



FOURTH SUNDAY OF

Advent

December 24, 2017

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Our vision is to be an expanding community of faith, growing in the Holy Spirit,
and practicing before the world a Christ-centered life.

Missionaries:

All the people of God

Music Director:

Art Hargrove

Instrumentalist:

Bradley Sowell

Church Secretary:

Deb Krahling

Church Office:

706-485-4600

Music Director's Cell:

706-473-1290

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Eatonton, GA 31024

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Aids for hearing, children's activity bulletins, and large print bulletins are
available from the ushers



WE OFFER NURSERY & CHILDCARE
*If you need childcare, please see one of the ushers
and we will happily accommodate you.*

*Ushers: Roger Martinson & Keith Mulford
Altar Care: Sandy Mathson*

Pre-Service Music: This is time to turn our hearts & minds toward God in preparation of worship.

Choir Prelude: Mary Did You Know

Welcome: Birthdays, Anniversaries, Welcome guests.

Please Stand

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(You are invited to wish those around you God's peace. Please remain standing for the invocation.)

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Upon this, your confession, I, as your brother in the faith, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Congregational Hymn (To sing harmony, turn to # 370 in the Lutheran Service Book)

What Child is This?



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 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!

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Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: We pray for God's blessing as we Call a new pastor.

C: Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on this Your Church in our time of transition. Give guidance from the Holy Spirit to all involved in the Call process. Our prayer is that, in Your good time and according to Your good plans, we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for Your people and equip us for witness and service to the world around us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First Lesson – 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Reader: Sandy Mathson

Psalm 89:1-5

P: ¹I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;

C: with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

P: ²For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever;

C: in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."

P: ³You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

C: I have sworn to David my servant:

P: ⁴I will establish your offspring forever,

C: and build your throne for all generations."

P: ⁵Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
C: **your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!**

Second Lesson – Romans 16:25-27

Reader: Sandy Mathson

Please Stand

Common Alleluia and Verse

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He 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 father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I

am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Title: Immanuel: Our God-with-Us and Your God-for-YOU

Tom Mathson

Congregational Hymn (To sing harmony, turn to # 343 in the Lutheran Service Book)

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo-ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom-ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.

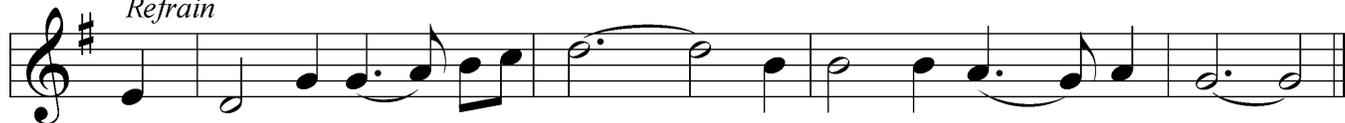


Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar-ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind-ness so a - bound-ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Instrumental Anthem:

Bradley Sowell

Please stand as the offering is brought to the altar.

Create in Me

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

The first system of musical notation for 'Create in Me' consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature. The melody starts on a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and the same key signature and time signature. The accompaniment starts with a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3. The lyrics 'Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -' are written below the notes.

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The treble staff continues the melody with quarter notes D5, E5, F5, and G5. The bass staff continues the accompaniment with quarter notes D2, E2, F2, and G2. The lyrics 'new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -' are written below the notes.

way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it

from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy sal-va-

tion, and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A-men.

Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray

C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for all the people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief Silence

P: Lord, the time of preparation is almost over and Your visitation is near; keep us focused on the Gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ. May it bring about the obedience of faith in us and all who hear Your Word this season. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, You continue to provide pastors for Your Church to proclaim the coming of Your Son. Be with all professional church workers as they work to serve Your people with the gifts of Word and Sacrament. Allow them to boldly speak the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord of the nations, look with mercy upon Donald, our president; Nathan Deal, our governor; and all those who make, administer and judge our laws. May they use their authority wisely and according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, we thank You for those who look out for our well-being and protect us from harm. Give Your blessing and protection to police, to firefighters, to medical workers, to the members of our armed forces and to all first responders whose vocations put them on the front lines of danger, trouble and disaster. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, nothing is impossible with You. You sent Your Son into the world to be the great physician of body and soul. Give to _____ and all who are ill comfort and healing, if it be Your will, and patience and trust that come what may, You are with them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, while we await the coming of Your Son, we remember with thanksgiving those who were before us in the faith and are now with You. Keep and preserve us in the one true faith to life everlasting until You bring us together with them into Your eternal Kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, we commend to You all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Announcements

Please Stand

Benediction

P: Almighty God, Father, Son ✠, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Congregational Hymn (To sing harmony, turn to # 386 in the Lutheran Service Book)

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

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The Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

+

Post-service Music

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THANK YOU TO TOM MATHSON for leading us in worship today.

GOD'S BLESSINGS to all those celebrating birthdays this week:

- Saturday, December 30th – Alison Ringer

Anniversaries

- Wednesday, December 27th – Jeff & Cherrie Sommer
- Friday, December 29th – Dana & David Beck

Best wishes!

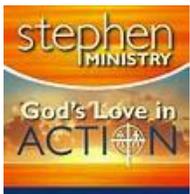


Altar Flowers are given in celebration of the Christ child

LET US PRAY FOR THE FAMILY OF THE WEEK: Keith Mulford

*****CALL FOR ALTAR CARE & USHERS:** we really need your help for the New Year! A signup sheet is on the round table. Thank you in advance for your service.

PASTORAL CARE: If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Ron Schornhorst at 706-484-9855.



STEPHEN MINISTERS: Virginia Daley & Leroy Horst are available if you are in need of someone to listen. No concern too large or too small. Contact Virginia at 706-485-3564

THANK YOUs:

Dear LOLC Friends,

Thank you all for the memorials given in Rodney's name totaling, \$5,280 and sent to Food For The Poor. You are truly all a caring family.

Love, Donna Hansen

Thank you to all the people that went out of their way to make refreshments for the MESSIAH concert. Even though they were not all consumed that evening – they were still delicious!

Love, Marcia Elkins & Connie Piepenbrink

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday	ECR Bible Study	3:30 p.m.
	ECR Service	5:00 p.m.
Sunday	Adult Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
	Choir Practice	9:00 a.m.
	Worship Service	10:30 a.m.



CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TONIGHT
Sunday December 24th @ 6:30 p.m.: It will be a program for all ages - the telling of the Christmas story through scripture & music.



Prayer Requests

Those we keep in our prayers:

Sue Amick	Cathy Hayes
Ed Blosser	Sherry Jones
Lillian Blosser	Charles McElroy
Barbara Crawford	William & Nancy Mickler
Carol Dunn	Donald Mulford
Mike Dunn	Ricky Newsom
Martha Glenn	Dalton Pearce
Donna Hansen	Carol Pope
Jim Kueven	Phil Riley
Phil Larsen	Jean Smith
Patsy Mahs	Mark Sullivan
Si Si Petrea	Duane Taylor
John Zawislak	Larry Wells
Francis Cooper	Alexis Ward
Wanda Davis	Ellen Warren
Cindy Fritch	Ilene Wolfe
Nadine Haydon	Jody Worth

Those families who are grieving:

- The Mahs family
- The Sollenberger family
- The Fuller family
- The Hansen family
- The Chambers family
- The Petrea family

OUR VALUES AS A CONGREGATION

Word and Sacrament –

...believing in and making faithful and frequent use of the Bible, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper as the means by which God gives and sustains faith and empowers and strengthens us for Christian living.

Christian Education –

...providing quality, Bible based instruction to foster greater understanding of God's Word and to better equip members for their discipleship.

Evangelism –

...reaching out to others by word and deed to join in the sharing of God's blessings and grace, which is free to all believers.

Stewardship –

...utilizing fully our time, talents, and resources to serve and love the Lord, furthering our commission of discipleship.

Fellowship –

...caring for and sharing with our church family; fostering greater love, understanding, and concern for the physical and spiritual well-being of all brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

The window behind the altar is our EASTER SUNRISE WINDOW.

The cross hanging in front of the window is an empty cross, reminding us that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive now to be with us here and always. Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter. The symbol on the front of the ALTAR is a combination of two Greek letters: the "chi," which looks like our English "x," and the "rho," which looks like our "p." In the Greek, these letters are the first two of "Christ." Combined as they are, they suggest the cross. Superimposed on the cross is a heart, the reminder that God's love for us is the reason Jesus died on the cross. God's love for us empowers us to share his love with others.