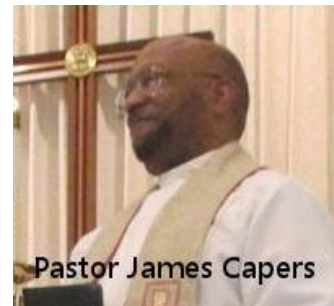


Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2023 7:30 p.m.

Salem Lutheran Church, 4700 W. 72nd Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46268
salemELCA.com facebook.com/salem175 youtube.com/@salemindy



At Salem, for the last 4 weeks, we have been in the waiting period during the season of Advent. And now we will experience the culmination of that waiting, as we welcome anew the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ, Savior. We will do this through lessons and preaching, new praise songs, dance and traditional carols. And we will also receive God's gift to us in the sacrament of the altar.

Pick up your communion wafer/cup as you enter the sanctuary. There is a basket for your tithes and offerings. You may also give through our web site, facebook page or by using the U. S. mail (addresses listed at the top of this page). **We have headphones available for those who need help hearing the service.**



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Tonight's scheduled musicians and participants:

Pastor James M. Capers	presiding minister and keyboard, recorder
Rachel Adolphe	acolyte
Keith Kunze	lector
Laura Morgan	worship assistant
Kalamo Adolphe	bassoon
Veronique Capers	voice
Marsha Jean-Baptiste	dance
Malcolm Julian	bass
Mitchell Julian	bass
Marie Lee	voice
Donny Lockett	guitar
Ricky Lomax	drums
James Nelson	trumpet
Charles Rader	bassoon
Bryan Reid	trumpet
Lee Ara Watson	voice
Marshall Watson	recorder

I. The Gathering

*The bell is rung to announce the beginning of the service.
We light the candles.*

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

PUBLIC DOMAIN Music: French processional, 15th cent.

THE WELCOME

Laura Morgan

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All **And also with you.**

CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you

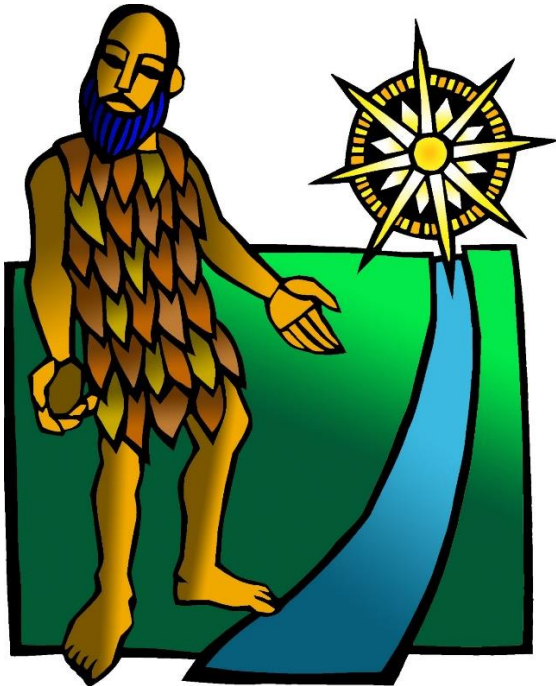
All **And also with you**

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, through the ages you have sent your promise to your people in many ways, through many voices. But it is in these last days, your Son has come to bring it among us in person. Through your Spirit, prepare our hearts to recognize him and to receive him as our Lord and Savior.

All **Amen.**

II. The Prophets



LESSON: Isaiah 40:3-5

Laura Morgan

CAROL

What Child Is This

ELW 296



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Music: English ballad, 16th cent.

LESSON: Exodus 6:2-7a**Keith Kunze****LITURGICAL DANCE****Marsha Jean-Baptiste****O Holy Night****LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-10****Laura Morgan****CAROL***He Came Down***ELW 253**

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

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Text: Cameroon traditional

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

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LESSON: Isaiah 42:5-9**Keith Kunze**

Song: Amezaliwa**The Children of Salem**

The Adolphe family: Rachel, Divine, David, and Natalie

Translation from the Swahili language:

He has been born, Our Savior Jesus
Over in Bethlehem
They left everything so that they may
Go and see the Child

III. The Gospel

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14****HOMILY****Pastor James Capers**

Song: Vive Noel**Marie Lee*****Translation from the Creole language:***

NOEL is with us every day!
 Noel, is love for our brothers.
 Noel is the peace and joy,
 Sing Noel, sing, sing Noel,
 Lamb of God sent from heaven, to brightening our hearts
 Noel is when we gather to worship the Lord!
 Noel is love one another;
 Noel is when we are reconciled to one another;
 Sing Noel, sing, sing Noel,
 Lamb of God sent from heaven, to brightening our hearts

IV. The Offering, Prayer and Sacrament

INVITATION TO GIVING**SONG OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE****For God So Loved the World****Veronique Capers, Lee Ara Watson and Pastor Capers****Chorus**

Wisemen, bowed before Him,
 Shepherds, came to adore Him!
 Angels, came down to sing,
 Glory, to the new-born King.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

All Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy, mighty, and merciful Father,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
Who reached out to heal the sick and suffering.
Who preached good news to the poor,
And who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
Our Lord Jesus took bread,
And 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,
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.

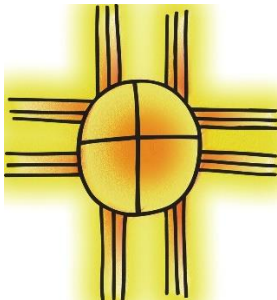
Remembering therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
We await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us,
The Spirit of your love, O Lord
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
The body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
To whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now
and forever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (traditional)

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.



THE COMMUNION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

V. The Sending



The pastor gives the light to ushers. They share the light with those along the inner aisle who share them with those who are to their left or right.

Never tilt a lit candle. Always tilt the unlit candle to light it.

Silent Night

ELW 281

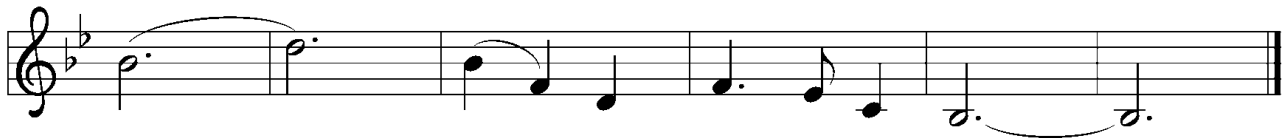

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

Candles stay lit during the blessing.



BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

P Let us bless the newborn Babe of Bethlehem.
In our Savior, God is with us.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

All Amen.

Lights on. Candles are extinguished.

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

ELW 297

All sing the refrain. Cantor Lee Ara Watson sings the verses.

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.

Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and

mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.

Lis - ten to the an - gels sing: "Glo - ry, glo - ry,

glo - ry," let the heav - ens ring!

Text: African American traditional, alt.

Music: African American traditional; arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1953-2002

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**Join us again on the First Sunday of
Christmas – December 31 at 10:30 a.m.**