

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023 | 9:30 am

## Light in Our Bones: Women of Advent



 NORMANDALE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

If the Word truly became flesh... then attending to human emotions, human bodies (of every kind), and complex human stories can help us understand the strangely present power of God in our all-too-human lives. This Advent we pause to consider the variety of women in Jesus' lineage and young life - at least the very few we know of, who actually receive names. We ponder how their true and messy humanity connects with our own, including through tales of beauty, courage, creation, longing, and trauma. We wonder at the gift of knowing God is present with us all! And stunned, we consider what it means to claim that the divine One became human at all... the Light of the World, embodied... and still being borne... in us, to us, and through one another.

\* Congregational responses in **bold**

## Gathering Music

Variations on Savior of the Nations, Come

Karen Keene

## Words of Welcome

## Bringing of the Light

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanzas 1 & 2)*

ELW 257

## Prayer of Confession

God of shadows and light, our thoughts are not your thoughts. Our ways are not your ways.  
**Hear our confession. Heal our hearts. Forgive our sins.**

(silence)

In Jesus you call us to hope  
**that your justice will prevail –that the hungry will be fed and the lowly lifted up.**

In Jesus you call us to faith  
**in the mystery of your Presence in the world, and the truth that nothing will be impossible with you.**

In Jesus you reveal your love,  
**that we might love more fully and know how deeply we are loved.**

In Jesus you reveal your power  
**a power with and for the vulnerable; a power held in mercy and grace.**

In Jesus you call us to joy  
**a joy that can hold the world's grief and its beauty.**

(silence)

In the light of the Christ child, in the shadow of the Most High, we make our confession and receive your forgiveness.

**Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn

*Savior of the Nations, Come* (Stanzas 1, 2, 3, and 5)

ELW 263

## Opening Dialogue

We gather in preparation,  
**for good news is about to be proclaimed.**

We gather in expectation,  
**for joy is about to break forth in our midst.**

We gather in celebration,  
**for we are a people who say yes with Mary, yes to the manger, yes to the One incarnate for others, yes to the wholeness of God. In preparation and expectation, let us celebrate!**

## Hymn

*People, Look East*

ELW 248

## Reading

1 Samuel 2:1-10

## Hymn

*For All the Faithful Women (Stanzas 1,4 & 6)*

ELW 419

## Reading

Psalm 113

<b>Hymn</b>	<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (Stanzas 1,2 &amp; 4)</i>	ELW 272
<b>Reading</b>		Luke 1:26-38
<b>Hymn</b>	<i>The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came</i>	ELW 265
<b>Reading</b>		Luke 1:39-45
<b>Hymn</b>	<i>My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness</i>	ELW 251
<b>Reading</b>		Luke 2:1-20
<b>Sermon</b>	Christmas "Presence"	Pastor Rebecca Gamble
<b>Hymn</b>	<i>Unexpected and Mysterious</i>	ELW 258
<b>Sharing of the Peace</b>		
<b>Music at the Offering</b>	<i>Noel Vosgien</i>	Jean Bouvard

## Noisy Offering | Offertory Response

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Children are invited to cheerfully bring their "Noisy Offering" to the front during the Offertory Response.  
This offering will help Every Meal in their fight to end child hunger.*

## Prayers of the People

Congregation response following each prayer petition:

Merciful God,  
**Receive our prayer**

## 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.**

## Blessing

<b>Sending Hymn</b>	<i>Joy to the World</i>	ELW 267
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## Sending

Go in peace, God is with us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

<b>Sending Music</b>	<i>Fantasy on Joy to the World</i>	Emma Lou Diemer
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# WELCOME TO NORMANDALE



## We're Glad You're Here!

Led by the Holy Spirit and living in God's grace, Normandale Lutheran Church is a community of believers who love, learn, worship, and serve as we walk in relationship with Jesus Christ and others. We hope you find in us a place of welcome, a place of worship, a place for you.

## Welcoming Statement

We affirm that all people are created in the image of God, and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God's love and grace. We welcome all people into full participation in the life and ministries of Normandale Lutheran Church.

We celebrate that there are differences among us, and believe that we can love one another, even though we may not think alike. We proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the church and society.

Normandale Lutheran Church is committed to a ministry of reconciliation. We welcome and affirm our human family's diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith, history, socioeconomic status, physical and mental ability. We embrace this diversity as a gift from God, and invite all into a faithful journey toward greater love, understanding, and reconciliation.

## Connect with us today



952.929.1697



normluthchurch  
normluthyouth



Normandale Lutheran Church  
Normandale Lutheran Youth

[normluth.org](http://normluth.org)

## SUNDAY AT NORMANDALE

**Livestream** of Sunday worship is available as a way to participate in the regular worship life of our congregation. Visit [normluth.org/livestream](http://normluth.org/livestream) to watch from wherever you are.

**Hymnals** are located in the pew backs. Both the ELW (red) and ACS (purple) hymnals are used in worship.

**Hearing Devices** are available to enhance your worship experience. Please ask an usher if you need assistance.

**Holy Communion** is offered during worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

### WAYS TO GIVE

**Online:** [normluth.org/give](http://normluth.org/give)

**Text:** gift amount to: 952.260.5601

**Download the App:**

ShelbyNEXT|Giving

Select "Normandale Lutheran" (55436)



**PrayGround** is located at the front of the worship space and is filled with quiet toys and comfy seating for the littlest in our midst and their caregivers.

**Extended PrayGround** is located outside of the sanctuary next to the Fishbowl for children age 4 and up and their families. Their are quiet activities for and a screen to see and hear worship.

**Busy Bags** filled with quiet activities are hanging outside the main entrance of the sanctuary.

**Bulletins & Coloring Sheets** are located on a table outside of the main sanctuary doors.

### Noisy Offering

Children are invited to cheerfully bring their "Noisy Offering" to the front during the Offertory Response. This offering will help Every Meal in their fight to end child hunger.

**Sunday School resumes on January 14, 2024!**

## WORSHIP LEADERS

**Presider:** Pastor Rebecca Gamble  
**Liturgist:** Pastor Paul Pettersen  
**Organist:** Gregory Peterson  
**Acolyte:** Wyatt Pence  
**Light Bearer:** Eliise Hietala

**Lector:** Carmen Eide  
**Greeter:** Dave Myhre  
**Sacristan:** Edel Henningsen  
**Ushers:** Kemme Team