

*Christmas Lessons and Carols*  
*December 31, 2023*



## **WELCOME VISITORS**

*We invite you to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave the service today.  
Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.*

*Children are always welcome in church,  
If desired, there is an unstaffed nursery for those age 4 and younger  
located downstairs past the elevator, across the hall from the bulletin board.*

*Large print bulletins for today's worship are available,  
please feel free to ask an usher if interested.*

# Gathering

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand as you are able.*

We gather in this Christmas Season,  
in the name of the Father, and of ✝ the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome  
God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.  
**Forgive our lack of faith and trust.**

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.  
**Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.  
**Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear. For I bring you good news of  
great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

In ✝ Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know  
the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is  
good news of great joy! **Amen.**

**ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY (English)      LBW 50**

## OPENING DIALOG

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
**The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,  
on them light has shined.  
**We have beheld Christ's glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.  
**In the Word was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.**

**REJOICE, REJOICE THIS HAPPY MORN** (Danish)

**LBW 43**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## *Lessons and Carols*

**Introduction and story of “He Came Down”**

**Isaiah 9:2-7** *God promises a king*

**HE CAME DOWN** (Cameroonian) *See next page.*

# He Came Down

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;  
 he came down that we may have light;  
 he came down that we may have peace; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.  
 he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358.

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## Story of “Silent Night” with Children

### SILENT NIGHT (German/Austrian)

LBW 65

## Story of “I Wonder as I Wander”

**Luke 2:1-7** *The birth of Jesus*

**I WONDER AS I WANDER** (American/Appalachian) *See next page.*

# I Wonder As I Wander

Text & Music: Appalachian carol, collected by John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980

1 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how  
 2 When Mar - y birthed . . . Je - sus, all in a cow's stall, came  
 3 If Je - sus had . . . want - ed for an - y wee thing, a  
 4 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how

Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo - ple like  
 wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all, and high from the heav - ens a  
 star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's an - gels in  
 Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo - ple like

you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.  
 star's light did fall; the prom - ise of the a - ges it then did re - call.  
 heav'n for to sing, he sure - ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.  
 you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.

Story of "The First Noel"

**Luke 2:8-16** *The shepherds go to see the Savior*

**THE FIRST NOEL** (Celtic/ English)

LBW 56

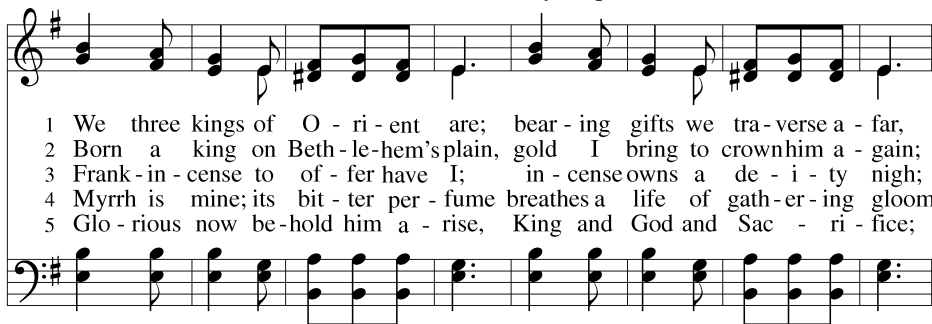
Story of "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

**Matthew 2:1-11** *The magi follow the star*

# WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE (Williamsport, PA)

## We Three Kings of Orient Are

Music and Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr.

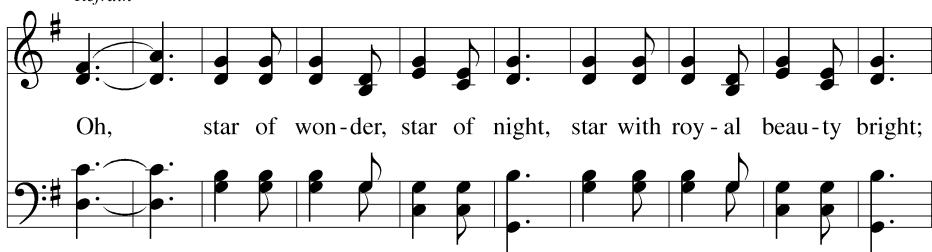


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;  
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

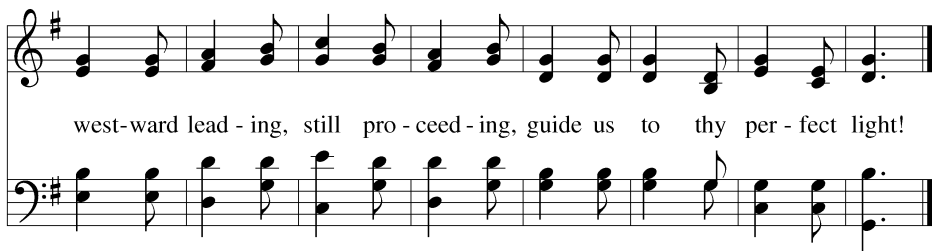


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

### Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

## Story of “Jesus, Name Above All Names”

Luke 2:21 *Jesus receives his name*

### JESUS, NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES Repeat Once (New Zealand)

Je - sus, name a - bove all names, ' beau - ti - ful

The first system of music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: Je - sus, name a - bove all names, ' beau - ti - ful.

Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord, Em -

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord, Em -.

man - u - el, God is with us, bless - ed Re -

The third system of music continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: man - u - el, God is with us, bless - ed Re -.

deem - er, liv - ing Word. Word.

The fourth system of music concludes the piece. The lyrics are: deem - er, liv - ing Word. Word.



## Story of “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

### RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Glory to God in the highest,  
**and peace to God’s people on earth.**

Blessed are you, Prince of peace.  
You rule the earth with truth and justice.  
**Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.  
You share our humanity.  
**Have mercy on the sick, the dying,  
and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God.  
You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.  
**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament  
that we may bear your light to all the world.**

**OF THE FATHER’S LOVE BEGOTTEN**  
(text: Spanish, music: Finish)

**LBW 42**

## Our Response

### GATHERING OF GIFTS

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church,  
including the care of those in need. Online giving is  
available at [felcc.org](http://felcc.org) or through this QR code*



### ANTHEM

*Please stand as you are able.*

**WHAT CHILD IS THIS? (English)**

**LBW 40**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered.  
Join our hearts with the song of the angels. Strengthen us to share  
with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace,  
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

## **NICENE CREED**

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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 in glory 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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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 INTERCESSION**

**Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

*Sending*

## **BLESSING**

**Our God is the Alpha and the Omega,  
the beginning and the end.**

**Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you at the dawn of this new year and forever more. Amen.**

**THE BELLS OF CHRISTMAS Verses 1-4 (Danish)**

**LBW 62**

## **DISMISSAL**

**Go in peace. Serve our newborn King. Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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***Please remember in your prayers ...***



**Healing:** Bonnie (1/5),  
Ruth Ann Brown (1/26),  
June Diehl (1/14),  
Joanne Fisher (1/14),  
Denise Heinbaugh (1/28),  
Garry Shatzer (1/4) Connie Twedt (1/4), Marilyn Yaukey (1/4)

**Long Term Care:** Pat Dent, Charles Kampmeyer and Joe Pine

**Grieving:** The family of (Jim Brown's sister) Trudy Gearhart

**Military:** Tawny & Brad Arnold, Rubens Paul, and Paul Whelan

<b><u>ATTENDANCE</u></b>	December 24	64 in person	14 on line
	Christmas Eve	76 in person	10 on line
	Christmas Day	32 in person	18 on line

**HOMELESS MATTERS DONATIONS** will be collected through today. There is a collection bin in Memorial Hall. Checks made out to Homeless Matters may be placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the church office.

**HOLIDAY CLOSING** Church office will be closed on Monday, January 1. If you have a pastoral emergency during the Christmas Season, please call Pastor Nicholson at home. 717-753-3940.

**YEAR-END APPEAL** We are very fortunate to have members who have faithfully contributed this year. Unfortunately, our anticipated giving levels are below what we budgeted for the year. We as a congregation are blessed to have built a "nest egg" from the benevolence of members past; however, it will not last if we continue to draw from it to cover operational costs. Please prayerfully consider supporting YOUR church. Sally Herritt Treasurer

**REMINDER:** If you are a Thrivent member, chances are you have Thrivent Choice Dollars to designate. At the end of the year, please consider designating those dollars to First Lutheran ASAP. The dollars that are not designated from this year are lost. You can designate your dollars by going to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) or calling 1-800-847-4836 and say "Choice Dollars".



**NEWSLETTER** We are working on being good stewards of the resources that have been entrusted to the church. With this in mind, we are requesting that you consider receiving the church newsletter via e-mail. For others, the newsletters will be in printed form and distributed at Sunday worship, choir practice, quilting, etc. To those who have not received it in person, the newsletter will be mailed to your home address the Monday following Sunday worship. Thank you for responding and working with us to try new avenues of communication.  
[felccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:felccoffice@gmail.com)



**HATS, SCARVES AND MITTEN/GLOVES COLLECTION** is in full swing for the January 13-15 fence hanging at First. There is a donation bin marked for items in Memorial Hall.

**HELP NEEDED** the congregation marveled at the gorgeous display of quilts on Sunday, October 8. We would like to continue this wonderful Lutheran World Relief project and would appreciate more help. Please join us for an hour or two every Wednesday morning. You can plan quilt tops, sew squares together, help construct the quilt "sandwich", tie knots, iron sheets. Everyone is welcome, male or female, young or old. Call Janet Friend (717 360 1977) or Nancy Fricke (717 267 5097) for more information.



**CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING** will be held on Sunday, January 21 following worship. This meeting will provide us with the opportunity to review the highlights of the past year and approve a ministry spending plan for 2024. We hope you will be able to join us.



**WOMEN OF THE ELCA** The January Bible Study will be held on Thursday January 11 at 1:30 p.m. in Meeting Room 1. We will continue our study of Max Lucado's book, He Choose the Nails, with Nancy Fricke as leader for the chapter "I Forgive You". All women of the church are welcome.



**VARIETY SHOW** Sunday, February 25 after worship. Lunch will be provided. Fundraiser for Youth Events. If you would be willing to be part of the "Show" please talk with Kristy Nienstedt.

## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**



	<b><u>December 31</u></b>	<b><u>January 7</u></b>	<b><u>January 14</u></b>
Lector:	Becky Hoover	Sally Herritt	Joyce Ray
Soundboard:	Marlin Maclay	Marlin Maclay	Bob Lawyer
Communion Assistants:		Becky Hoover Donna Ross Mike Ross	
Greeters:	Nancy Hamilton Kathy Shoop	Karen Naus	Karen Naus
Altar Guild:	Barb Evans Karin Woods	Barb Evans Karin Woods	Barb Evans Karin Woods
Ushers:	Gary Fleegal Rick Gates Tudy Gates Dennis Love Mark Nicholson	Barb Evans Rick Gates Denny Love Rob Willits Karin Woods	Barb Evans Rick Gates Denny Love Rob Willits Karin Woods



## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

**December 31 – January 7**

<b>Sunday</b>	10:45 a.m.	Worship
<b>Monday</b>		Office Closed
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Property Scouts
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:30 a.m.	LWR Quilters
<b>Thursday</b>	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Rose Ringer Choir
<b>Sunday</b>	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Sunday School Worship w/Holy Communion





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717-264-2015

Pastor

The Rev. Jane Nicholson

Pastoral Assistant

The Rev. Charles Kampmeyer

Director of Church Music

Freda J. Dorand, Deacon

Parish Administrator

Cheryl Christman

Treasurer

Sally Herritt

Financial Secretary

Carol McCoy

Custodian

Jennifer Flores

Church Office Hours – Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**We welcome visitors this morning.**

Please pick up a **visitor's packet**. They are located at the top of the steps.  
at the rear of the church or on the table at the elevator entrance.

### **Our Mission**

The mission of First Lutheran Church is to be the light of Jesus,  
burning brightly and vigorously in our community.

### **Sunday Schedule**

Donuts and Coffee at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School for All Ages at 9:30 a.m.

Worship at 10:45 a.m.

also on Facebook at First Evangelical Lutheran Church

and on our webpage at [www.FELCC.org](http://www.FELCC.org)

ALL are invited to hear and receive God's blessing in Jesus,  
and to worship with us.