



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 11, 2016

**WELCOME TO  
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FOUNDED 1890**

*First Lutheran is a community, a gathering of people of diverse ages, cultures and traditions.*

*Just as Jesus opened himself to all and, by implication, opened the reign of God to all, so we, the members of First Lutheran seek to do the same.*

*Therefore, all are welcome here regardless of their race, gender or sexual orientation; regardless of their social, economic, educational, linguistic or relationship status; regardless of their citizenship, religious or cultural background or makeup of their family; and regardless of their physical, mental, emotional or spiritual condition. There is a place for you in our community worship, service and life.*

**To our Visitors:** Welcome! You are invited to sign our guest book in the Narthex (lobby) and join us for coffee and conversation downstairs after worship, where our friendly congregants will meet and greet you.

**A special welcome** to worshippers who are unable to be physically present and are joining us online for today's service.

*First Lutheran is easily accessible* via major city routes - 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Kingsway – and Bus #41 runs west from the Joyce Street Skytrain station. Ample parking is available in a lot just west of the church and on the church side of the two streets--Wales Street and 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. The wheelchair entrance is also the office entrance on 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

*For your convenience*, there is an elevator in the southwest corner of the building, fully accessible washrooms on the main floor in the northwest corner and two washrooms down the stairs at the east end of the lower level. A childcare play area is on the lower level.

*The present building*, erected in 1957, is the third in our history. Founded by Scandinavian fishermen, *First Lutheran* is tied closely to the history of Vancouver. Our logo reflects our ethnic and Christian roots, our West Coast location as well as the varied people and cultures which enrich our life and ministry together.

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**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 11, 2016**

***Those Serving the Servants Today***

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <i>Presider</i>           | Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford                                       |
| <i>Homilist</i>           | Pr. Michael Rogers  |
| <i>Assisting Minister</i> | Sylvia Harris   |
| <i>Lector</i>             | Janet Ray   |
| <i>Ministry of Music</i>  |   |
| <i>Organ/Piano</i>        | Jeanette Price  |
| <i>Flutist</i>            | Anne Johnson  |
| <i>Trumpeter</i>          | Karl Maier  |
| <i>Violinist</i>          | Elina Singh   |
| <i>Guest Pianist</i>      | Kathryn Roller  |
| <i>Gift Bearers</i>       | Alex Wilson<br>Deanna Wilson  |
| <i>Tray Holders</i>       | Ashlee Van Spronsen<br>Stephanie Van Spronsen                       |
| <i>Communion Servers</i>  | Janet Ray<br>Irina Lennikova<br>Alex Wilson<br>Deanna Wilson        |
| <i>Anointers</i>          | Sandi Strate<br>Pr. Sylvia Schmidt<br>Elina Singh<br>Pr. Adolf Manz |
| <i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>  | Pr. Sylvia & Paul Schmidt<br>Irina Lennikova                        |
| <i>Altar Guild</i>        | Ingrid Anderson<br>Betty & Wayne Wong<br>Soriya Salehi              |
| <i>Offering Counters</i>  | Alex Wilson<br>Lanny Harris   |

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 11, 2016

*Worshippers may wish to light a votive candle in memory of a loved one or for meditation. This may be done at any time before or during the liturgy except during community prayers, readings or homily. Since the number of candles is limited and to avoid mishaps, parents and caregivers are asked to be attentive when allowing children to light one.*

### INTRODUCTION

*A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom. Jesus points to signs of God's reign: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.*

### PRELUDE

*What Is This Lovely Fragrance  
Pastorale Symphony (Messiah)*

Paul Manz  
George Frederic Handel

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GATHERING

### ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

*"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"*

Geonyong Lee (women's choir)

*The third candle on the Advent Wreath will be lit during the song*

### OPENING RESPONSES

In this waiting season -in a time between times when living seems restricted

**We gather to remember one who embraced constraint while waiting for birth.**

God with us in the past, as we recount your story

**Teach us that waiting is not dead time but a dreaming time  
through which new ideas and insights are engendered.**

God with us in the present, as we share your supper

**Teach us that waiting is not lost time but a liminal time  
within which new possibilities and patterns take form.**

God with us in the future, as we celebrate your Kingdom

**Teach us that waiting is not quiescent time but a quickening time  
from which new life and love emerges.**

God with us in all time, as we look for your coming

**Teach us how to inhabit this waiting time.**

## **CONFESSION**

God with us, through Christ Jesus you have shown us what it is to live imaginatively, love expansively and act creatively.

**We confess that sometimes we have waited without thought and so have stifled fruitful possibility . Sometimes we have waited without generosity and so have constricted fruitful connection. Sometimes we have waited without hope and so have limited fruitful action. Sometimes we have simply been too busy or too distracted to wait and to trust in you.**

And so as we look once more for you: free us with your grace!  
Forgive the poverty of our waiting, touch our dreaming.  
Stretch our living and energize our acting that we may be ready for your coming. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**      *# 248 “People Look East”*

## **GREETING**

From God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, and inspire us to look to you, Gracious God. Strengthen our faith and hope in you. Transformed by grace, may we be liberated to walk in your ways; through Jesus Christ, our Beloved Saviour and Guide. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE - By Denise Pawliuk**

#### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10**

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God’s coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Response:* Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 146** (*congregation reads the bold*) Translated by Eugene Peterson

Don't put your life in the hands of experts who know nothing of life, of salvation life.

**Mere humans don't have what it takes; when they die, their projects die with them.**

Instead, get help from the God of Jacob, put your hope in GOD and know real blessing!

**GOD made sky and soil, sea and all the fish in it.**

She always does what he says—she defends the wronged, she feeds the hungry.

**GOD frees prisoners—he gives sight to the blind, he lifts up the fallen.**

GOD loves good people, protects strangers, takes the side of orphans and widows,  
but makes short work of the wicked.

**GOD's in charge—always.**

Zion's God is God for good!

**Hallelujah!**

**SECOND READING: James 5:7-10**

*In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*Response:* Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*Sing Alleluia verse before and after reading. All rise*)



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows a musical score for the Alleluia acclamation. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are 'Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style suitable for congregational singing.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11**

*John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth. From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this.*

*Response to announcement of the Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples  
<sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"  
<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight,  
the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have  
good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."  
<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out  
into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see?  
Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.  
<sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.  
<sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no  
one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater  
than he."

*Response: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.***

**HOMILY** (*Silence for reflection follows*)

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

# 243 *“Lost in the Night”*

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: “Gracious God”,  
and all will respond by saying “We wait for you.”*

**THE PEACE**

May the peace of Christ, the dynamic peace of imaginative dreaming,  
the challenging peace of radical loving, the powerful peace of engaged action,  
fill you to overflowing in this season of waiting. **And also with you.**

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY**

*Pastorale*

Antonio Vivaldi

**OFFERTORY PRAYER** *(All rise)*

Let us pray: **Saviour of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.**

**MEAL**

**INVITATION**

This is the table of our God who is with us – a place where bread and wine remind us  
how to live and love as those who inhabit God’s time, and work to build God’s Kingdom.  
A place where we recognize that the One for whom we wait is also the One who is already,  
and always, here with us.

So come, whether you are watching for the dawn, or dreading the first light,  
whether you are waiting with hope, or hiding your face.

Come with quiet confidence because it is here where we encounter the One  
who watches for our coming, who shows us what it is to wait well,  
and who waits with love and joy to welcome us in so that we might re-imagine life.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

With this bread and wine, we remember and celebrate the waiting  
which began to change the world; and we join our voices with all  
who still wait and work for that change to come to completion:

## “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra.  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.

Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to e - res Se - ñor.  
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system of music has two lines of lyrics. The second system of music also has two lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with chords and single notes.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

In the night of his offering,  
Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples saying:  
**“Take, and eat; this is my body given for you.  
Do this to remember me.”**

After supper, Jesus took a cup of wine,  
gave thanks, and gave it to them saying:  
**“Drink of it, all of you,  
this cup is the new covenant in my blood.  
It is poured out for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this to remember me.”**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (see facing page)



*Celebrant*  
As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*Celebrant and People*  
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,

your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.

For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.

Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.

For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,

now and for ev - er. A - men.

Setting: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (b. 1933)

**SHARING OF GIFTS**

The bread and wine declare that waiting is not time frozen but time freed and fruitful.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SHARING OF THE BLESSED SUPPER

*It is Christ who invites all to come to his table where he gives his body and blood, along with the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation under the forms of bread and wine. All are welcome to the table of grace! Bread or a gluten free option are available. All are invited to drink from the first (common) cup or if desired, to have an individual glass filled from the second (pouring) cup. Grape juice is now available pre-poured in the trays. Please note that full communion is received when only one of the elements is consumed. Those who desire prayer and anointing for the healing of any illness or brokenness in mind, body or spirit are invited to receive these blessings after communing.*

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION # 251 "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"

*Legend*

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (All rise)

The earth still waits for its healing. **God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

May Christ, the Light of the world, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Creator, ☩ Redeemer, and Sustainer, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

*# 253 "He Came Down"*

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

Paul Manz

*Today's liturgy is adapted from "In This Season of Waiting"  
- a communion liturgy for Advent by Pat Bennett*

### **This Week**

#### **Today**

Confirmation, 3—4:15 PM

#### **Monday**

Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm

#### **Tuesday**

Christmas Tree lighting, 7:30 pm

#### **Wednesday**

Communion Service at St. Thomas, 10 am

Soup meal, 5:30 PM

Council, 6:30 pm

Community Carolling, 6:30 pm

Exploring Worship, 7 PM

#### **Next Sunday**

Advent 4 (with communion), 10:30 AM

Dessert Potluck after service

### **Confirmation Class Schedule**

3 - 4:15 PM on Sundays  
Dec 11

### **Leadership opportunities on Council**

FLC Council is seeking volunteers to join the team and take on the following portfolios: **Community Outreach, Education, Fellowship, and Worship&Music Liaison.** Contact the church office for a description of the portfolio(s) that you are interested in.

We will continue the tradition of sharing the **Feast Day of Epiphany** on **January 1, 2017** with **St Thomas Anglican Church.** The joint worship this year will begin at **10:30 am at First Lutheran.**

### **Mark Your Calendar!**

**Congregation Caroling  
in the neighbourhood  
on Wednesday, December 14!**

5:30 PM Soup Meal at FLC  
6:30 - 8 PM Caroling

All are welcome! For more info, please talk with those coordinating the caroling event in the parish - Arvid Vimb, Pr. Adolf Manz, Donna Dufresne, Karen Duddy and Elina Singh.

**Fellowship and Hospitality  
appreciates your continued  
donations of cookies, fruit, and home  
baking to enrich our coffee hour  
after worship. No obligation to host.**

Please remember our special "Fourth Sunday in Advent Dessert Feast" next Sunday and bring a plate of goodies to share if you are able. Lots of wonderful music and musicians plus an array of Christmas goodies makes for a rich and full morning. (This is a really good Sunday to invite a friend or two to come to church with you.)

Everyone is welcome to help decorate the sanctuary Christmas tree on Tuesday, December 13 at 7:30 p. m.

## DIRECTORY

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Ministers</b>                  | God's People                              |
| <b>Pastor</b>                     | Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford<br>604.720.7255 |
| <b>Minister of Music</b>          | Jeanette Price<br>604.251.2656            |
| <b>Friends InDeed Coordinator</b> | Elina Singh                               |
| <b>Office Administrator</b>       | Iris Kong                                 |
| <b>Caretaker</b>                  | Peter dela Torre                          |
| <b>Altar Guild Coordinator</b>    | Janet Schreiber                           |
| <b>Liturgical Artists</b>         | Linda Collins<br>Marion Manz              |

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### Church Council

Lanny Harris - Chairperson  
John Morley - Vice Chairperson & Property  
Ernie Neumann - Treasurer  
Jen Langerud - Secretary & Human Resources  
Sylvia Harris - Envelope Secretary  
Wayne Wong - Property and Fellowship & Hospitality  
Betty Wong - Fellowship and Hospitality  
Debbie Powell - Outreach Adult (seniors)  
Francis Antobre - Outreach Technology  
Felix Opoku - Outreach Youth & Young Adults  
Ray Hartley - Member at large

### Mutual Ministry Committee:

Sandi Strate - Chairperson  
Russell Collins  
Anne Johnson  
Arvid Vimb  
Shannon Ingersoll

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You can find First Lutheran on:  
FB: First Lutheran Church Vancouver  
TWITTER: FirstLutheranVan

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: “Gracious God”, and all will respond by saying “We wait for you.”*

As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

For the church and all messengers of the gospel, for all who call upon the name of the Lord, and for congregations throughout the world; that God work through us to bring harmony and reconciliation. Gracious God: **We wait for you.**

For our oceans and the arctic, for rain forests and deserts, for wilderness and developed land, and for plants blossoming and dormant; that we may work to protect the splendor and diversity of creation proclaim the glory of the Lord. Gracious God: **We wait for you.**

For our world in need of care, *especially*...and for those who work to care for the stranger, widow, and orphan; that God raise up leaders who work for the protection of all. Gracious God: **We wait for you.**

For the hungry and homeless, for those in physical or mental captivity, for the fearful and sorrowful, for those living with HIV/AIDS, and for the sick; that those who help others serve with patience and grace. We pray especially for... and for those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart. Gracious God: **We wait for you.**

In thanksgiving for the departed who were faithful to God’s word; that their words and actions direct us to the one who prepares a way for us. We remember especially ... and those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart. . . . Gracious God: **We wait for you.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Saviour. **Amen.**

*Would you like to add a prayer petition on Sundays? We invite you to write down your prayer request on the music stand in the narthex, which will be included each Sunday in the prayers of the people.*

*Please note that prayer petitions will be refreshed each week.*