

CAROL **CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT** ELW 715
Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

REFRAIN Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. REFRAIN

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. REFRAIN

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. REFRAIN

CAROL **SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT** ELW 281
Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming
grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

BLESSING
P: *Now may God, who has redeemed you in Christ Jesus, illuminate your path, lighten your burden, bless your days, and grant you joy! Go in peace, serve the Lord.*
C: Thanks be to God.

CHIMES
CANDLES ARE EXTINGUISHED
POSTLUDE

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WE THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR PARTICIPATING IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE:
NARRATOR: David Bengtson
CHANCEL CHOIR CONDUCTOR: Mary Morken
KIDS' CHOIR CONDUCTOR: Paula Odland
ALLELUIA RINGERS CONDUCTOR: Ann Koudela
PIANO: Nathan Doege and Mary Morken
ORGAN: Randy Morken
GUITAR: Joel Quam
FLUTE: Pastor Kari van Wakeren
LIGHTS: Greg Tvrdik

CHRISTMAS GIFT
As you make your plan for year-end giving, would you consider making a special Christmas gift to First Lutheran Church? All gifts received are tax deductible before 4:00 pm on Monday, December 31, 2018 will be credited to your 2018 giving record for tax purposes. Special Christmas envelopes were mailed to you, or you can pick one up at the Welcome Center. Thank You.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
Monday, December 24
10:30am | Children's Worship
2:00pm | Festival Worship
4:00pm | Festival Worship
6:00pm | Candlelight Worship
9:00pm | Candlelight Worship

BUILDING AND TRANSITION UPDATE
Sunday, January 6 | 9:45-10:30am | Choir Room
Please join us for this opportunity to hear updates and see pictures of our new construction in progress. There will also be a chance to discuss and ask questions regarding our transition from our present building to the new location.

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LEARN MORE AT
FIRSTLUTHERANALEXANDRIA.COM/EVENTS
or stop by the Welcome Center for our Weekly or Monthly Calendar.

GIVING
Offering envelopes are located in each pew. You can also give by texting 320.500.6014 or by visiting us online at firstlutheranalexandria.com/your-gift.

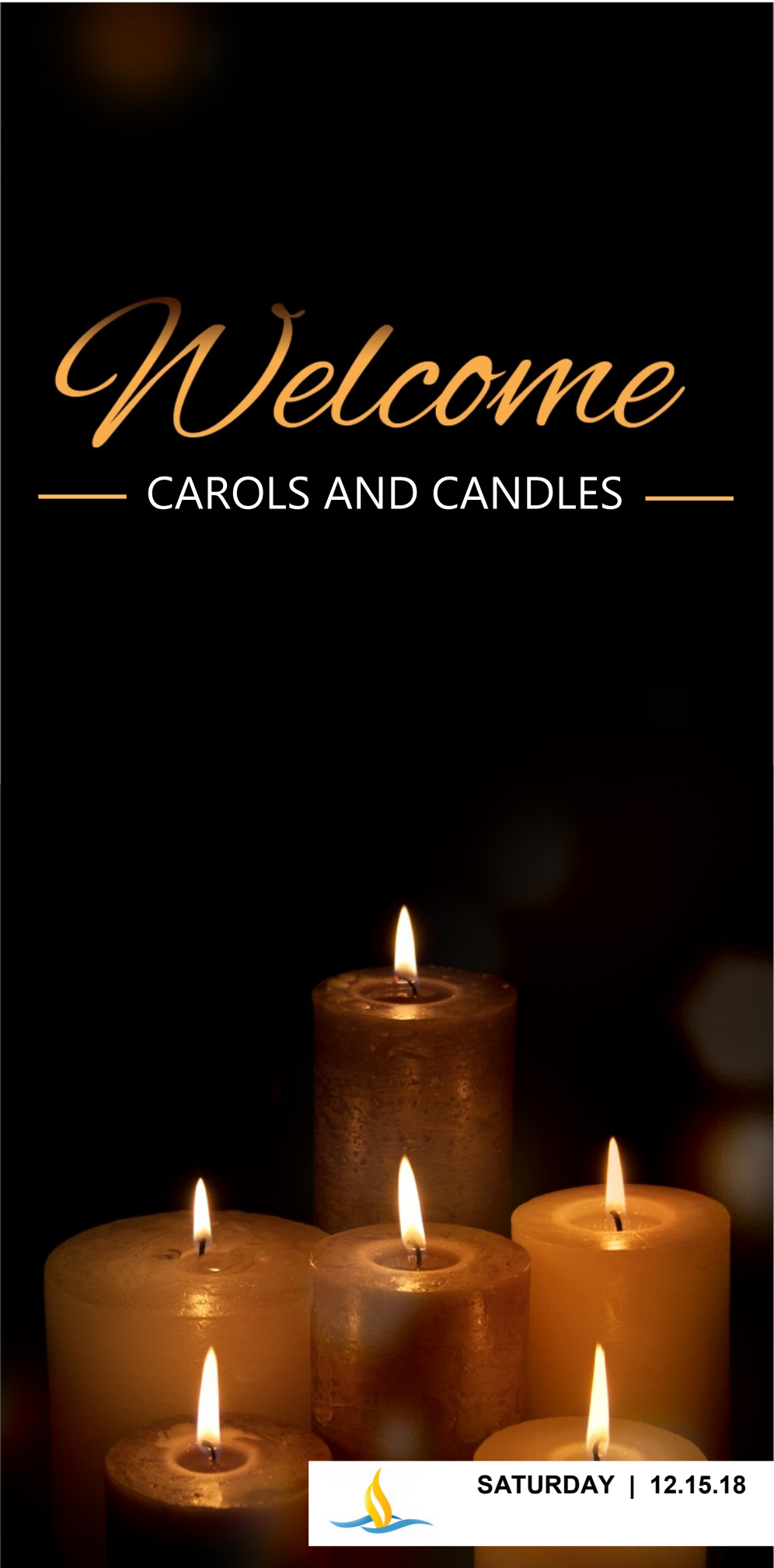
OUR WORSHIP LEADERS
Greg Billberg, Lead Pastor
Kari van Wakeren, Associate Pastor
Ben Jacobson, Associate Pastor
Randy Morken, Director of Music and Liturgy



First Lutheran
CHURCH
Where faith and life meet

822 Douglas Street
Alexandria, MN 56308
320.762.2196

Emergency After Hours Phone Number: 320.219.5492
For more information, visit us online at firstlutheranalexandria.com.



Worship tonight will flow without interruption. Please silence your phone and refrain from applause during the service.

PRELUDE Cook Family

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

CHIMES

INSTRUMENTAL

NARRATION *TAKE A BREATH...*by Carolyn Brunelle

CAROL *INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY* ELW 276
Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

RESPONSIVE READING

An excerpt from *AMAZING PEACE: A CHRISTMAS POEM* by Maya Angelou

N: *Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope,
And singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.*

C: Hope is born again in the faces of children.
Hope spreads around the earth, brightening all things.

N: *In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.
At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.
We listen carefully as it gathers strength.*

C: We hear a sweetness. The word is Peace.

N: *We look heavenward and speak the word aloud.*

C: Peace.

N: *We look at our world and speak the word aloud.*

C: Peace.

N: *We look at each other, then into ourselves
And we say without shyness or apology or hesitation,*

C: Peace, My Brother. Peace, My Sister. Peace, My Soul.

INSTRUMENTAL

ALLELUIA RINGERS *O HOLY NIGHT*

CAROL *ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY* (vs.1, 2) ELW 269
Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

KIDS CHOIR *DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?*

NARRATION
An excerpt from *BREATHE AND BE: A BOOK OF MINDFULNESS
POEMS* by Kate Combs

CHANCEL CHOIR *BREATH OF HEAVEN...*arr. Larson

CAROL *O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM* (vs.1, 2, 3) ELW 279
O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

INTERGENERATIONAL BELLS *DONA NOBIS PACEM*

KIDS CHOIR *GLORY TO GLORY AND AWAY IN A MANGER*

NARRATION *WALK DON’T RUN...*by Rob Bell

INSTRUMENTAL

NARRATION

Luke 2:6-7

CAROL *YOUR LITTLE ONES, DEAR LORD* (vs.1, 2) ELW 286
Your little ones, dear Lord, are we, and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.

With songs we hasten you to greet, and kiss the ground before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night that gave you birth, our soul's
delight.

CHANCEL CHOIR *I WISH YOU CHRISTMAS...*arr. Rutter

OFFERING WE RETURN TO GOD A PORTION OF OUR BLESSINGS.

OFFERING PRAYER
P: *Almighty God, like Mary and Joseph, who trusted in your grace, we
offer ourselves and our gifts to you. You made this holy night to shine
with brightness of the true light. As we prepare to depart, bless and guide
us on our journeys, and may your light continue to shine through us
always.*
C: Amen.

INSTRUMENTAL

RESPONSIVE READING
An excerpt from *HOLY SPIRIT* by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
N: *Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul.*
C: Bring the presence of the risen Lord
To renew my heart and make me whole.
N: *Cause your Word to come alive in me;
Give me faith for what I cannot see;*
C: Give me passion for your purity. Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.
N: *Holy Spirit, come abide within; may your joy be seen in all I do—*
C: Love enough to cover every sin
In each thought and deed and attitude,
N: *Kindness to the greatest and the least,
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.*
C: Turn my striving into works of grace.
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY