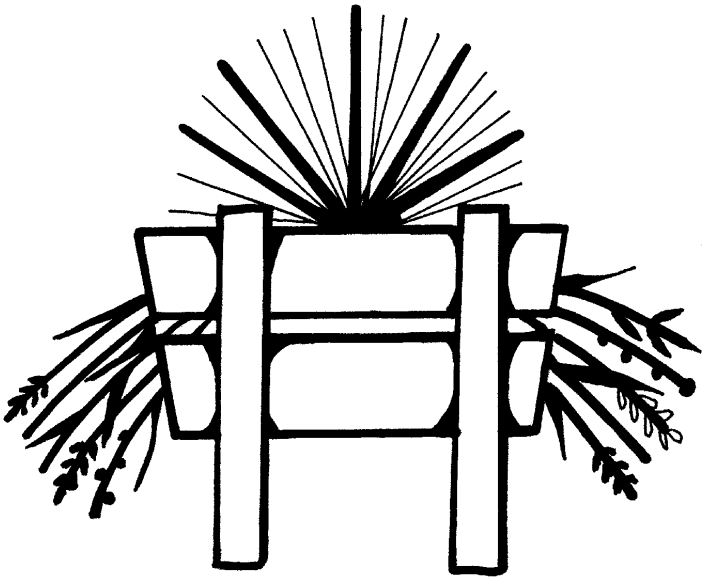
concordia church



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022

concordia church

Love God. Love Your Neighbor.

www.concordiafaith.org

773-281-1225

Concordia on Seeley

3855 N. Seeley

Sunday mornings:

10:00am Festive Worship (In-person & virtual options)

Join the 10:00am livestream on Sunday mornings or view recordings of our past services on our YouTube channel.

YouTube **Concordia Church Chicago**

Welcome, and thank you for worshipping with us this morning.

Holy Communion happens at every service and is open to all baptized.

The restroom is located in the gym; exit the sanctuary through the left door behind the altar and follow the hallway down the stairs.

Concordia Church continues to follow Chicago Department of Health and CDC guidelines to ensure appropriate protocols are in place for the health and safety of our worshippers, leaders, and staff. Please visit www.concordiafaith.org for the latest updates.

Questions? Contact Desirae, Parish Admin, at dcontreras@concordiafaith.org

Christmas Eve Concert



God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

God So Loved the World

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

All is Well

O Holy Night

Hallelujah

Gesu Bambino

Musicians

Brenda Swartz, flute

Irina Fatykhova, violin

Marisa Buchheit, soprano

Jade Ferrell, alto

Benjamin Burney, tenor

Jeorge Holmes, bass

Concordia Church Choir

Marisa Buchheit

Benjamin Burney

Richard Gaul

Mary-Ann Lupa

Elizabeth Ries

Erica Ries

Betsy Ries

Linda Storbeck

Paul Dykstra, director

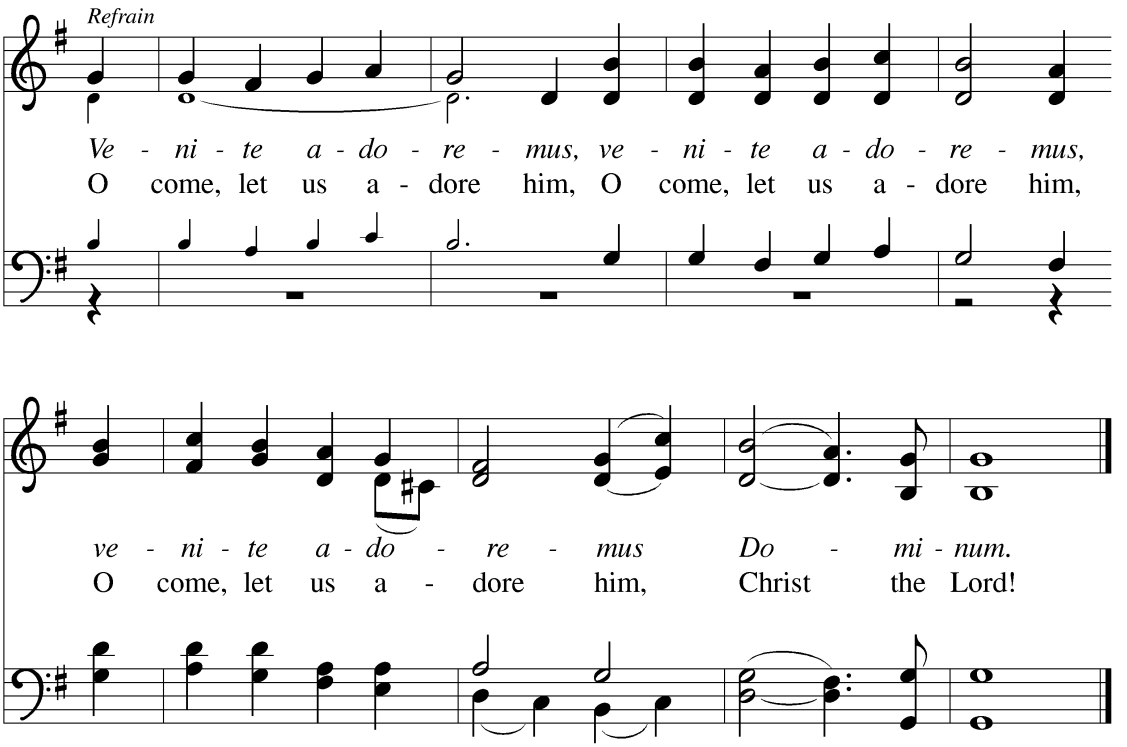
Prelude

Opening Hymn — ELW #283 "*O Come, All Ye Faithful*"



...continued on next page

Opening Hymn continued ELW #283 "*O Come, All Ye Faithful*"



The 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 of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

ELW #270 *"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"*

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
in the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

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. 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. 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. 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.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Second Reading Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.
L: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

ELW #270 *"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"*

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

You are invited to light your candle for the reading of the Gospel.

Gospel Reading

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Rev. Nicholas Zook

Carol ELW #289 "*Angels We Have Heard on High*"



Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.,
we acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

A: Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son wrapped in swaddling clothes to be our Savior. Draw us into the mystery of your love and join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing your glory. Lord, in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A: Give us a place among the shepherds, that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. Lord in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A: On this holy night in which God joins heaven and earth, we pray for the Church around the world as it celebrates the birth of Christ. Bless all those who are entrusted with Christian ministry that your Word might be proclaimed with truth and courage across our world. Lord in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A; We pray for all who are cold, hungry, or alone this night. Embrace with your tender care all who wander alone or have no place to lay their head, that they may experience the hope of this holy night. Lord in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A: We pray for all who are anxious, depressed, or ill. Draw near to those who find this season a source of pain or grief, and to all who are suffering or sick, especially those we remember in our own hearts, that they may feel your comfort this holy night. Lord in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A: We pray for the blessings of Christmas. Open our hearts to your presence, that we may be transformed by your gift this holy night. Lord in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

P: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of him who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

Offertory

We encourage you to use this time for reflection & gratitude as we prepare for communion.

Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also 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 our thanks and praise.



P: We give you thanks, Father,
through Jesus Christ,
your beloved Son,
whom you sent
in this end of the ages
to save and redeem us
and to proclaim to us your will.
He is your Word,
inseparable from you.
Through him
you created all things,
and in him you take delight.
He is your Word,
sent from heaven
to a virgin's womb.
He there took on our nature
and our lot and
was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit
and of the virgin Mary.
It is he, our Lord Jesus,
who fulfilled all your will
and won for you a holy people;
he stretched out his hands
in suffering
in order to free from suffering
those who trust you.
It is he who,
handed over to a death
he freely accepted,
in order to destroy death,
to break the bonds
of the evil one,
to crush hell underfoot,
to give light to the righteous,
to establish his covenant
and to show forth
the resurrection,
taking bread and
giving thanks to you, said:
Take and eat;
this is my body, broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
In the same way he took the cup,
gave thanks, and
gave it for all to drink, saying:
This is my blood
poured out for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, then,
his death and resurrection,
we lift this bread and cup
before you,
giving you thanks that
you have made us worthy
to stand before you
and to serve you
as your priestly people.
And we ask you:
Send your spirit
upon these gifts of your church;
gather into one
all who share
this bread and wine;
fill us with your holy spirit
to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise
and glorify you
through your Son, Jesus Christ.
Through him
all glory and honor are yours,
Almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church
both now and forever.
C: Amen

The Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Communion

We invite all who are baptized in Christ to come forward for communion. All are welcome at the Lord's table. Parents of young children are asked to let the pastor know if they want their child to receive communion or a blessing.

Communion is served by continuous table around the altar, and you are asked to take a place as openings appear.

Communion Anthem

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

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray.
Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all.

C: Amen.



Closing Hymn

ELW #281 "*Silent Night*"



Blessing and Dismissal

P: Let us bless the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and the Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.
C: Amen.

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Christmas Day Service

You are welcome again tomorrow morning for a Christmas Day worship service at **10:00 a.m.!** Join us in a joyful Christmas celebration!

Worship on Sunday, January 1st will be pre-recorded and available for virtual viewing only. There will be no in-person worship on this Sunday. You can find the service January 1st on our website, www.concordiafaith.org OR on our YouTube channel—Concordia Church Chicago.

The church office will be minimally staffed December 26th-January 8th. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Zook (773) 805-8191 or Jen Phillips (312) 933-4096.

Support Concordia Church's partnership with the Common Pantry through your donations of food or toiletry items or a monetary gift to this worthy cause. All donations will help sustain a "Take What you Need" food pantry in the lobby of Swedish Covenant Hospital for patients upon their discharge. Bring item donations to the church at any time. Text 'Concordia' to 73256 and choose the 'Social Impact' fund to give electronically.

concordia church

December 2022



From Pastor Zook—A Christmas Reflection

"...But one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Jesus Christ." Philippians 3: 13b-14

In the Church decorations for Advent at Concordia, you'll notice that our banners and liturgical paraments are all colored Blue, a nod to our Swedish ancestry. Advent in the Swedish tradition is Blue, the color of those long, dark midnight skies of the Nordic winters defused with the first hints of light, the color of what is to come, the color of Hope.

Advent is the season of Hope, and hope is looking to the future with joyful anticipation of wonderful things to come. St. Paul captures this Advent perspective with his description of a Christian life that strains forward, presses toward and reaches for the prize of our faith, the hope born of God's future for us in Christ. Like children eager for Christmas Day and the joy of what lies under the Christmas tree, let's be equally childlike in our outlook and stretch forward to the best that is yet to come.

Talk about looking forward, we are only a month away from the 125th Anniversary of Concordia Church—125 years of ministry from the first Swedish immigrants who formed our church to the generations of Christians who joyfully live their calling to ministry in this place. We're a congregation that knows the value of pressing forward and the joy of the prize of seeing our ministry open up in the lives of our neighbors.

I'm eager for what 2023 will bring. The signs all point forward. May God in Christ color your world Blue.

From the Church Council President—Our Christmas Appeal

Next year, in a matter of days really, Concordia Lutheran Church – our church- will celebrate 125 years in this community as a place of worship, a community center and a beacon of hope. I wonder sometimes, how many times, over how many years, has someone stood on the steps at the entrance to our church and thought – what will be next for us? The answer to that question has at least in part remained the same – we will be here, in this place, fulfilling the mission that we are called to.

In this Christmas appeal there are no hidden messages or agendas to be found. Just a straightforward appeal to your generosity. We are looking ahead to expanding Concordia's ministries – to do more, for more people and to reach further, deeper. We look forward with hope.



Our commitment and our faith fuels this hope, and our dollars enable us to make our hope a reality. In this season of generosity and gifts please consider giving a little more to Concordia. Ever dollar matters and every dollar will have an impact.

Merry Christmas!

Daniel Formeller

Support the **ministries of Concordia Church** through your offerings. There are multiple ways for you to give:

1) Mobile: Text 'Concordia' to 73256 and follow the link or scan the QR code here
2) Online: Visit www.onrealm.org/concordiafaith/give
3) Via cash or check left in the offering plate or mailed to the church at:

   3855 N Seeley Ave
   Chicago, IL 60618

Copyright Information:

Below is a list of all the songs that we are using in today's liturgy with their copy right information located with them.

Opening Hymn — ELW #283 "*O Come, All Ye Faithful*"

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

Carol — ELW #289 "*Angels We Have Heard on High*"

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887–1958

Closing Hymn — ELW #281 "*Silent Night*"

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885
Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

Notes on the Liturgy:

1. All liturgical music is from ELW, Setting 4
2. The Liturgy is printed from **The Evangelical Lutheran Worship** and is used with permission.
3. The offertory prayer, introduction to the prayers and conclusion are taken from **Sundays and Seasons**, Augsburg Fortress, 2019, and used with permission: license number 23952.
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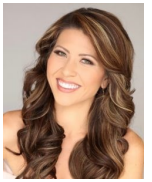
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