

Norman Davenport Lutheran Parish
Lessons and Carols
New Years Eve Worship - December 31, 2023
Pastor Katie Kringstad

Today's service will be an unconventional service of Lessons and Carols, where readings both scriptural and contemporary will carry us through the highlights of the Advent season all the way to the featured scripture from the Prologue of John, which boldly proclaims that the very Word of God has become flesh, dwelling among us. With the help of poets and lyricists, we will meditate on this miraculous story at the center of our faith in a God who promises to be Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Norman- Reader 1: Dawn Thompson Reader 2: Nicole Rohrbeck Reader 3: Craig Olson

Davenport- Reader 1: Jim Jermstad Reader 2: Joan Pratt Reader 3: Kristina Leslie

PRELUDE/WELCOME

DIALOGUE

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night, he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

so that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

GATHERING SONG *O Come O Come Emmanuel* (ELW #257) vs.1-4

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Gracious God of heaven and earth,
you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—
a beam of light that shines through Jesus.

Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation.

Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life.

Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world
and in our hearts.

Amen.

FIRST READING (Reader 1- N: Dawn Thompson D: Jim Jermstad) Genesis 3:8-19

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.' To the woman he said, 'I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.' And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it", cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

MEDITATION (Reader 1 N: Dawn Thompson D: Jim Jermstad) "Letter to fiancé from prison, Dec. 13, 1943" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
We shall ponder the incomprehensibility of our lot and be assailed by the question of why, over and above the darkness already enshrouding humanity, we should be

subjected to the bitter anguish of a separation whose purpose we fail to understand... And then, just when everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all. God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment. No evil can befall us; whatever men may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives.

FIRST CAROL *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* (ELW #270)

*Davenport Lutheran-Special music by Kaylee Brech "Angels We have Heard on High"

SECOND READING (Reader 1 N: Dawn Thompson D: Jim Jermstad)

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

SECOND CAROL *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (ELW 288)*

THIRD READING: (Reader 2 N: Nicole Rohrbeck D: Joan Pratt)

The Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.'²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.'³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

MEDITATION: (Reader 2 N: Nicole Rohrbeck D: Joan Pratt)

A Reflection on Mary Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Mary, grasped and seized by the Spirit

Speaks of God's coming into the world,
Of the advent of Jesus Christ

For she knows better than anyone else what it means to wait for Christ.
She waits for him in a way unlike anyone else.
She awaits him as his mother.
She knows about the mystery of his coming,
about the Spirit that is at play here,
about the almighty God who works his wonders.
She experiences in her own body
that God's ways with humans are wonderful,
that he isn't bound by human standards,
that he doesn't follow the path that humans like to lay out for him-
that his way is
beyond all understanding,
beyond all proof,
free, and
with a mind of its own.

THIRD CAROL *What Child is This? (verses 1 and 2)*

FOURTH READING: (Reader 2 N: Nicole Rohrbeck D: Joan Pratt)

Matthew's Christmas Story (Matthew 1:18-25)

Now 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.

MEDITATION: (Reader 2 N: Nicole Rohrbeck D: Joan Pratt)

"When the World was Dark" *From Cloth for the Cradle*

When the world was dark
And the city was quiet,
You came.

You crept in beside us.

And no one knew.
Only the few who dared to believe
That God might do something different.

Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?

Will you come into the darkness of tonight's world?
Not the friendly darkness
As when sleep rescues us from tiredness,
But the fearful darkness,
In which people have stopped believing
That the war will end
Or that food will come
Or that a government will change
Or that the church cares?

Will you come into that darkness
And do something different

To save your people from death and despair?

Will you come into the quietness of our cities and towns,
Not the friendly quietness
As when lovers hold hands,
But the fearful silence when
The phone has not rung,
The letter has not come,
The friendly voice no long speaks,
The doctor's face says it all?

Will you come into that darkness,
And do something different,
Not to distract, but to embrace your people?
And will you come into the dark corners
and the quiet places of our lives?

We ask this not because we are guilt-ridden
Or want to be,
But because the fullness our lives long for
Depends on us being as open and vulnerable to you
As you were to us,
When you came,
Wearing no more than diapers,
And trusting human hands
To hold their maker.

Will you come into our lives,
If we open them to you
And do something different?

When the world was dark
And the city was quiet
You came.

You crept in beside us.

Do the same this Christmas, Lord,
Do the same this Christmas.
Amen.

FOURTH CAROL *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (ELW 279)

FIFTH READING (Reader 3 N: Craig Olson D: Kristina Leslie)

Journey to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

MEDITATION: (Reader 3 N: Craig Olson D: Kristina Leslie)

God in the Manger Dietrich Bonhoeffer (a letter to his fiancé in 1943)

I think we're going to have an exceptionally good Christmas. The very fact that every outward circumstance precludes our making provision for it will show whether we can be content with what is truly essential. I used to be very fond of thinking up and buying presents, but now that we have nothing to give, the gift God gave us in the birth of Christ will seem all the more glorious; the emptier our hands, the better we understand what Luther meant by his dying words: "We're beggars; it's true." The poorer our quarters the more clearly we perceive that our hearts should be Christ's home on earth.

FIFTH CAROL *In the Bleak Midwinter (ELW 294)*

SIXTH READING (Reader 3 N: Craig Olson D: Kristina Leslie)

Journey to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

MEDITATION: (Reader 3 N: Craig Olson D: Kristina Leslie) *"Magnificat" by an*

anonymous Chilean woman

from Soul Weavings, edited by Lyn Klug

With pride and dignity I sing my song of joy
when I feel the Lord's presence;
I am poor and very ordinary,

but one day the Lord looked upon me
And the history of the poor will give witness to my joy.
God is unfettered and unpredictable,
He is called our great friend
And throughout our history He has favored those of us
who are weak.
His triumphant force shows itself each day
when He exposes the foolishness of the powerful.
He uncovers the feet of clay of those in power,
and nourishes the yearning of the poor.
To those who come hungry He gives bread and wine.
And to the wealthy He exposes their selfishness
and the emptiness of their ways.
This is God's desire: always to favor the poor.
Now finally we can walk.
He is faithful to His promises.

SIXTH CAROL *Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory* (ELW 561)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN *The First Noel (ELW 300) vs. 1-3*

So, bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullabye; Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Let us pray.

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to worship and offer our gifts with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life

**cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty,
and hunger in the world.**

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one in the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

BLESSING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story.

We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

You are the angels announcing peace.

We live with joy and go now in peace.

May Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen*

God rest ye merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember, Christ, our Saviour
Was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray

REFRAIN

REFRAIN

O tidings of comfort and joy

Comfort and joy

O tidings of comfort and joy

In Bethlehem, in Israel
This blessed Babe was born
And laid within a manger
Upon this blessed morn
The which His Mother Mary
Did nothing take in scorn

REFRAIN

From God our Heavenly Father
A blessed Angel came
And unto certain Shepherds
Brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by Name

REFRAIN

"Fear not then", said the Angel
"Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Saviour
Of a pure Virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's power and might"

REFRAIN

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

PRAYER REQUESTS- family & friends of Roy Kringstad, Shirley Berg, family & friends of Elaine Mitchell, family & friends of Virgil Hans, Melvin Anderson, Pastor Phil Larsen and family, Trudy Torgerson, Carol Malone, Bonnie Plath, Arlene Haux, Garret Fenner & family, Tanya Ausk, and Erickson family. Please pray for our elders.

We pray a special prayer of thankfulness to all the lineman and everyone that has worked so hard this week to restore power to those that have been out from the Christmas Day Ice Storm. Thank you! God Bless you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JANUARY WORSHIP TIMES beginning January 7th

Davenport Worship at 9:00am with Sunday School Kids Club during Worship 9:15-10 Norman will Worship at 11:00am with Sunday School during Worship 11:15-12:00pm

*Please help me reach my goal of having the directory updated by the annual meeting January 21st. Please send a family photo to normandavenportparish@hotmail.com
Thank you so much to those that have sent information!

*With school starting back from break this week, we will continue to help provide snacks for the elementary school. You may leave them at the church and we will drop them by the school. Individually wrapped items such as applesauce pouches or fruit cups, granola bars, etc...

*Interested in joining our Bible Study? We would love to have you with us! Contact Erin Westby with questions erin.westby@hotmail.com 701-730-0779
I am excited to announce that through a generous grant from the [Norman Lutheran Church Foundation](#), I have funds available to purchase a limited amount of Bible Recap books. I will be purchasing the travel-size version. If you would like one, your cost would be only \$5. This book is a wonderful resource designed to help you understand and love reading the Bible. If you have been thinking about joining us, now would be a great time to jump in!

*Thank you to all for helping the Norman Foundation reach their match goal! The Foundation does great things throughout our parish and community. This will help tremendously! So Grateful! Donations can be given also through the year.

***Annual Meetings**

Norman Lutheran annual meeting will be following Worship on January 21st. Meal following meeting. **Report information due Jan 14th** to normandavenportparish@hotmail.com Please send reports in Word format if possible.

Davenport Lutherans annual meeting will be following Worship on Sunday, January 28th. Potluck meal following meeting. **Report information due Jan 21st** to normandavenportparish@hotmail.com. Please use Word format if possible.

***Youth Ski Trip in the planning. More information to come!**

A look into next year, 2024.

The nominating committees will be looking to fill any open positions on the council, boards and committees. If you feel you are being called to help in an area of your congregation, please contact your President (N-Lukas Croaker and D-Renee Flom) or nominating committee member.

