5)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. We await the celebration of His birth at Christmas. We remember His arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We long for His glorious return. As we wait, we consider how unworthy we are to have Jesus in our presence.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

$\text{†}$   $\text{†}$   $\text{†}$  **WORD**  $\text{†}$   $\text{†}$   $\text{†}$

**INTROIT – Psalm 146:5-8; antiphon: Phil. 4:4**

The choir sings the antiphon once and the congregation repeats it.

The congregation then repeats the antiphon after the chanted Psalm verses.



Re-joyce in the Lord al-ways; a - gain I will say, re - joice.

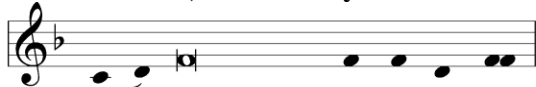
*Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord his God,  
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,  
who keeps faith forever;*

*who executes justice for the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry.*

*The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. (Antiphon)*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen. (Antiphon)*

**KYRIE – Lord, Have Mercy – Mark 10:47**



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



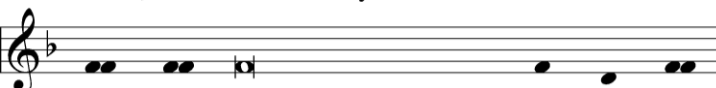
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



## SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

- The Lord be with you. ■ And also with you.
- Let us pray... one God, now and forever. ■ Amen.

## FIRST LESSON – Zephaniah 3:14-20 – The joy and restoration of God’s people

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.  
The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
“Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.

<sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

<sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you together;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes,” says the Lord.

- This is the Word of the Lord. ■ Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL – Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

The congregation sings all.



Re - joyce great-ly, O daught-er of Zi - on!



Shout, shout, daugh-ter of Je - ru - sa-lem. See, your



King comes to you, right-eous and hav-ing sal - va - tion.



Blessed is he\_\_\_ who comes in the name of the Lord.



From the house of the Lord\_\_\_ we bless you.

## SECOND LESSON – Philippians 4:4-7 – Joy in and through Christ

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

## ALLELUIA and VERSE – Matthew 11:10b

The choir/cantor sings the Alleluias and the congregation repeats them.

The congregation then repeats the Alleluias after the verse.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
Who will prepare your way before you.*

## HOLY GOSPEL – Luke 7:18-35 – Messengers from John the Baptist

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup>calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>20</sup>And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” <sup>21</sup>In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup>And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

<sup>24</sup>When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. <sup>26</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” <sup>29</sup>(When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, <sup>30</sup>but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

<sup>31</sup>“To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? <sup>32</sup>They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’

<sup>33</sup>For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’

<sup>34</sup>The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ <sup>35</sup>Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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

## HYMN OF THE DAY – LSB 345 – Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is  
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, Comes with  
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
 Δ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the  
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
 par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with  
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!”  
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv’n;  
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON – *Oh Joy Begin* – Luke 7:18-35

### 8:00 am– NICENE CREED

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.



5:00 pm – APOSTLES' CREED

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the

forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

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**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**A** Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.

**A** ...one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

**OFFERING** – *Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People* (arr. Egil Hovland)

**OFFERTORY** – *Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19*

**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

**5:00 pm – Continues with the Lord's Prayer (page 11)  
and concludes with the Benediction and Hymn to Depart (page 15).**

## ✠ ✠ ✠ SACRAMENT ✠ ✠ ✠

**8:00 am  
beginning at LSB 160**

### PREFACE



**P** The Lord be with you.



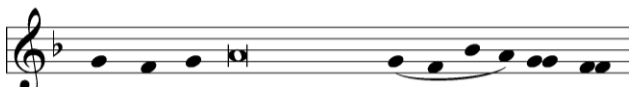
**C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



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



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

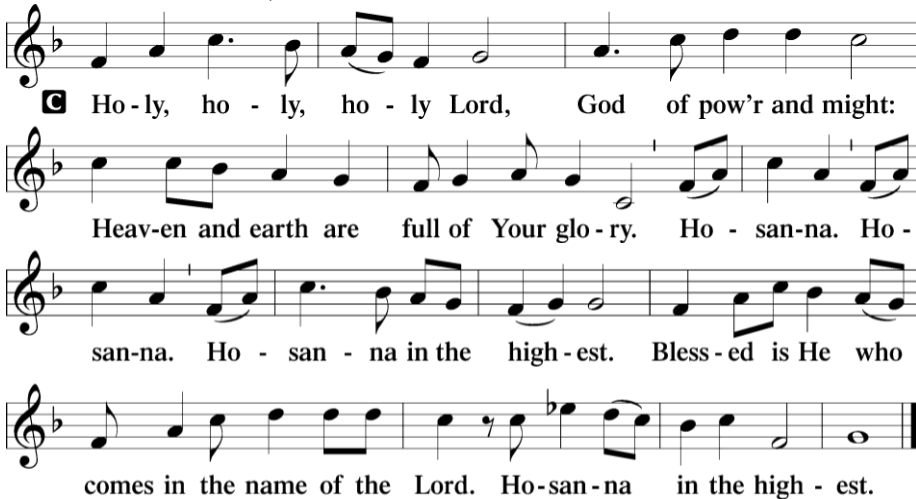
### For Guests and Visitors Desiring the Sacrament

As a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we confess, in accord with the Scriptures, that **in this sacred meal Jesus Himself is truly present to forgive our sin and strengthen our faith.**

Participation in this meal indicates that you **believe, have been baptized, and have been taught** according to our Lord's command **and are in doctrinal agreement** with this confession.

- **If you are visiting from outside the Lutheran Church or are new to the faith,** we welcome you to come to the altar with arms crossed to receive a blessing.
- **If you desire to receive instruction for the Lord's Supper,** please speak with one of our pastors.

**SANCTUS** – *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

- P** ...one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

- C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

**WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**PAX DOMINI** – *The Peace of the Lord* – *John 20:19*

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

**Distribution Notes:**

If you need **gluten-free wafers**, please let one of the pastors know.

**Non-alcoholic** grape juice, containing *a trace amount of wine*, is available in the center of the tray.

AGNUS DEI – Lamb of God – *John 1:29*

**C** 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.

DISTRIBUTION

**Anthem** – *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* (arr. John Ferguson)

LSB 346 – *When All the World Was Cursed*

1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na-tion,  
 2 Be-fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy-ful meet-ing,  
 3 Be-hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres-sion,  
 4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re-joic-ing,  
 Saint John the Bap-tist came With words of con-so-la-tion.  
 Con-fess-ing Him as Lord Whose moth-er he was greet-ing.  
 Whose sac-ri-fice re-moves The dev-il's dread op-pres-sion.  
 The word pro-claimed by John, Our true re-pen-tance voic-ing,  
 With true fore-run-ner's zeal The great-er One he named,  
 By Jor-dan's roll-ing stream, A new E-li-jah bold,  
 Be-hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a-way our sin,  
 That glad-ly we may walk Up-on our Sav-ior's way

*“Comfort, comfort  
 now my people;  
 Tell of peace!” So  
 says our God.  
 Comfort those who  
 sit in darkness  
 mourning under  
 sorrow’s load.  
 To God’s people  
 now proclaim that  
 God’s pardon waits  
 for them!  
 Tell them that their  
 war is over; God  
 will reign in peace  
 forever!*

*For the herald’s  
 voice is crying in  
 the desert far and  
 near, calling us to  
 true repentance,  
 Since the Kingdom  
 now is here.  
 Oh, that warning  
 cry obey! Now  
 prepare for God a  
 way! Let the valleys  
 rise to meet him,  
 And the hills bow  
 down to greet him!*

*Straight shall be  
 what long was  
 crooked,  
 And the rougher  
 places plain!  
 Let your hearts be*



And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.  
 He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:  
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.  
 Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

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Tune: Public domain

### LSB 849 – Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -  
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet  
 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,  
 gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons  
 in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the  
 With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool  
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing  
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this  
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.  
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

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## LSB 349 – Hark the Glad Sound



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – Thank the Lord



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**P** We give thanks to You, almighty God ... one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## BENEDICTION – Numbers 6:24-26

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## HYMN TO DEPART – LSB 333 – Once He Came in Blessing



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -  
2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He  
3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y  
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,  
feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,  
pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor  
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to  
Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will  
And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful  
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.  
nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.  
shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.  
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

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## SILENT PRAYER / ANNOUNCEMENTS

POST-SERVICE MUSIC – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (arr. Marilyn Biery)



The flowers on the altar are given in thanksgiving for our

- Sunday School children and teachers
- Youth leaders
- Cantor
- and all who helped with today's Christmas program.

## TODAY

- **10:30am Living Nativity**
- **11:30am Voters' Meeting** (sanctuary)
- **4:00pm Installation of Rev. Josiah Fitch** (*Faith, Columbus*)



### Tuesdays: December 17, 24 Salvation Army Bell-ringing

Faith rings for Salvation Army at *Kroger East* each Tuesday until Christmas. 2-hour shifts are still available each week. Visit [faithbtown.org](http://faithbtown.org) – or contact *Janet Hitzeman* – to sign up.



### Wednesday, December 18

**12:00pm Advent Worship**

**12:45pm Meal** (Grand Hall)

**5:45pm Meal** (Grand Hall)

**6:45pm Christmas Carol Sing** (sanctuary)

**7:00pm Advent Worship**

**7:45pm Senior Choir**



### Luminary lighting – 3pm on Christmas Eve

Bundle up and come help place and light our annual luminaries along our driveway and around the parking lot. This is a 1-hour (or less) service opportunity.

To help this year, meet at church at 3pm on Christmas Eve. Please **bring a long lighter** if possible.

	<b>Christmas Eve – 5pm* &amp; 7pm Candlelight Worship</b>
	<b>Christmas Day – 10am* Worship with Holy Communion</b>
	<b>New Year's Eve – 5pm* Worship with Holy Communion</b>

\* Service will also be **livestreamed** on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). Follow the bulletin available on our [website](#).

Any changes or updates to this schedule will be available at [www.faithbtown.org](http://www.faithbtown.org) as they occur.



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