

University Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

December 24, 2018



Christmas Eve

Who We Are:

- We are a progressive congregation with a history of taking action on peace and justice concerns;
- We support people of all sexual orientations and gender identities;
- We are passionate about our worship, and we cherish our music;
- We are poised on a threshold ready and eager to creatively try new and innovative ways for mission and ministry in the University District.
- We do not know where this will lead us, but we trust with all our being that God is already there and is drawing us to join in the parade. We do so with excitement and joy because . .

We Choose Love! ✦

(Wording taken from ULC 2017 Ministry Site Profile)



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH on this Christmas Eve when we rejoice that Jesus once again breaks into our world and renews our hope for peace. If you are visiting for the first time, this congregation offers you a place to be and belong. For those of you who are “returning home,” we are glad to see you again, and cherish the time that we can be together. Tonight is a time to dwell together in the joy and peace of Jesus Christ and renew our commitment to the peace and good will that Jesus came to reveal.

To learn more about University Lutheran Church, please see our website at www.universitylutheranseattle.org, take a pew brochure, or call us at 206-525-7074. Pastor Sue Schneider would love to speak with you.

WE WELCOME EVERYONE TO THE LORD’S TABLE to receive God’s gift of forgiveness and the powerful freedom of a new life in Christ. This evening we celebrate communion by **Intinction**. When you come down the center aisle you will be given a piece of bread (**Gluten-free wafers are available**) which you then dip into a chalice of wine (red) or a chalice of juice (golden), place the bread in your mouth and then return to your seat by the side aisle. If you would like to take a moment to kneel and pray at the communion rail you are invited to do so. Return to your seat when finished. If you are unable to come forward, please raise your hand after everyone else has been served and the Communion Assistants will come to serve you where you are.

THERE ARE BABY CHANGING TABLES available in both the men’s & women’s restrooms (across from the church office). There is also one in the Narthex.

CHILD CARE is available in the Nursery for children of any age. Ask an usher for directions.

OUR PRAYERS are with those living in fear or sorrow, those who are lonely, those that are unheard and anxious and for our members who are in need of strength and prayer.

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL WALK WITH THE MAGI on Sunday, January 6, 2019. We will meet in the lounge following our 9:30 a.m. worship service to follow the star around the block and see who we may meet. This event is open to everyone, and we especially would like to encourage all children to join us. Our Wise Men will lead us on a journey to find the baby Jesus (as well as some goodies for the children)! There will be a lunch in the fellowship hall after our walk as well and a piñata to crack open. Come and join the celebration!

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED until January 2, 2019.

Prelude

“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme”

J. S. Bach

Opening

(Please stand as you are able)

Processional

“Hark , the Herald Angels Sing”
(Watch the cross as it is carried forward.)

Green Hymnal #270

Welcome

Luke 2:10-11

The angel said to the shepherds, “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 as Savior, who is Christ, the Lord.”

P: As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem’s manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Confession& Forgiveness

A: 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)

A: Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

C: Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

A: Your child was born in the poverty of a stable.

C: Forgive our neglect of the poor.

A: The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

C: Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

A: 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.”

P: 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!

C: Amen.

Prayer

A: Let us pray together:

C: God of love and Creator of the universe, you have revealed yourself through Jesus of Nazareth and shown us the way of salvation. Fill us with your Spirit so that we may love with your love and pursue the things that make for peace within our families, in our communities, and throughout the world. Help us to put aside all animosity and enmity this night in order to make room for the One who comes to reconcile all of us with one another and with you. We pray in Jesus' blessed name. Amen.

(Please be seated)

Anthem

“I Shall Know Him When He Comes”

Douglas E. Wagner

I shall know Him when He comes,
Not with sound of pipe or drum,
But by the holy harmony
Which His coming makes in me.

He shall wear no royal robe,
Or a crown of precious gold,
But He my Lord, my King shall be
Always, ever there for me.

He shall not in castle warm,
Live in splendor, safe from harm.
But in a manger crude He'll sleep,
Warmed by the breath of cows and sheep.

Come, Lord Jesus, tarry not.
Find in me a resting spot.
My heart is open, come dwell within.
Let life be born in me again.

By the holy harmony
Which His coming makes in me.
I shall know Him when he comes.

Lessons and Carols

*Lesson 1
Carol*

Isaiah 9:2-7

“Once in Royal David's City”

#269
(v. 1 & 2)

Lesson 2
Carol

Isaiah 11:1-9
“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

#272
(v. 1 & 2)

Lesson 3
Carol

Isaiah 52:7-10
“Joy to the World”

#267

Lesson 4
Anthem

Micah 5:2-5
“This Little Babe”

Benjamin Britten
From “A Ceremony of Carols”
Poem by Robert Southwell

This little Babe so few days old,
Is come to rifle Satan's fold;
All hell doth at His presence quake,
Though He Himself for cold do shake.
For in this weak unarmed wise
The gates of hell He will surprise.

With tears he fights and wins the field,
His naked breast stands for a shield;
His battering shot are babish cries,
His arrow looks of weeping eyes,
His martial ensigns Cold and Need,
And feeble Flesh His warrior's steed.

His camp is pitched in a stall,
His bulwark but a broken wall;
The crib His trench, haystacks His stakes;
Of shepherds He His muster makes;
And thus, as sure his foe to wound,
The angels' trumps alarum sound.

My soul with Christ join thou in fight;
Stick to the tents that He hath pight.
Within His crib is surest ward;
This little Babe will be thy guard.
If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy,
Then flit not from this heavenly Boy.

Lesson 5
Carol

Luke 2:1-14
“Angels We Have Heard on High”

#289

Lesson 6
Carol

Luke 2:15-20
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#279

(Please be seated)

Homily

The Dawn of Redeeming Grace

(Please stand)

Hymn of the Day

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

#282

Prayers of the People

A: Hear us O God,

C: **Your mercy is great.**

(Please be seated)

Children’s Message

(Please stand)

Offertory

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

#283

(vv. 1 & 3)

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray together:

C: **Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

P: The Lord be with you

C: **And also with you.**

Eucharistic Prayer

P: Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, Jesus Christ, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await Jesus’ coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup that we may live as your children, shining with the light of Jesus, our Christ, through whom all glory and honor are yours, both now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

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.

(Please be seated)

Communion Distribution

“What Child Is This”	#296
“Love Has Come”	#292
“I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”	#271

(Please stand)

Communion Blessing

P: May the body and blood of Jesus, our Christ, be the gift that liberates us from our past, empowers us for the present, and gives us hope for the future as we follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **C: Amen**

Anthem

“O Holy Night”

Adolph Adam

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is Love and His gospel is Peace;
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name;
Christ is the Lord! O then ever praise we,
His power and glory ever more proclaim.

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
O night divine!

Lighting of the Candles

(The pastor will light the candles of the ushers, who will light candles at the end of each row. Please pass the flame from one candle to the next, remembering to hold the lit candle upright while the next person lights his/her candle.)

Benediction

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the everlasting peace of Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Carol

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Tell everyone what you have heard and seen.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Improvisation on “Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme”

(Please extinguish your candle and return it to an usher as you leave the sanctuary.)

Preacher: Pastor Sue Schneider

Assisting Minister: Janice Gockel

Director of Music: Brian Higham

Organist: Logan Hamilton

Lectors: Emily Anderson, Christian Oakley, Emmy Pehrson, Josh Pehrson, Nancy Swenson, Tom Swenson

Communion Assistants: Larry Gockel, Rich & Sharon Reuter, Sue Tong

Altar Guild: Linda Maschhoff

Greeters: Maynard & Darleen Atik, Leah Swenson

Acolytes: Alan Oakley & Jaydn Sandstrom

Children’s Message: Maynard Atik

Ushers: Mark & Mary Hillman, Carl Swenson, Eric Swenson