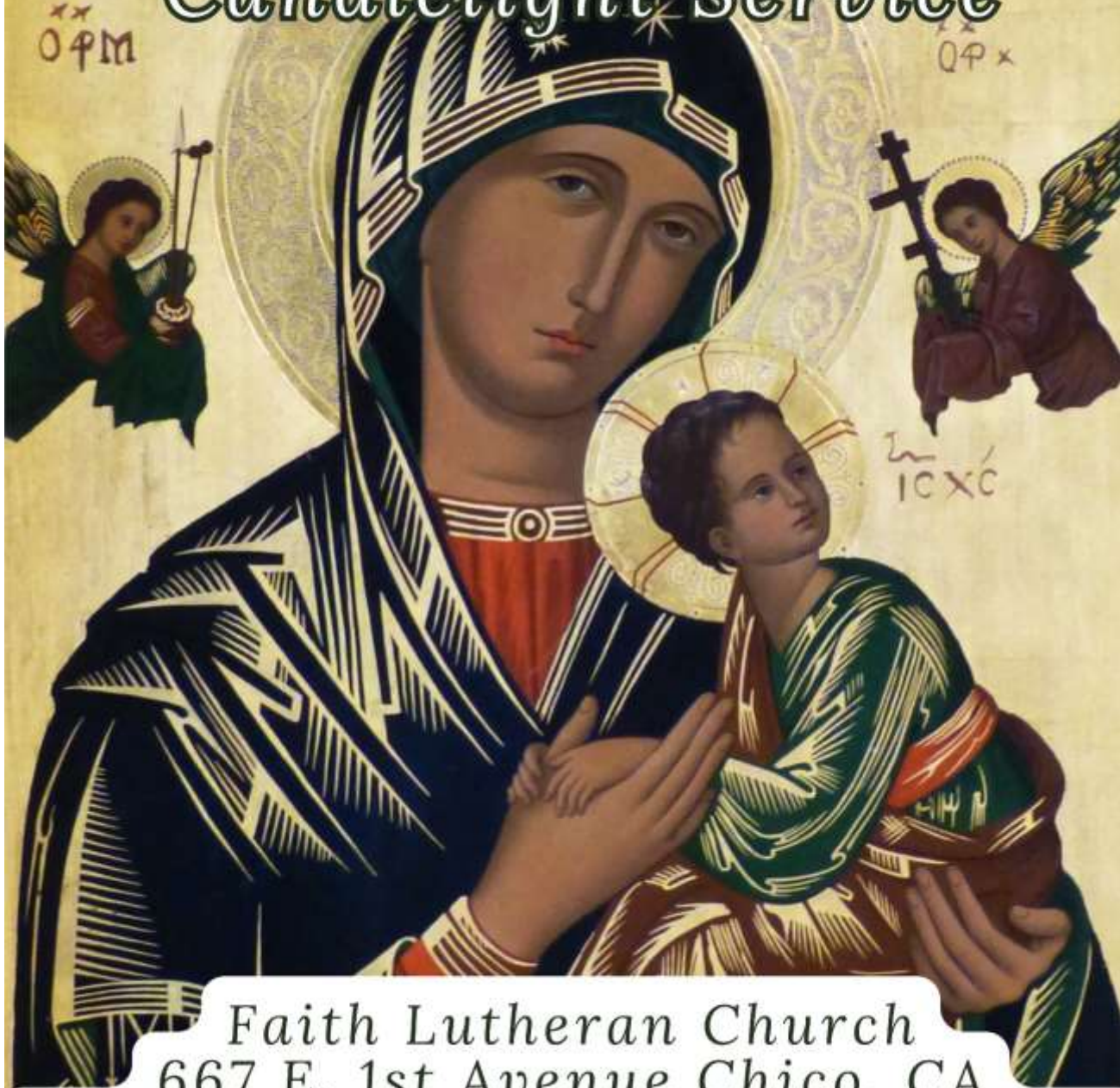


# Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Faith Lutheran Church  
667 E. 1st Avenue Chico, CA  
Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2025, 9:00 p.m.

## PRELUDE

Home | Ola Gjeilo | FLC Christmas Eve  
Chamber Ensemble

## PROCESSIONAL CAROL

ELW 283 | *O Come, All Ye Faithful*



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

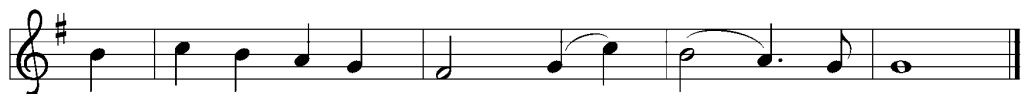


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

## WELCOME

Pr. Ben Colahan

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Pr. Ben Colahan

**CALL)** Reconciling God,

**RESP)** we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love;

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

**we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**

**GREETING**

Pr. Ben Colahan

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pr. Ben Colahan

**HANDBELL ANTHEM**

*And Heaven and Nature Sing |*  
Matthew Prins | FLC  
Handbell Choir

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 9:2-7

Raquel Krach

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*CALL)* Word of God, word of life.

***RESP)* Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

*Psalms 96 | Michel Guimont*

***RESP)* Today, today, today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW 257 | *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* | v. 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,

that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

## GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-14

Pr. Ben Colahan

*CALL)* The holy gospel according to Luke.

*RESP)* Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

*CALL)* The Gospel of the Lord.

*RESP)* Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

Pr. Ben Colahan

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 270 | *O Little Town of Bethlehem*



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.  
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless-ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893  
Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

## NICENE CREED

Pr. Ben Colahan

**RESP)** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Karen Avis

*Sung Response: O Lord Hear My Prayer*  
Taizé

**SUNG RESP)** O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pr. Ben Colahan

**CALL)** The peace of Christ be with you all.

**RESP)** And also with you.

## OFFERING

*In the Bleak Midwinter* | arr. by Dan Forrest | FLC  
Sanctuary Choir and Chamber Ensemble

## SETTING THE TABLE

ELW 270 | *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pr. Ben Colahan

*CALL)* The Lord be with you.

*RESP)* And also with you.

*CALL)* Lift up your hearts.

*RESP)* We lift them to the Lord.

*CALL)* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*RESP)* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pr. Ben Colahan

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## COMMUNION SONG

ELW 294 | *In the Bleak Midwinter*



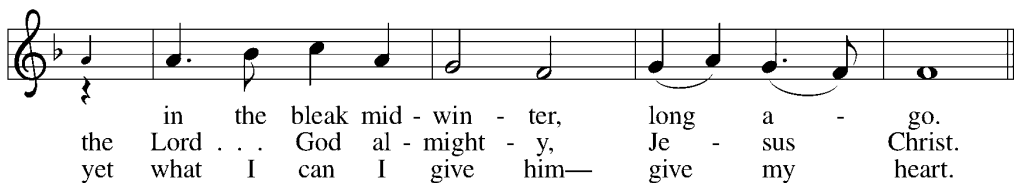
1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

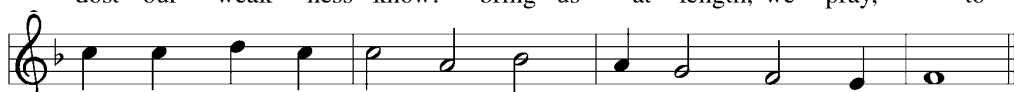


snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



## COMMUNION SONG

ELW 272 | *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*



## COMMUNION SONG

ELW 277 | *Away In A Manger*



Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Matthes, 1876–1948, st. 4  
Music: ES IST EIN ROS, Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599

Text: North American, 19th cent.  
Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1945





down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

## COMMUNION SONG

ELW 296 | *What Child Is This*



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Karen Avis

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Pr. Ben Colahan

HS 732 *Night of Silence/Silent Night* |  
FLC Sanctuary Choir

# SENDING SONG

HS 732A/ELW 281 | *Silent Night, Holy Night*



*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



*Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

## BLESSING

Pr. Ben Colahan

## DISMISSAL

Karen Avis

**CALL)** Glory to God in the highest!

**RESP)** And peace to God's people on earth!

**CALL)** Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**RESP)** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*Bring A Torch, Jeanette Isabella* | Arr. by  
 Keith Chapman | Luke Nicolay, organ

## TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

**Presiding Minister:** Pr. Ben Colahan

**A/V Desk:** Malinda Ard, Kai Pappani-McDermott, and Kaylen Wilson

**Assisting Minister:** Karen Avis

**Council Person:** Dawn Stafford

**Healing Minister:** Gen Brink-Capriola

**Communion:** Leanne Chrisman, Vickie James (shepherd), Elaine Lund, Janine Rush, and Marge Troester

**Lector:** Raquel Krach

**Ushers:** Craig Fellner and Devlin Gillespie

**Welcome Table:** Diane Fellner and Mary Schweder

**Musicians:** FLC Contemporary Team, FLC Handbell Choir, FLC Sanctuary Choir, and Christmas Eve Chamber Ensemble (Flute, French Horn, Strings, Trombone, and Oboe)

**Cantor:** Luke Nicolay

~

## MUSICIAN SPONSORS

***Violin 1:*** Caroline Fairchild, sponsored by Margaret McMillan

***Violin 1:*** Shelley Fairchild, sponsored by the Kehoe family

***Violin 1:*** Galen Fairchild, sponsored by the Kees Family

***Violin 2:*** Ebba Herritt, sponsored by Sally Scott

***Viola:*** Keith Herritt, sponsored by Faith Lutheran Church

***Cello:*** Kim Bruder, sponsored by the Rush Family

***Flute:*** Claire Greene, sponsored by the Kees Family

***Oboe:*** Cat Huss, sponsored by Margaret McMillan

# Merry Christmas

*(Pictured: This Year's Christmas Caroling Crew)*



## *Faith Lutheran Church*

*A community reflecting God's love, with a place at the table for everyone.*

667 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. Chico, CA. 95926 | 530.895.3754  
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