Faith Lutheran Church
Andover, MA

May each person feel invited to this community, equipped to use their gifts to the Glory of God, and sent to serve.

Sunday, December 18, 2022, 9:15 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Teddy Ritchie

Please know that we record or live-stream worship services from our church in order to reach out to those who are unable to attend in person, or who wish to participate in our services remotely. We share the recorded or live-streamed services with the general public on YouTube and other internet sites. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the back two rows and ask an usher for the pastor to distribute communion to you from your seat.
To all who join us in worship online or in person, you are welcome here!

**We invite you to share the sacrament of holy communion with us.** If you are worshiping online, please prepare by having a piece of bread or cracker and a cup of wine, grape juice or water at your side. If you are worshiping in person, you will be invited to come forward around the communion table to receive the sacrament.

**Hymns** may be found in the red hymnal (called the “ELW”) in front of each pew. If you are worshiping online, they are found in the back of this worship bulletin.

We have a Connection Time from 10:15 AM – 11:00 AM each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for coffee, learning, service or simply fellowship activities!

Please share your **prayer requests** either by writing them on the paper on the podium at the entrance to the worship space or by emailing them to prayers@faith-andover.org

If you would like to be added to our **weekly email list**, which shares upcoming events and activities, sign up on our website: www.faith-andover.org

For **pastoral care needs or to chat**, contact Pastor Jen at 978-806-8255, email jen@faith-andover.org, or drop in at Caffè Nero in Andover on Wednesdays between 10:00 AM and Noon.

We use **Facebook** and **Instagram**. Find us @Faith.Andover and @faithandover

**Welcome!**

*We pray this time enriches your spiritual life.*
GATHERING
*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*


WELCOME
*The assembly stands as able.*

GATHERING HYMN ................................................................. All Earth Is Hopeful, ELW 266

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING
Today we light the candle of love as a reminder that from the very first generation, God has surrounded us with love. May this good news—these threads of love—not only weave deeper connections between neighbors, but shape our actions and allow us to see God more clearly. Amen.

ADVENT SONG......................... Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, ELW 240 (all verses)
SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

PRESENTATION
God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors: We present Theodore Hayes for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your son baptized into Christ?

Parents: We do.

As you bring your son to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
- to live with him among God's faithful people,
- bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
- teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
- place in his hands the holy scriptures,
- and nurture him in faith and prayer,
- so that he may learn to trust God,
- proclaim Christ through word and deed,
- care for others and the world God made,
- and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Theodore grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Theodore in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: We do.

People of God, do you promise to support Theodore and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

ALL: We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH
I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Parents and Sponsors: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Parents and Sponsors: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Parents and Sponsors: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
ALL: 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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
ALL: 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT
Let us pray.
Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

BAPTISM
Theodore Hayes, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

ALL: You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.
Alleluia.
Let us pray.
We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Theodore with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Theodore, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME
Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

ALL: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

GREETING
Beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from all that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*
First Reading: Luke 1:39-45, 56-58

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

56 And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

Word of God, word of life.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION........................................... He Came Down, ELW 253 (verse 4)

He came down, ELW 253 (verse 4)

The holy gospel according to Luke.
ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

46 And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The gospel of the Lord.
ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON ........................................................................... Rev. Jeanette D. Leisk

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY ...................................................... Canticle of the Turning, ELW 723
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery, especially Maeve, Cian, Andrew, Laine and Drew, the Rohr family, Phil, and James. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. We pray for those who grieve, especially Corinne Williams and her family and the Seiple family. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the concerns and celebrations named by this community today…

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace, and may say, “Peace be with you,” or similar words.

The assembly is seated.
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

RECEIVING OF OFFERINGS

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Gifts may be made with cash, check, or online https://tinyurl.com/fnem2ht6

OFFERTORY ..........................................................

Unexpected and Mysterious - Calvin Hampton

[Faith Festival Choir]

Unexpected and mysterious is the gentle word of grace.
Ever-loving and sustaining is the peace of God's embrace.
If we falter in our courage and we doubt what we have known,
God is faithful to console us as a moth tends her own.

In a momentary meeting of eternity and time,
Mary learned that she would carry both the mortal and divine.
Then she learned of God's compassion, of Elizabeth's great joy,
And she ran to greet the woman who would recognize her boy.

We are called to ponder mystery and await the coming Christ,
To embody God's compassion for each fragile human life.
God is with us in our longing to bring healing to the earth,
While we watch with joy and wonder for the promised Savior's birth.

Text by Jeanette M. Lindholm (b. 1961). (c) 2002 Jeanette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense license # A-700098.

The assembly stands as able.
OFFERING PRAYER
Eternal God,
you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
**Blessed be God’s name forever.**
Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.
We have strayed from your paths.
We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation.
Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us.
Amen.

People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch,
a living sign.
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
You have put on ✡ Christ,
and your sins have been washed away.
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.
Amen.
GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

DIALOGUE ........................................................................................................................................... ELW S107

PREFACE

The preface is a prayer spoken by the presiding minister to introduce the thanksgiving – we might think of it as saying grace before the meal.

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;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
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:
“Sanctus” means “holy,” and the words of this song echo the words spoken by Isaiah upon entering the presence of God.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE
These words are called the “Words of Institution” and describe the meal Jesus and his friends shared the night before he was crucified.

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.
LORD’S PRAYER
This is a form of the prayer Jesus taught his followers when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

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

ALL: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
Wherever you are in your faith journey, you are welcome to come to the table for Communion.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

At this time, those gathered at home may share the elements of bread and wine that you have at your home communion table.

Those gathered in person will be invited to come forward at the direction of an usher and kneel or stand around the communion table. You will be given a wafer (gluten-free are also available) by the pastor, which you may then consume. An assisting minister will invite you to take a pre-filled cup of white wine or red grape juice, which you may then consume before returning to your seat. The tray also has individually wrapped communion elements for those who prefer.

If you prefer to stay at your seat and have the pastor bring you communion, please let an usher know.
Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. 

Amen.
SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
بيب bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN .................................................. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, ELW 257

The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE .................................................. Bethlehem - Robert E. Kreutz [Abby Schoppe, organ]
PRAYER LIST

for Corrine Williams and family as they mourn the death of her granddaughter Ashley; for the Payson family as they mourn the death of Barbara’s brother Walter Eaton; for the Seiple family as they mourn the death of Jean’s sister Ginny; for Maeve and Cian Donegan, grandchildren of Carla & Lynn Buffington, for healing; for Kate Robinson’s nephew Andrew, and his parents, Laine and Drew; for the Rohr family, Phil Liaboe, and James Lino.

We are a praying congregation. In order to keep our prayer list current, please let us know of any additions or changes by email to prayers@faith-andover.org. We will pray in worship for 3 weeks, unless you tell us otherwise.

Assisting in Worship Today

Presider/Preacher: Rev. Jeanette D. Leisk
Assisting Minister: Mary Johnson
Reader: David Kress
Acolyte: Cohen Payson
Music Director: Abby Schoppe
Altar Care: Caroline D’Agostino, Suzanne Neuman
Worship Technology: John Breiland, Bill Mark Langdell
All Earth Is Hopeful  
*Toda la tierra*

1. All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!  
2. People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:  
3. Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;  
4. We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.

**Translation:**

1. Toda la tierra es esperar al Salvador  
2. El surco abiere, la obra del Señor; es el  
4. This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our

**Translation:**

1. Mundo que lucha por la libertad, re -  
2. Labor of people who struggle to see how  
3. God’s truth and justice set every body free,  

**Translation:**

1-3. God’s truth and justice set every body free.  
4. Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

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**2** Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:  
“De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,” nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.  
3. Montes y valles habrá que preparar;  
será “Dios con nosotros,” hermano será, Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,  
4. En una cueva Jesús apareció, pero en el mundo está presente hoy.  
Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está; y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.
Canticle of the Turning

1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the...
2 Though I am small, my... God, my all, you...
3 From the halls of pow’r to the fortress tow’r, not a
4 Though the nations rage from... age to age, we re-

God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the
work great... things in me, and your mercy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your
member who holds us fast: God’s mercy must de-

wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
justice tears ev’ry tyrant... from his throne.
liv’er us from the conqueror’s crushing grasp.

You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hungry poor shall... weep no more, for the
This saving word that our forebears heard is the
weak-ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev-er earn; there are ta-bles spread, ev-ry
prom-ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be
name be blest. Could the world be a-bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a-bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a-bout to turn.
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.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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Creator of the Stars of Night

1 Creator of the stars of night, your people’s everlasting light, O Christ, redeemer of us all.
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blessed mother mild.
3 At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow: all things on earth with one accord, like those in heav’n, shall call you Lord.
4 Come in your holy might, we pray, redeem us for ever.
5 To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, we pray you hear us when we call.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Hymnal 1940, alt.
Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV
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O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things and stay;

3 O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on ancient times you gave the law and give them victory over the grave.

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell your people save,

5 Until the Son of God appear, teach us your will and guide our way. Rejoice! Rejoice!

6 And open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Refrain

7 O come, O Key of David, come, and make the gates of death rise up. Refrain

8 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. Refrain

9 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. Refrain

10 O come, O Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Refrain

Text: Psalm 2:12; Canticum Catholicae, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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