



Judy Swanson

SERVICE OF THE WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20, 2020 † 9:00 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are listening this morning!

During the season of COVID-19 pandemic, St. John's will continue to follow state and federal guidance for public gatherings. We deeply miss seeing our community in person and eating at the Lord's table together. We hold fast to the knowledge that we are not the first generation to experience fear of deadly disease, and we are not the first community separated unwillingly by circumstances.

We know that the resources of our faith can sustain us as we are apart.

Our prayer is that in this broadcast you can hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you through the Word; that you can sing along and join in fervent prayer for our world, and that as we share the peace, you can set an intention to reach out, in whatever ways this moment allows, to share God's love with someone else.



St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background.

While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together, believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.

We warmly welcome you here.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

Aaron David Miller

Welcome and Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

☐ Blessed be God, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

☑ **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

☐ Loving and forgiving God,

☑ **we confess that we are held captive by sin.
Even with our best efforts, we have gone astray.
We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God.**

**Wake us, turn us from our sins,
and renew us each day in the light of Christ.**

☐ People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace
your sins are forgiven and you are free—
free from all that holds you back,
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love,
† comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

☑ **Amen.**



Judy Swanson

*Hymn — “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” (#242)

REJOICE, REJOICE



A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels her - ald its
To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u - el comes a -
In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the world is de -
Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though dark the win - ter and



dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, be -
sing - ing, his hum - ble song is qui - et and near, yet
spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and free, so
cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with light, be



hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens wide the
bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness, the thun - der of his
forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be raised a -
love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry



heav'n - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
an - thems roll to shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, © 1983 GIA Publication, Inc.

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- ☐ We light candles during Advent, praying that our preparation for Christmas may help us look outward in love and look forward in hope.

Through an angel, God speaks to Mary:
You will conceive and give birth to a son,
and you are to give him the name Jesus. God will give him the
throne of his ancestor David and his reign shall never end.

Through Mary, God speaks to us:
 My spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, whose name is holy,
 who has scattered the proud, brought down the monarchs
 from their thrones, raised on high the lowly,
 filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

We light our fourth candle as a sign of God's love,
 shining in the world through people past and present.

C **Risen Christ, Light of the world,
 shine in our lives and shine among us now.**

***Response Hymn — “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (#257)**

VENI, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
 O come, O Day - spring come and cheer; O Sun of jus - tice, now draw near
 that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, tr. composite; Music: French processional, 15th cent.

***Greeting**

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

***Prayer of the Day**

- P** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and
 might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly
 we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign
 with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evil-doers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading — Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation — “Wait for the Lord” (#262)**

WAIT FOR THE LORD

Musical score for "Wait for the Lord" (#262). The score is written for voice and piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 8/8. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!"

Text: Taizé Community; Music: Jacques Berthier © 1994 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications

***Gospel — Luke 1:26-38**

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁶In 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 forever, 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.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**



RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (#295) DIVINUM MYSTERIUM



Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the world be - gan to be,
Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin, full of grace,
This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with one ac - cord,
Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing;



he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the source, the end - ing he,
by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race,
whom the voic - es of the proph - ets prom - ised in their faith - ful word;
pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him and ex - tol our God and King;



of the things that are that have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
and the babe, the world's re - deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; Music: Plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

*Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

L Lord, in your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.

*Peace

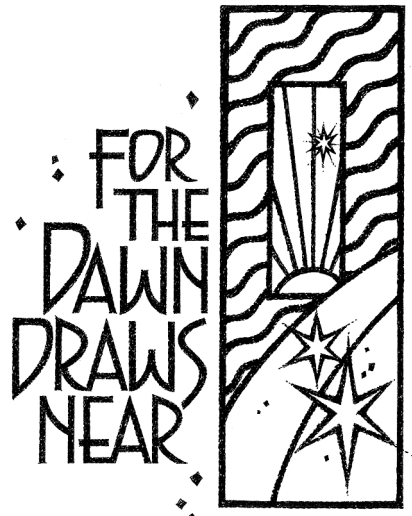
P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Offering of Our Gifts

"Canticle of the Turning"

Anne Krentz Organ



***Thanksgiving for the Word** Refrain from “A New Magnificat” by Carolyn Jennings

☐ Holy God, the Beginning and the Ending, our Hope as we wait,
we praise you for joining us to your people of old.
We bless you for your prophets who call us to righteousness
and promise a new earth with peace for all.

Refrain:



We praise you for the coming of Jesus our Lord,
who lifts up the lowly, heals the suffering world,
and proclaims your way of mercy and truth.

Refrain

Send your Spirit on all who receive your Word.
Nurture our faith with your grace,
accompany us with your might,
and empower our zeal for your justice and joy.
For your Word through the church,
we praise you, O God.

Refrain

***The Lord's Prayer**

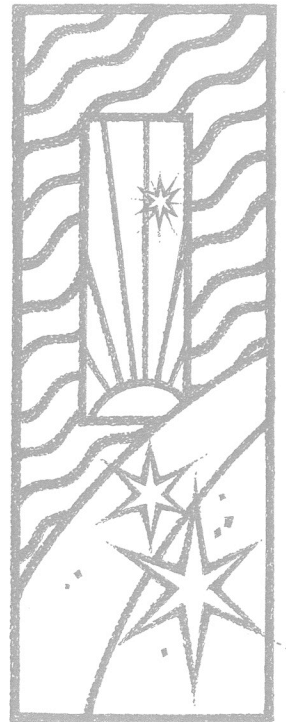
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

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.**



DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response: ☐ Amen.

*Sending Hymn — “Canticle of the Turning” (#723)

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN



My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my
 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . . work great . .
 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a stone will be
 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re - mem - ber who



heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the won - drous things that you
 things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the depths of the past to the
 left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice tears ev - 'ry
 holds us fast: God's . . . mer - cy must de - liv - er us from the



bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's
 end of the age to be. Your ver - y name puts the proud to
 ty - rant . . . from his throne. The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no
 con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This sav - ing word that our fore - bears



plight, and my weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to
 shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your
 more, for the food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles
 heard is the prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and



west shall my name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 might, put the strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 spread; ev - 'ry mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 rod can be crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

***Dismissal**

- ☪ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- 🔊 Thanks be to God.

Postlude — “Nimrod” from *Enigma Variations*

Edward Elgar, arr. Alan Ridout



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching Pastor Pam Fickenschier
Assisting Ministers Goettsch Family
Organist Nathan Proctor

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Bulletin artwork by Judy Swanson; Confirmation banner by Judy Swanson

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Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in loving memory of Don McRae by Marilyn McRae Raadt and family. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office. Next available dates: February 28 and March 28. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television (NTV)-cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

Stewardship Campaign Update

Thank you to all who have already submitted their 2021 pledge card. If you have not yet indicated your intent, please do so as soon as possible to help facilitate our work on next year's budget. Please submit your giving intention for next year via the online form on our website or contact Leah Garlie directly at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 612-532-6863.

Poinsettia Orders for 2020

There are still a number of poinsettias available for purchase to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone, or in celebration of Christmas, please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 612-532-6863.

Virtual Sunday School for Grades K-5 and Virtual Youth Group Take a Break Starting Next Sunday

We will take a break during the holidays on December 27 and January 3. We'll be back on Sunday, January 10, from 10:00-10:30 a.m. If you would like the Zoom links for either Sunday School or Youth Group, contact Julie Brehmer (children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or Emmanuel Kaghondi (youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

Year-End Giving

Year-end giving typically provides an outsize portion of St. John's annual budget. If you have not yet been able to contribute in 2020 and can at this time, your gifts to our operating funds will be much appreciated! Mailed checks need to be postmarked by December 31. Online gifts can be given by December 28 at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thank you!

Annual Meeting Reports

For all those who are submitting information for the Annual Report, please turn your report in by tomorrow, Monday, December 21 and mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 31 (watch future publications for more details regarding the annual meeting).

Announcements (continued)

Thank You for supporting the Blessing Box at St. John's!

The Blessing Box is located on the north side of St. John's and contains hygiene and food products as a "stop and go" location for anyone needing a helping hand. It's been a busy site this fall and the need is great at this time! All donations have been greatly appreciated. Items that go quickly are: toilet paper, hand soap/sanitizer, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant and feminine products, as well as take and eat food items. Feel free to donate items directly to the Blessing Box. Questions? Email Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Courageous Conversations Book Group

We will discuss Alicia Garza's new book: *Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart* starting in January. It is available at Content in Northfield - a discount applies when you mention the book group. We will meet via Zoom on 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m., January 14 & 28, February 11 & 25, March 11 & 25. Contact dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com for more information or to sign up.

Pub Theology via Zoom

Monday, December 21, 6:00 p.m.

Topic: *If It Can't Be Happy, Make It Beautiful*

These are the words that Rev. Sam Wells turns to in times of stress and grief - "if it can't be happy, make it beautiful." On December 21, as we sit through the longest night of the year and make our way toward Christmas, let's make something beautiful together. Each person is invited to bring something to share that is connected to the Christmas season and that they think is beautiful. Do not confuse "beautiful" with "pretty." As Sam Wells says, "Making it beautiful is about realizing we're usually operating on a mundane level, where things will seldom make sense and where most things are fragile and contingent." So bring with you something that has a depth of meaning in your life to share with the group.

Holden Village in 2021?

With a hopeful stance toward next summer, we are pondering a St. John's trip to Holden Village in 2021. If pandemic-possible, Holden would be open to cohorts for 5 night stays. An all-inclusive price would include the boat ticket, meals, room, and programming. Guests would be responsible for their own travels to and from Chelan, Washington (Field's Point). If you are interested in being part of a group that could gather at Holden please contact Pastor Pam Fickenscher. Registration has not been opened, but we want to be ready when it is.

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, & Chocolates and Thistle Farms Hand Soaps

Contact dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com to place your order for contactless delivery.

Prayer Requests

We are called to remember one another in prayer. The church office has been made aware of the following persons for whom we pray today. This list is also for your use this week.

Healing and Support

Those in the hospital or in need of healing

Rae Pearson

Those with ongoing health concerns

Marlene Engstrom, Mary Ingbritsen, Donna James, Delores Nelson, Becky Ness,
Susan Nissen, John Quam, Jim Thompson, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Gloria Porter, Lois Rand, Dorothy Ostlie

Involved in the mission of the church who have ties to St. John's

The Savior (El Salvador) Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia;

Iambi Lutheran Church in Iambi, Tanzania;

Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich, ELCA missionaries in Tanzania

Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests

Stephen Ministry Requests

Call one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

Prayer Chain Requests

Contact Mary Cisar at 507-663-1097 or macisar@gmail.com, or contact a pastor.

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (December 27):

First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10—62:3 † Psalm 148 † 1 John 1:1-9 † Luke 2:22-40

Worship with Us on Sundays via Livestream

Worship at 9:00 a.m. is livestreamed via our website.
We hope you'll join us via livestream or radio on KYMN.

Video of the service will still be available on the website later in the week.

This Week At-a-Glance

The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Our radio worship schedule will continue with broadcasts on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (www.kymnradio.net).

Monday, Dec. 21	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study via Zoom Pub Theology via Zoom
Tuesday, Dec. 22	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting via Zoom Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom
Wednesday, Dec. 23	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break
Thursday, Dec. 24	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship via Radio Broadcast and Livestream Christmas Eve Eucharist via Zoom
Friday, Dec. 25	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship via Radio Broadcast and Livestream
Saturday, Dec. 26		No Scheduled Activities
Sunday, Dec. 27	9:00 a.m.	Worship via Radio Broadcast and Livestream

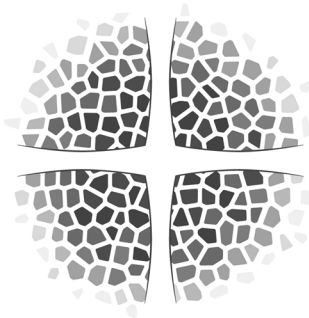


JOIN US FOR
ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS
WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve Worship:	5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Eucharist via Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Christmas Day:	10:00 a.m.
Every Sunday:	9:00 a.m.

Livestream at
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org
or on KYMN 1080AM/95.1FM





St. John's

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Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*

Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*

Carol Benson, *Director of Jubilate Choir*

Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*

Tim Byers, *Facility Manager*

Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager / Finance Manager*

Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*

Christy Hall-Holt, *Welcome Ministry Coordinator*

Emmanuel Kaghondi, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*

Sally Lindell, *Parish Nurse*

Arielle Loy, *Director of Alleluia Choir*

Zachery Pelletier, *Director of Rejoice Ringers*

Jaida Gehring / Marvin Perez, *Security and Custodial Assistants*

Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*

Call the church office or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.