## VASHON LUTHERAN CHURCH



Third Sunday of Advent Dec. 17, 2023

# Vashon Lutheran Church <br> Third Sunday of Advent 

Dec. 17, 2023
PRELUDE
Marita Ericksen
"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

## GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS CANDLELIGHTING

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, LBW, \#34, vs. 1-3 \& Refrains
Cantor: Verse 1-O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Congregation: Refrain - Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel.
Cantor: Verse 2 - O come, $O$ come, $O$ Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty and awe. Repeat Refrain Cantor: Verse 3 - O Come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. All Repeat Refrain (above)

## ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING:

## Congregation stands as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:
Rev. John Michael Barich
P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ¥ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. C: Amen. Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Everlasting God,
C: you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and selfcenteredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

P: Hear these words of assurance:
God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of $\ddagger$ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God’s covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. C: Amen.

## People, Look East



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965
Music: BESANCON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
Text 6 Miss E. Farieon Winl Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.
Arr. 01999 Novelio \& Company Litcl., London, United Kingdom. All rights reserved. International copyright secured.
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P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: And also with you.


Song of Praise (next page):
ACS, $p .31$


## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Congregation sits

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Lector: A reading from Isaiah, Chapter 61.
L: The spirit of the Lord GoD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion-
to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.
For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GoD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.
Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.
PSALM: Psalm 126
Nancy Lee Spears, Cantor


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When the LoRD restored the for- ${ }^{-}$tunes of Zion, *then were we like ${ }^{1}$ those who dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with ${ }^{\mid}$shouts of joy. *Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great ${ }^{1}$ things for them." The Lord has done great ${ }^{l}$ things for us, * and we are ${ }^{l}$ glad indeed.
Restore our for- ${ }^{\prime}$ tunes, O LORD, *like the watercourses ${ }^{\text {' }}$ of the Negeb.
Those who ${ }^{1}$ sowed with tears * will reap with ${ }^{1}$ songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, carry- ${ }^{1}$ ing the seed,
*will come again with joy, shoulder- ${ }^{-}$ing their sheaves.
SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Judy Carr, Lector
L: A reading from 1 Thessalonians, Chapter 5.
L: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God. Please stand as able


GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28
Rev. John Michael Barich
P: The Holy Gospel according to John, Chapter 1.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.
P: There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said,
"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.
Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.
P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## Congregation sits

MESSAGE:
Rev. John Michael Barich

## My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness



Texi: Wath One Voice, 1995 , based on the Magnificat
Music: KNNGSFOLD, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Wilhams, 1872-1958
Text 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
Outside USA: Arr. from The Enghish Hymfal, O Oxford University Press 1906 . All rights reserved.
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## 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. Please sit

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Hazel Shull Nelson, Assisting Minister (A)
A: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A: Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

A: Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

A: You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

A: Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need. Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. We lift up all those in need, either silently or aloud...Merciful God, receive our prayer.

A: Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized.
Merciful God, receive our prayer.
A: With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

P: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. C: Amen.

P: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. C: And also with you.
P: (At the end of passing of the peace) Now is the time for the sharing of our gifts to God.

## Wait for the Lord



Mext: Taizé Community LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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## OFFERING PRAYER:

P: Let us pray. God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## Congregation stands as able

## GREAT THANKSGIVING:

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.
P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C : It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE:

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:


## WORDS OF INSTITUTION/LORD'S PRAYER/COMMUNION:

P: 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, 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.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
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.

P: Invitation to Communion: This is the table, not of this church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little; come, you who have been here often and you who have not been here in a long time. Come, you who have never been before; come, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, not because the church invites you; this is Christ, and he invites you to meet him right here.

Congregation Sits


Communion Hymn \#2:
ELW, \#300

## The First Noel



Text: English taditional
Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. C: Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

P: Let us pray. Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. C: Amen.

## BLESSING:

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit $\ddagger$ remain upon you now and forever. C: Amen

Sending Song:
ELW, \#269, v. 1 \& 2

## Once in Royal David's City



Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

## DISMISSAL:

P: Go in peace. Keep awake. C: Thanks be to God.
POSTLUDE:

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## Worship Assistants Today:

Care Pastor - Rev. John Michael Barich
Assisting Minister - Harriet Shull Nelson
Lector - Judy Carr
Communion Assistant - Janet Williams
Usher - Jim Dam
Musician - Marita Ericksen
Cantor - Nancy Lee Spears
Communion Set Up - Gail Larson

Worship Assists next week, 12/24/23, 10:30AM :
Care Pastor - Rev. John Michael Barich
Assistant Minister - TBA
Lector - Patte Wagner
Communion Assistant - TBA
Usher - Jim Dam
Musician - Marita Ericksen
Cantor - Marita Ericksen
Communion Set Up - TBA

Christmas Eve, Sunday, 12/24, 3:45 PM (Caroling Group Prelude) \& 4:00 PM "Candles, Lessons \& Carols" Worship Service. Bring the whole family and join in singing your favorite Christmas Carols!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you, Rev. John Michael Barich for your participation in worship today at VLC!
Contact Gail Larson (206/567-4779) with your prayer requests.
VYFS Giving Tree - The Giving Tree is set up in the fellowship hall. Today is the deadline to bring back your gift tag, with the gift for the child on the tag and put it under the Giving Tree. Thank you!

Prayer \& Healing Service - Rev. Jeff Larson PhD is offering a prayer \& healing service on the first Weds. of the month at 6:30 PM, in the sanctuary. All are welcome!

IFCH Dinner Program: VLC provides hand out meals at Vashon Presbyterian Church at 5:00 PM the fourth Thurs. of the month. Contact Patte Wagner: pattewags@aol.com to help.

The Care Closet, Medical Equipment/Supplies - 206-473-8715. Vashon Care Network - 206-473-8715.
Email: contact@vashoncarenetwork.org; website: www.vashoncarenetwork.org
VCN FAMILY CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP - Vashon Care Network invites you to join other family caregivers in a safe, supportive space to share the experience of caregiving. Support circles are Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 PM at Vashon Lutheran. ?? Contact Kathy Shafel, kshafel@comcast.net, cell: 206.718-1458 or Tory Hayes, victoriansmith@comcast.net, 206.304-4544.

Poinsettias donated from:
Marita, Elise \& Frankie Ericksen
Roger and Martha Gebhard
Dinah Helgeson
Pr. Joe \& Dianne Kutzke
June Langland
Jeff \& Gail Larson
Judy Lorance

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 Lorance

SUNDAY
$1^{\text {st }}$
10:30 AM
6:30-8:30 PM
Dec. 24, 10:30 AM \& 4:00 PM
Dec. 31, 10:00 AM
MONDAY
10:00 AM
$4^{\text {th }}, 6: 00-8: 00$ PM
TUESDAY
$2^{\text {nd }}, 9: 00$ AM - 1:00 PM
$3^{\text {rd }}, 10: 00 \mathrm{AM}$ - noon
WEDNESDAY
$1^{\text {st }}, 9: 00 \mathrm{AM}$ - noon
$1^{\text {st }}, 6: 30 \mathrm{PM}$
THURSDAY
6:30-7:30 PM
$4^{\text {th }}, 5: 00$ PM
FRIDAY
7:00-8:30 PM

Food Bank Sunday
Worship
AA Group
Christmas Eve Worship Services at VLC
New Year's Eve Worship Service at COHS

Intercessory Prayer Group
VCN Board Meeting

Quilt Sewers Group
Vashon Quilting Group

Lutheran Quilters Group
Prayer \& Healing Service

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

AA Group for Men


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Tuesday - Friday 12 PM - 3 PM
Phone: (206) 463-2655
Email: vlc98070@centurytel.net
Website: www.vashonlutheran.org

## Hymns for Dec. 17, 2023

LBW, 34, v.1-3

ELW, 248

ELW, 251

ELW, 262 (3X)

ACS, p. 40

ELW, 300

ELW, 269, v. 1 \& 2

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

People, Look East

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

Wait for the Lord

Be Known to Us, Lord

The First Noel

Once in David's Royal City

