

The Silence

— AND THE —

SOUND

By Heather Sorenson



December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Lutheran Church
709 5th Ave. – P.O. Box 218
Washburn, North Dakota 58577
www.flcwashburn.com

PRELUDE AND BELLS

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

ADVENT

34 Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on
3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by your

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Si - nai's height In an - cient times once gave the law
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save
ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
In cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

5 Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
 And open wide our heav'nly home;
 Make safe the way that leads on high,
 And close the path to misery. *Refrain*

*Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
 Tune: French processional, 15th cent.*

VENI, EMMANUEL
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CCLI #2465135

PRAYERS
 LORD'S PRAYER

CANTATA

Director: Randy Hall

Narrators: Pastor Chuck, Olivia Retterath, Jake Dahl,
 Val Swanson, Sonja Bergstedt and Brent Petersen

Sopranos

Kathy Farstad
 Peggy Moran
 Sue Winter
 Val Swanson
 Sylvia Kalliokoski
 Claudette Ness

Altos

Gwen Hall
 Sonja Bergstedt
 Wendy Miller
 Gwen DeMontigny
 LeAnn Richard
 Theresa Petersen

Men

Brent Petersen
 Rick Richard
 Matt Beaudry
 Arden Wagner
 Orlin Larson
 Willie Ziemann
 Pastor Chuck Mann

The Silence and the Sound

First Lutheran Church
Christmas Cantata

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Come to Us

Gwen DeMontigny - Soloist

Luke 2 (Silent Night)

Sleeping Adonai

Wendy Miller - Soloist

Angels Sing

Unto Us

Gwen Hall, Sonja Bergstedt - Soloist

Shout! Sing Hallelujah!

A Tribute of Carols



Today's Worship Leaders & Volunteers – Thank You!

PASTOR Pastor Chuck Mann
ACOLYTE Maddie Jaeger
ORGANIST LeAnn Richard
USHERS/GREETERS Larry & Kathy Keller
ALTAR GUILD..... Brent & Theresa Petersen
SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORS Larry & Kathy Keller

Our Mission

“Working hand in hand to know Christ and make Christ known through Worship, Christian Education, Evangelism, Fellowship, Caring Ministries, and Service.”

Welcome to all who have come to worship.

With Mary we sing: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (Luke 1:46-47). Welcome to worship.

Visitors

We welcome all visitors to First Lutheran today.

Nursery

The nursery, located beside the narthex, is available for use for any parent feeling the need to use it during worship services with their child.

Thank you for your giving

Sunday, December 13th

10:30 AM Attendance – 107

Facebook Online Viewing – 189

1:00 PM Attendance – 82

Facebook Online Viewing - 89

General Fund & Plate Giving - \$5,047.00

Prayer Requests

Shelly Lonski – Sister to Sharon Nelson, Deborah Davenport – Mother of Laura Gardner's friend, Virgie Emineth, Cindy Delmonico – Mother to Melissa Kugler, Michelle Schweich – Niece to Arden & Sande Wagner, Glenn Weist, Anna Belle, Ruby from Pine Ridge, Claire Boucher – Friends of Aaron & Lexie Solomonson newborn, Jamie Baumann, James Tolbert, Brad Taylor – Friend of Pastor Chuck, Taylor Gardner, Harold Holtz, Elaine Renfrow – Mother to Lynette Sondrol, Sandi Femling – Cousin to Melanie Beckman, Laren Holznagel, Harlow Tatum – Daughter to Brea (Gutknecht) Tatum, Melisa Chrest, Ruth Lund – Mother to Doddie Kuntz, Derek Laning, Jacklyne Carlson, Amber Selken – Sister to Wendy Miller, John Krebsbach – Brother to Peggy Wollmuth, Arlo Omoth – Brother to Jeneen Loe, Shirley Nelson, Bob Miller, Rodney Jaeger

Thank You

Thank you to the First Lutheran Choir for your presentation of The Sound and the Silence. A great way to begin our week of Christmas. Thank you also Randy Hall for directing the choir!

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
w/Holy Communion
4:30 PM & 9:00 PM**

2021 FLCW Books

All women of First Lutheran Church, please check your mailbox in the narthex and take your 2021 FLCW book home with you! If you do not see a mailbox for yourself, please talk to Jeannette in the church office during office hours to have one made for you. Every member should have one!

2021 Offering Envelopes

The 2021 offering envelopes are on the cart in the narthex. Pick yours up today to use next year. If you don't find one for yourself and would like a set, please talk to Jeannette during office hours.

Poinsettias and Outdoor Greenery Update

Thank you to everyone that purchased a poinsettia and gave money for the outdoor greenery. All poinsettias are spoken for and the greenery paid for. Thanks again!

Camp of the Cross Summer Retreats

Reminder that December 24th is the last day to register for 2021 summer camp at Camp of the Cross for a 50% discount. Check out to see which camp you would like to attend and register now to save money!

Pastoral Care

Please call Pastor Chuck if you or a loved one are in the hospital or know you will be going to the hospital. The church does not usually get informed of your stay by any of the hospitals even if you are registered under our congregation's name. We want to make sure you get pastoral care. Thank you!

Online Giving

Many of you have patiently been waiting for e-giving here at First Lutheran Church. I am happy to announce that it is up and ready to use!

We welcome all donations through any of the options we offer for giving. You can contribute anywhere, anytime right from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

⇒ Put your offering in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.

- ⇒ Mail your offering or drop it off at the church office.
- ⇒ Go to the church website: www.flcwashburn.com and click on the donate button on the homepage. Follow the instructions from there.
- ⇒ For our smartphone users, don't forget you can contribute through GivePlus Church, our mobile giving app. It's a convenient solution whenever you have your phone but don't have cash or checks with you.

See the two pages on GIVEPLUS MOBILE in the November newsletter or go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus Church" to quickly find the app and download it for free. You can easily make donations anytime you're moved to give, or create an account to schedule recurring weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly offerings and to the account of your choice. When you create an account, you can also securely and conveniently store debit/credit card or bank account information, manage donations and review giving history. You choose how you prefer to login - Touch ID/Fingerprint, PIN or password.

Find our church by ZIP code - 58577 or by searching our Church name - First Lutheran Church, Washburn, ND

- ⇒ Scan this code and it will take you directly to the app.



Get started today! Download our mobile app or visit www.flcwashburn.com to set up your online contribution!

Fear Not!

On that first Christmas night, the angel said to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid" (Luke 2:10). What is there to fear from a baby? A baby is powerless, with no guile, no anger and no judgment, only needing from us without fearing we will not provide: simply trusting, and content to be resting in our arms. This is how God came. This is Christmas. This one child, and for a time, perhaps to brief, our fears are taken over by our love for this child, and he is able to change our hearts.

In Jesus, we are free to live life as fully and as joyfully as we will allow ourselves. For it is only we who hold ourselves back. God does not. For God has forgiven us in this baby and will not restrain us from living with sheer abandon, trusting in this gentle and gracious God, who keeps telling us: "Do not be afraid."

--Gary Westgard, *At Break of Day*

First Lutheran Church Update as of November 17, 2020 regarding Orders from ND Governor's Office and ND Dept. of Health:

As a religious organization, the FLC executive committee has reviewed the subject COVID 19 related materials, and in prayerful consideration we are moving forward with the following guidelines:

Church Services- in-person

- Facemasks will be required in accordance with the Governor's/State Health Officer's orders
 - Masks must be worn when *entering* or *exiting* the sanctuary. Please bring your own mask if able, if you do not have one available, the church will continue to provide disposable masks barring any supply/availability issues.
 - This does not apply to those who are exempt from ND health order, such as those with medical conditions, children 4 years old and under (children under 2 years old should never wear face coverings), etc.
- Social distancing will be observed, by family unit (maintaining six feet apart).
 - Pews will remain in usual position to allow for the most space per family unit
- Circumstances where mandatory face coverings may be temporarily removed (from state health officer order part 6) that are applicable to our services
 - Pastor Chuck (or others using mics up front) while socially distant in leading the service
 - Musicians to play instruments (as long as they are able to be socially distance)
 - While a family unit is sitting in the pew during the service when social distancing is possible

- After the service has finished, please fellowship outside for adequate space for social distancing.

Sunday School/Confirmation/Other small group activities held at the church

- All small groups are still welcome to meet
- Facemasks will be required when attending any of these activities at the church
- To accommodate more families to come see the Sunday School Christmas Program safely, we will be splitting the program into two separate programs with 20 minutes in-between, more information on this coming soon!

All previous guidelines remain in place:

- Every family is encouraged to attend church, Sunday school, or other activities in the manner that they feel most comfortable (whether on-line or in person)
- Hand sanitizer is available at multiple locations within the church.
- No food is to be prepared in the kitchen at this time, and there will be no coffee hour.
- The FLC website (www.flcwashburn.com) and Facebook will be updated as we continue to monitor the situation and any new developments. Please check these sites for updates or concerns. If you do not see an answer to your concern, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Chuck or Jeannette.
- If you are joining online and would like the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please contact Pastor Chuck.

“May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; may the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26

In Christ,
First Lutheran Church

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

TODAY	9:30 AM	FLC Choir Cantata AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting
TUES.	10:00 AM	Mommy's Group
THURS.	4:30 PM & 9:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship w/Holy Communion
FRI.		MERRY CHRISTMAS
SUNDAY	9:30 AM 7:00 PM	Worship AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting

Christmas Presence

Amid the secular trappings of the holidays, we can lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas, until we lament with Charlie Brown, "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?"

These reminders call us back to where it all began – in the heart of God:

"The giving of gifts is not something [people] invented. God started the giving spree when he gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of his Son."
--Robert Flatt

"Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that he gave his only son. The only requirement is to believe in him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life."
--Corrie ten Boom

"The great challenge left to us is to cut through all the glitz and glam of the season that has grown increasingly secular and commercial, and be reminded of the beauty of the One who is Christmas."
--Bill Crowder

"If we do not set aside time to focus together on what God's word tells us about the promise of Christ, on Christmas morning we can find ourselves surrounded by mounds of torn gift wrap, our laps full of presents, but with hearts that are empty and unprepared."
--Nancy Guthrie

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Fourth Sunday in Advent – December 20, 2020

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

For nothing will be impossible with God.”

– Luke 1:30–37 –

During catechism class, as we were studying the Second Article of the Creed, we turned to this passage in Luke’s Gospel. “What does it mean that St. Luke tells us that Mary was a virgin?” I asked the group of sixth through eighth graders.

“It means that she doesn’t eat meat,” answered Madyson.

After I wiped away the tears of joy and laughter at Madyson’s innocence, I explained the real meaning of Mary’s virginity.

Throughout biblical history there have been many, many miracles to ponder. The miraculous conception and birth of the Messiah is, however, one of the greatest (the greatest being the resurrection). We’ve heard the story of Isaac’s birth to a barren Sarah and marveled at God’s goodness. We know the similar story that accompanies this one, of John’s conception and birth to aging and barren parents. But never had a virgin conceived and given birth! The meaning of this is that God would do whatever God had to do in order to bring salvation to a sinful humanity. Unable to live up to the Law, God provided the necessary grace in his one and only Son, Jesus.

To some, this story may sound like ancient mythology – a young maiden is visited by a god and becomes impregnated, giving birth to another god. It’s easy to dismiss if we think of it that way. But we are talking about the one, true God here, not one of a mythical pantheon that helps explain war, tragedy, weather, etc. Our God is the God who fashioned the whole creation out of nothing (*ex nihilo*), and who breathed life into dust to make the first human. With God, nothing is impossible! Nothing!

This is good news for us on many levels! On a spiritual/salvation level – it is the answer to our sin. On a physical level, it means that God is capable of handling all our needs. Do we believe this news? Mary certainly did. Amen.