

# VASHON LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Nativity of Our Lord  
Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2023  
3:45 PM Worship**

**Vashon Lutheran Church**  
**Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023**

**PRELUDE** *Dickens Caroling Group* Marita Ericksen, Lauri Hennessey, Dr. Gary Koch, Dianne Kutzke, Joe Kutzke, Nancy Lee Spears, vocalists; Paul Colwell, mandolin & vocals

*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

**WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Carol:** *Joy to the World* *ELW, #267, vs. 1, 2, & 4*

*1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

*2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.*

**Greeting**

Marlee Koch, Reader

M: Today old dreams die and new dreams come to life. The promise is fulfilled.

**C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

M: Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation. **C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

M: The candles tell the story. Dawn invades midnight. The Light of the world has come.

**C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

M: This light is a light for all, warming us from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God in human flesh, within us and among us now and always.

**C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will to all.**

**Carol:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* *ELW, #283, vs. 1 & 4*

*Latin Verse – Solo – Dr. Gary Koch*

**ALL:**

*1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him, born the king of angels:*

**Refrain:** *O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!*

*Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:*

**Refrain:** *O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

June Langland, Assisting Minister

Let us pray. 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. **Amen.**

**Reading:** Isaiah 9: 2 – 4

Dr. Gary Koch, Reader

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.

**Carol:** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

*ELW, #282, vs. 1 & 4*

*1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*

*4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

**Reading:** Isaiah 9: 6 – 7

Elise Ericksen, Reader

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.

**Carol:** *What Child Is This?*

*ELW, #296, vs. 1 & 3*

*1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*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 lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say:*

*Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.*

*Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

*2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss:*

*Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.*

*Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

*Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 1-4*

Marlee Koch, Reader

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 2.

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.

*Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*ELW, #279, vs. 1 – 3*

*1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.*

*The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*2 For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!*

*3 How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

*Gospel Reading: Luke 2:5-7*

Rev. Dr. Joe Kutzke, Reader

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.

*Carol: Away in A Manger*

*ELW, #277*

*1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.*

*I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

*3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.*

*Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.*





## Silent Night, Holy Night! *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*

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

### CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Marlee Koch, Reader

God bless you and keep you, ✚ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

### *Sending Carol:*

### *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

*ELW, #290, v. 1 & 3*

**Refrain:** *Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. **Refrain** (above)*
- 3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain** (above)*

**Dismissal:** Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE:**

Marita Ericksen

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Worship Assistants this afternoon are:

Assisting Minister – June Langland  
Readers – Marlee Koch, Dr. Gary Koch, Elise Ericksen,  
Rev. Dr. Joe Kutzke, June Langland  
Musicians – Marita Ericksen, Dianne Kutzke,  
Lauri Hennessey, Nancy Lee Spears, Dr. Gary Koch,  
Rev. Dr. Joe Kutzke, Paul Colwell  
Ushers – Jim Dam, Elise & Frankie Ericksen

Worship Assistants in 2 weeks (1/7/24)

Care Pastor – Pr. John Michael Barich  
Assisting Minister - TBA  
Lector– TBA  
Communion Assistant – TBA  
Musician – Dinah Helgeson  
Cantor – Marita Ericksen  
Usher – TBA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poinsettias donated from:

Marita, Elise & Frankie Ericksen

Roger and Martha Gebhard  
Dinah Helgeson  
Pr. Joe & Dianne Kutzke  
June Langland  
Jeff & Gail Larson  
Judy Lorange

In Memory/Recognition of:

Rev. John Ericksen, husband, father & grandpa and  
in recognition of Frankie, our young Acolyte!  
Ted & Doris Gebhard, Paul & Vene Marmont  
Loved Ones & in recognition of June Langland  
Marcy & Milton Beck, Ted Burger, Jack & Jean Kutzke  
Dwayne Langland  
Parents - Cherri & Lowell Larson & Karen & Dave Witte  
Husband, Richard Lorange

Contact Gail Larson (206/567-4779) with your prayer request.

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

**SUNDAY**

1<sup>st</sup>  
Dec. 31, 2023, 10:00 AM  
Jan. 7, 10:30 AM  
6:30 – 8:30 PM

Food Bank Sunday  
Worship at CHS, Episcopal  
Worship at VLC  
AA Group

**MONDAY**

Dec. 25, 2023 & Jan. 1, 2024  
4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Offices closed  
VCN Board Meeting

**TUESDAY**

2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 AM – noon

Quilt Sewing Group  
Vashon Quilting Group

**WEDNESDAY**

1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 AM – noon  
1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 PM  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 PM

Lutheran Quilters Group  
Prayer & Healing Service  
VLC Council Meeting

**THURSDAY**

6:30 – 7:30 PM  
4<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM

VCN Caregivers Support Group at VLC  
IFCH Dinner prepared VLC, served VPC

**FRIDAY**

7:00 – 8:30 PM

AA Group for Men





**Vashon Lutheran Church**

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**Email: [vlc98070@centurytel.net](mailto:vlc98070@centurytel.net)**

**Website: [www.vashonlutheran.org](http://www.vashonlutheran.org)**

**Pr. John Michael Barich, Care Pastor  
(206) 463-2655**

## Hymns for December 24, 2023

ELW, 267, v. 1, 2, 4	Joy to the World
ELW, 283, v.1, 3, 4	O Come, All Ye Faithful
ELW, 282, v. 1 & 4	It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
ELW, 296, v. 1, 3	What Child Is This?
ELW, 288, v. 1 & 2	Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
ELW, 279, v. 1 – 3	O Little Town of Bethlehem
ELW, 277	Away In A Manger
ELW, 275, v. 2 & 4	Angels, From the Realms of Glory
ELW, 300, v. 1 & 2	The First Noel
ELW, 289, v. 1 & 3	Angels We Have Heard on High
ELW, 281	Silent Night, Holy Night!
ELW, 290, v. 1 & 3	Go Tell It on the Mountain



