

South Canyon Lutheran Church

See, Grow, Serve To the Glory of God

700 44th Street Rapid City, SD 57702

Phone: 605.343.4887 www.scllc-rc.org

"Home of Friend-Ship Preschool"

December 14, 2025

3rd Weekend in Advent

9:00 am



Welcome to Worship

PRELUDE

With Joy Unending

Edward Broughton

Please take a moment to sign the friendship pads at the end of the pew by the aisle. Pass them down the aisle and send them back again. Thank you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Becky will end announcements with "Take time to breathe in and breathe out as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship."

***INVOCATION**

*We gather for worship in the name of the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.***

CANDLE LIGHTING – JOY

In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.

You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us.

Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

Light candle

Thanks be to God for that good news! Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257 1,2,3

*Vs 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

*Vs 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain**

*Vs 3 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. *Refrain**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Friends, often in life, when we make mistakes, we want to keep those mistakes to ourselves. We don't want to advertise our blunders. We don't want to highlight our failings. We can be tempted to brush those things under the rug and move on. But when it comes to God, there is nothing we need to brush under the rug. God welcomes and loves our full, honest, messy selves—blunders and all. So let us go before God in prayer, trusting that there is nothing we need to hide from our Creator. Let us pray.

Courageous God,

you invite us to live into our call. You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust. Instead of responding with a resounding “yes,” we often hide our face. We dig our heels in. We look for someone else to volunteer. Spark courage in us. Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference. Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone. You invite us forward. With baby steps we hope, we pray, amen.

Family of faith, no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day. So join me in declaring this good news: We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve. May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God's call. Amen.

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy One, the story of this season is not a new one.

We've heard this tale before. We've seen the nativities, watched the plays, sung the songs, witnessed the children act it out. The story of this season is not a new one, and yet we long to hear it as if it is. So spark our spirits awake. Call forth awareness, attention, and reverence in us. Allow us to hear this ancient tale with brand new ears. With hope we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE READING (Pastor Becky will read)

**Luke 1:26-39 (Pew Bible pg779)
(Hands-On Bible pg 1019)**

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. For the word of God will never fail."

Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279 1,4

Somebody's Coming to Our House
Presented by the Children & Youth of SCLC

HYMN

Away in a Manger (*All Verses*)

ELW 277

HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW 267 1

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Journeying together in trust and hope, let us affirm our faith with these words.

We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars.

We have seen the longest night, and *still* we believe.

We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow.

We believe that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is for all people.

**So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news.**

We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst.

We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: *Unto us, love is born.*

We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love. So *still*, we believe. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Calling God, if you tapped on my shoulder today, would my knees shake? Would my mind race? Would my voice waver?

Or, knowing the stories of all the faithful folks you've called before, would I be ready? Would I be brave enough to follow? Would I hear your call for what it is? Would I reply, "Let it be with me according to your will"?

It's hard to know. But what I do trust is that you are a God who calls. You called Mary and Moses, Jeremiah and Peter. You have called ordinary people throughout all of time. You have called artists and activists, poets and prophets, teachers and healers—young and old alike.

So as we move through this world, open our ears to hear your voice.

As we move through this world, open our hearts to the invitations, the inspiration, and the nudges you place in our lives.

As we move through this world, God, allow us to hear whatever call you have in store for us in this season.

For no matter how big or how small, we trust that you are a calling, inviting, nudging, inspiring God who sees us in the best light. With hope we lean forward, we listen for your word, we pray together in Jesus' name. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you.

Let us stand and share a sign of God's peace with one another.

OFFERING

Pastor Becky hands out offering plates

As you are seated, we will gather our offering. Thank you for the generous ways you support the mission of this congregation as well as our Ministry of the Month - through your gifts of time, talents and resources.

OFFERTORY

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

Hugh S. Livingstone

*OFFERING RESPONSE

On Jordon's Bank the Baptist's Cry

ELW 249 5

Vs 5 All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray...

Loving God,

pour out your Spirit on this Table. Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary bread. Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary juice. For the thing we fear the most is distance from you, so draw near to us here.

Saturate this room with your Spirit and this Table with your love. Amen.

You may be seated.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW pg 144

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW pg 144

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Friends, did you ever have a moment growing up when you walked into the school cafeteria, panned the faces in the crowd, and wondered if you were going to have a place to sit? Did you ever have a moment, maybe as a new student or at the start of a new school year, when fear nibbled at the back of your mind because you weren't sure where you belonged? I imagine, at some point or another, most of us have experienced that kind of fear. But here at this Table, you never have to wonder. Here at this Table, there is enough room, enough food, enough love for everyone. Here at this Table, Jesus is standing up on his chair, waving his hands over his head, saying to each of you, "I saved you a seat!" Here at this Table, you are wanted and welcomed. You are safe and loved. Here at this Table, you belong. So my friends, there is no need for fear here, for this is a joyful feast. And you are invited. Come. All are welcome.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Lamb of God

ELW 146

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283 1,3,4

Vs 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!

Vs 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

Vs 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*

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

ELW 272 1,2,4

Vs 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

Vs 2 Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

Vs 4 O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven and into endless day.

Cold December Flies Away

ELW 299

Vs 1 Cold December flies away at the rose-red splendor.
April's crowning glory breaks while the whole world wonders
at the holy unseen pow'r of the tree which bears the flow'r.
On the blessed tree blooms the reddest flow'r.
On the tree blooms the rose here in love's own garden, full and strong in glory.

Vs 2 In the hopeless time of sin shadows deep had fallen.
All the world lay under death. Eyes were closed in sleeping.
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose golden light
brings unending joy, brings the endless joy
of our hope, highest hope, of our hope's bright dawning, Son belov'd of heaven.

Vs 3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world awakens.
In the lily's purest flow'r dwells a wondrous fragrance.
And it spreads to all the earth from the moment of its birth;
and its beauty lives. In the flow'r it lives,
in the flow'r, and it spreads in its heav'nly brightness sweet perfume delightful.

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Please rise.

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, bless you and keep you in his grace. Amen

Let us pray...

Loving God, In a world racked with fear, you gather us together. You set the table. You meet us here. You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits. You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win every time. So with

renewed courage, with renewed hope, with renewed conviction, send us out into the world. Help us to feed others as you have fed us. With gratitude we pray, amen.

***BLESSING**

In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear. In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with-God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

***SENDING SONG**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290 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!**

Vs 1 **While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Refrain**

Vs 3 **Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace and be not afraid.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The Royal Banners

James Mansfield

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

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Thank you to our worship servers for your ministry.

Sunday, December 14

Musicians: Parker Knox

Slides: Butch Bowman

Streaming: Phil Busching

Ushers/Greeters: John Team

Communion: John Team