

UPCOMING BLC EVENTS

December 7: Advent Wednesday @ 6:30pm

December 6: Wrap sweatshirts for farm workers @ 10am

December 11: Got Bible Bummers?

Topic: Jesus' Execution & "Atonement"

December 14: Advent Wednesday @ 6:30pm

December 21: Longest Night Service @ 6:30pm

Please join us for this meaningful, important event on the longest night of the year, in the midst of the noise of this challenging season.

December 24: Christmas Eve service @ 4pm

December 25: Christmas Day service @ 10am



BEING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

We are all God's beloved children and are recipients of God's radical love and grace.

All are welcome in this church community. You are welcome here if you have ever felt excluded or judged because of your gender, ethnicity, race, religion, status, ability, sexual orientation, doubts or questions. We are a community committed to racial equity, and we believe in Jesus' commandments to love God and love neighbor. Join us!

Matthew 22: 37-39



BURLINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

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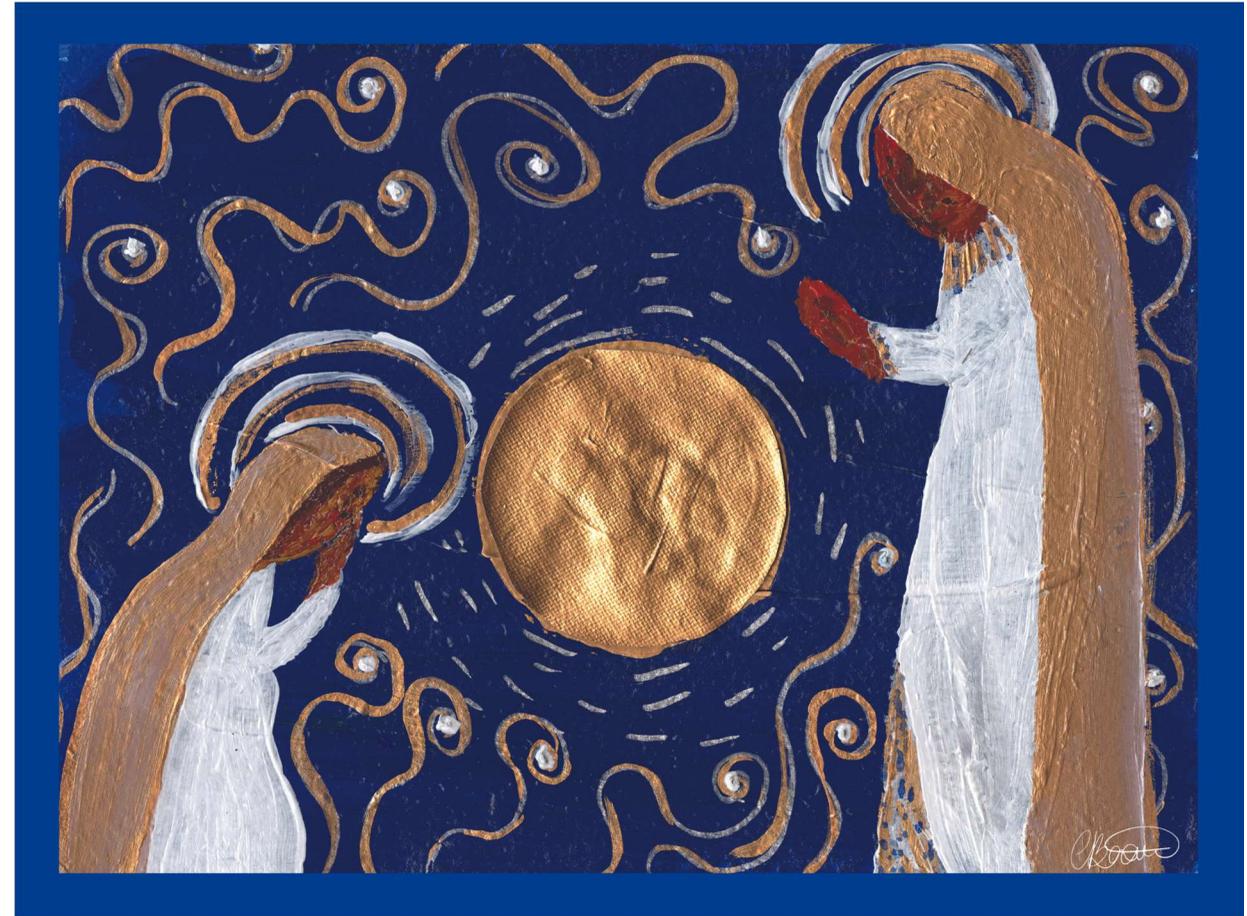
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BURLINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being God's Love in our Communities

134 East Victoria Avenue, Burlington, Washington

Dec 4, 2022

Advent 2A

26th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to worship! It is good to be together! In your bulletin there is a Connect Card. Please fill it out if you'd like to sign up for our weekly informational emails and/or communicate with our office or Pastor. For those who would rather not come forward for communion, ushers will provide single-serve communion (grape juice or wine) and a bulletin. All are welcome to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

ADVENT 2022: Generation to Generation

*Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is this One's name,
who shows mercy to everyone,
from generation to generation,
who honors this One as God.*
(Luke 1: 48b-50)

PRELUDE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are on the ancestral homelands of the Upper Skagit peoples. We are grateful for their stewardship of our shared land & waterways since time immemorial. May we live consciously and respectfully, honoring treaties, and remembering that God created everything and we are to keep it sacred.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

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

And also with you.

WORSHIP NOTES

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**Candle lighting, Confession and Forgiveness, Prayer of the Day, Prayers of the People, and the Benediction are all adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Music: Swedish Folk Tune. Public Domain. "Though the Ages" Words © Anna Strickland, 2021, commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC. Free for congregational use. Music: James Murray. Public Domain.*

Worship Leaders: Pastor Charis Weathers & Musician Sean Bendickson

Bulletin Cover Art: Mary's Golden annunciation, by Carmelle Beaugelin Inspired by Luke 1:26-38 | Acrylic, gilding paint, canvas collage onhandmade reclaimed paper

SENDING SONG: "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" ELW 251

- 1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;
I sing my Savior's praise!
You looked upon my lowliness,
and I am full of grace.
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age
this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me,
and holy is your name.
- 2 To all who live in holy fear
your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm you dash the proud,
their scheming hearts expose.
The ruthless you have cast aside,
the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled with all good things,
the rich sent off unfed.
- 3 To Israel, your servant blest,
your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made
their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One,
give honor to the Word,
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,
one God, by all adored.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be a blessing to the world.
Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

CANDLE LIGHTING* (Nate, Erin, Owen, Ezra, Rozema, Fran Hansen, Ranae Riddle)

Worship Leader: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, "*What are you afraid of?*" From the voices of different generations, hear their answers:

OPENING SONG: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" ELW 256

- 1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim
that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever.
- 2 For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;
hills, bow down in humble favor.
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS*

Fear can be a good thing. It can help us be attentive while driving down the highway. It can alert us to possible accidents. It can motivate us to do our best.

However, fear can also be detrimental. For so many of us, fear of the other, fear of failure, or fear of the unknown has led us to make harmful choices—choices such as building walls or tearing others down.

Today, in confession, we ask for mercy and pray for guidance. As we confess, we come before an entirely merciful and loving God who says to us, “Do not be afraid.” Let us pray:

Patient God, you know just how often

we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love.

You know just how often

we allow fear to take the place of healthy responses,

fanning unhealthy fires in our lives.

You know just how often

we tuck your words, “Do not be afraid”

on dusty shelves and in the back of closets,

Unable to hold on to peace.

Forgive us for giving fear the microphone.

Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection,

which spark and feed so much of our fear,

to recenter us in love, being love to others.

With hope we pray, Amen.

Family of faith,

even when we forget God's words,

God does not forget us.

Even when we lose our way,

God does not lose us.

Even when we fall short or make mistakes,

God forgives and holds onto us.

We are known, forgiven, and loved.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

The Prayer of Jesus

Our loving God, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sin, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Music During Communion: “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” ELW 265

Prayer after Communion

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.

BENEDICTION*

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that

from generation to generation,

we have been claimed and loved.

From generation to generation,

God has been by our side.

From generation to generation,

we are not alone.

The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow

knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth,

saying, “Go be the person you are called to be,

love wildly, do justice, and come back soon.”

May it be so. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of God be with you always.

And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with your neighbor.

OFFERING

Online giving is also available at burlingtonlutheran.org, Venmo @Burlington-Lutheran, the Vanco Mobile app or by texting 360-727-0807.

MUSIC DURING OFFERING: "In the Bleak Midwinter" ELW 294

Offering Prayer

From generation to generation God has been at work within God's people. From generation to generation the Good News has changed lives and given us hope. We give these gifts as act of continuing God's hope in our world, living on in generations to come. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

At Burlington Lutheran Church we celebrate open table communion which means the table is open to ALL, no exceptions. Today we are receiving communion in our seats, with offerings of both wine, juice and gluten free wafers. Come, taste and see that God is good!

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.

Holy Communion

PRAYER OF THE DAY*

Mighty God, your faithfulness is magnified in the coming of your Son, in the long-awaited birth of the promised Messiah. Even if we fear, may we, like Mary, proclaim your greatness as we rejoice in our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,

and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

3 His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,

or decide by what his ears hear;

4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,

and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb,

the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

the calf and the lion and the fatling together,

and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze,

their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,

and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

9 They will not hurt or destroy

on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD

AS THE WATERS COVER THE SEA.

10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: “He Came Down” ELW 253

He came down that we may have love;

He came down that we may have love;

He came down that we may have love;

Hallelujah forevermore!

(repeat)

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And the angel came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! God is with you.’ ²⁹But she was much perplexed by these 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.

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: “Here I Am” text: Anna Strickland. Music: French carol (17th cent.)

Angel Gabriel came to Mary

In the hills of Galilee

Apprehension and confusion

Filled her, wond’ring what’s to be

“Do not be afraid,” the angel told the maid

“God has highly favored thee.”

Though his words were filled with glory

Still the message brought great fear

“Who am I to bear the savior

With the pathway so unclear?”

“Here I am,” she pledged; the angel Gabriel fled

Quickly as he had appeared

Week by week in Mary’s belly

God was growing flesh and bone

As her life and path were changing

Never was she left alone

With her all the while was Mary’s holy child

Pledge of “Here I am” of God’s own

Whether we may feel we’re ready

For the task before us laid

God will strengthen and uphold us

Even when the fear won’t fade

We say, “Here I am,” to God’s transcendent plan

Trusting God to lend us aid.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE*

All are welcome to light a candle during the prayers.

When the reader says, “We bring you our prayers,” the congregation sings:

Oh Lord, hear my prayer, Oh Lord, hear my prayer

When I call, answer me. Oh Lord, hear my prayer

Oh Lord, hear my prayer Come and listen to me.