



Joseph's Dream, by Lauren Wright Pittman

Burlington Lutheran Church

ADVENT 4

134 E Victoria Ave, Burlington, WA | December 15, 2024

Burlington Lutheran Church

134 East Victoria Avenue Burlington, Washington

Sunday Worship 10am

Children's Church after the Children's Message

Nursery available downstairs for all children aged four and younger

The mission of Burlington Lutheran is "Being God's Love in our Communities"

Welcome! It is good to be together today!

- We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, which means welcome is extended to all to become partners in the full life and ministry of Burlington Lutheran, regardless of ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, abilities, socioeconomic status, or any other societal or religious barrier.
- If you'd like to communicate with the church office and/or Pastor Charis (such as a request to meet, address change, prayer request, signing up for weekly enews, etc), please fill out the yellow contact sheet in your bulletin and drop in an offering plate.
- *Absolutely all are welcome to the communion table.* In addition to homemade bread, gluten free crackers are available. Individual pre-filled glass cups of wine (red) and juice (white) are provided. If you'd rather not come forward to receive communion please ask an usher for a single-use communion kit.
- A gender neutral restroom is to the right as you exit the sanctuary, and another is down the stairs, past the entrance to the fellowship hall.
- If you or your child need a quiet place to be during worship, you are welcome to use the room behind the sound board. In the quiet room you can hear and see the worship service, there is comfortable seating, a diaper changing station, and toys for small children.
- This worship service is livestreamed on both Facebook and YouTube. If you prefer not to be shown on camera, you are invited to sit in the last four rows on the main floor, or in the balcony. During communion backs are visible.
- Please ask an usher if you have any questions!

December 15, 2024

Advent 4C

PRELUDE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are on the ancestral homelands of the Upper Skagit peoples. We are grateful for their stewardship of these lands and waterways since time immemorial. Our faith leads us to honor treaties, build authentic and mutual relationship, and remember that God created our shared world and together we are to keep it sacred.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

See back of bulletin for calendar of upcoming events

CALL TO WORSHIP

In this worried world,

we sing of joy.

In this fragile world,

we lift each other up.

In this beautiful world,

we look for God.

In this tender world,

we hold onto hope.

This is the invitation of faith.

So in this time of worship,

may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us God.

With hope in our hearts, amen!

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING: JOY

In a world that is anxious and fearful, how can we start again?

How can we reset?

Let us begin with tenderness.

Let us begin with our hearts on our sleeve.

Let us begin from a place of vulnerability and hope.

Let us begin with love.

Yes, let us start with love.

Today we light the candles of hope,
peace, joy, and love.

May the warmth of these lights be our
cornerstone.

May the truth in these lights help us begin again.

May it be so! Amen.

OPENING SONG: "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" ELW 244

**1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.**

**2 The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.**

**3 The saints, who here in patience
their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold.**

**4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Beloveds,

Life can feel like it's out of control, out of reach, and that we're out of time.

Fortunately for us, God's grace is not.

No matter what we are able to hold, God is able to hold onto us.

So trusting that God's grace does not let us go, join me in the prayer of confession:

Gracious God,
**You paint pictures of what could be,
but we think those visions are impossible.
You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb,
but we give in to skepticism and uncertainty.
You dream of a more just day,
but we believe we are helpless.
Forgive us for losing sight of hope.
Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is.
Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it.
Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams,
and to not be afraid of either.**

No matter what you hold onto,
and no matter what you let slip through your hands,
God is holding onto you.
That good news will never change.
So hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:
Today is a new day. Today, we have reason to hope. Today, we are forgiven.
And the same will be true tomorrow.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, as we come this morning, we pray: help us to begin again. Provide anew with reasons to hope, to dream for creation, to risk vulnerability. In our listening we declare, "Our souls magnify the Lord, our spirit rejoices in God our Savior." Amen.

THE READINGS

First Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 (First Nations Version)

¹⁸Here is the story of how the Chosen One was born:

His mother, Bitter Tears (Mary), had been promised in marriage to He Gives Sons (Joseph). But before they came together in marriage, while still a virgin, she found out that she was carrying a baby in her womb from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹He Gives Sons (Joseph) was a man of honor. He did not want to bring her trouble and open shame, so he thought about secretly releasing her from the marriage promise.

²⁰As he wondered about these things, a messenger from the Great Spirit appeared to him in a dream and said, "He Gives Sons (Joseph), descendant of Much Loved One (David), do not be afraid to take Bitter Tears (Mary) to be your wife, because the Holy Spirit has given her this child. ²¹She will give birth to a son. You will name him Creator Sets Free (Jesus), because he will set his people free from their bad hearts and broken ways."

²²This gave full meaning to the words of Creator spoken long ago by the prophet, ²³"A young virgin will be with child and give birth to a son. They will call his name Immanuel, a which *in our tribal language* means Creator Is with Us."

²⁴When He Gives Sons (Joseph) woke up, he followed the guidance given him in the dream and took Bitter Tears (Mary) to be his wife. ²⁵But he did not have sexual relations with her until after the child was born, and he named the child Creator Sets Free (Jesus).

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Glory to God" (Taize)

Gloria, Gloria

In excelsis Deo

Gloria, Gloria

Alleluia, alleluia. (2x)

Gospel: Luke 1:46-55 (First Nations Version)

⁴⁶⁻⁴⁷"From deep in my heart I dance with joy to honor the Great Spirit. ⁴⁸Even though I am small and weak, I have been noticed. Now I will be looked up to by all. ⁴⁹The Mighty One has lifted me up! His name is sacred. He is the Great and Holy One."

⁵⁰"He shows kindness and pity to both children and elders who respect him.

⁵¹His strong arm has brought low the ones who think they are better than others. ⁵²He counts coup* with arrogant warrior chiefs but puts a headdress of honor on the ones with humble hearts."

⁵³"He prepares a great feast for the ones who are hungry, but sends the overstuffed ones home with empty bellies. ⁵⁴⁻⁵⁵ He has been kind to the tribes of Wrestles with Creator (Israel) who walk in his ways, for he has remembered the ancient promises he made to our ancestors-to Father of Many Nations (Abraham) and his descendants."

When she finished, they both laughed with joy. With hearts full of gladness they told each other their stories.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

**1:52 "Counting coup" was a Native American practice among some of the Plains tribes of touching an enemy with a coup stick as an act of courage during battle, to show he could have killed him but chose to spare him instead. Each time the coup stick was used in battle, a mark would be placed on it. It counted the number of victories one.*

MESSAGE

SONG OF THE DAY: "Hope is Worth the Risk" by A Sanctified Art

College students gather protesting for peace

Standing firm in spite of violence from police

Refrain:

Empires will fight with force or politics

Still the Spirit whispers, "Hope is worth the risk"

**Young girls in Iran to protest the regime
Take off their hijabs to let their hair be seen**

Refrain:

**Empires will fight with force or politics
Still the Spirit whispers, "Hope is worth the risk"
In Taiwan the dreamers flood the streets with blooms
Sunflowers and lilies liberty's perfume**

Refrain:

**Empires will fight with force or politics
Still the Spirit whispers, "Hope is worth the risk"**

**Liberian women scarred by civil war
Keep the peace talks going by barring the doors**

Refrain:

**Empires will fight with force or politics
Still the Spirit whispers, "Hope is worth the risk"**

**Ethnic music rings out from the Baltic Sea
As the people sing their right to liberty**

Refrain:

**Empires will fight with force or politics
Still the Spirit whispers, "Hope is worth the risk"**

**Age to age and coast to coast people have stood
Risking something big in hope of something good**

Refrain:

**Empires will fight with force or politics
Still the Spirit whispers, "Hope is worth the risk"**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All are welcome to light a candle during the prayers.

When the reader says, "We bring you our prayers," the congregation sings:

**The Lord is my light
My light and salvation
In God I trust,
In God I trust. (2x)**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of God be with you always.

And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with your neighbor.

OFFERING

Online giving is also available at burlingtonlutheran.org, Venmo @burlingtonlutheran, the Vanco Mobile app, or by Paypal at burlingtonlutheran@gmail.com. If you give electronically, you are invited to drop an online giving card (found in the pew) into the offering plate. Thank you for your generosity in giving!

MUSIC DURING OFFERING: "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" ELW 843

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God,

source of every gift of your creation.

By these gifts and with our lives,

help us to serve one another and those in need,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION

At Burlington Lutheran Church we celebrate open table communion which means the table is open to ALL, no exceptions. For those who would rather not come forward for communion, ushers will provide single-serve communion (grape juice or wine). If you are at home please gather your communion elements at this time. Come, taste and see that God is good!

Invitation to Communion

...All are welcome here.

Great Thanksgiving & Holy Communion

(To the tune of All Creatures of Our God and King)

Our Creator is with you

And Creator dwells with you, Alleluia, Alleluia

Lift up your hearts to our God

We lift them up and offer thanks

It is right to praise Creator

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

On the night Jesus was betrayed

At a shared table the Lord stayed

Alleluia, alleluia

He took the bread, said this is me

Blessed, broke and shared it, take and eat

Christ is here now, at this table

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

After they ate Christ took the cup
Blessed, to the heavens held it up

Alleluia, alleluia

This is my blood that's shared for you
A covenant of love come true

Christ is here now, at this table

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Christ said with bread remember me
And share this meal eternally

Alleluia, alleluia

All are welcome at this feast
Bread, cup, and love, come and receive

Christ is here now, at this table

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

The Prayer of Jesus

(You are invited to say your heart's version of the Lord's Prayer)

Our loving God, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sin, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Music During Communion: "He Came Down" ELW 253

Prayer after Communion

Nourishing God,
Sometimes we tell ourselves that too much has taken place to begin again.
We think the world is too far gone, and we have made too many mistakes.
We tell ourselves that we couldn't possibly begin again.
But at this Table we get a glimpse of your kingdom.
Where all are welcomed, all are seen, all are fed.
And we have hope; we begin again.
Thank you for planting hope deep in our bones.
Amen.

BLESSING

As you leave this place,
may you have the wisdom to lean on one other.

May you have the courage to hold onto hope,
the compassion to do the good that is yours to do,
and the confidence to trust that you are a blessing.
Advent invites us to begin again,
to start with love and begin again.
In the name of Christ,
our new beginning,
go in peace.

SENDING SONG: "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" ELW 251

1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;

**I sing my Savior's praise!
You looked upon my lowliness,
and I am full of grace.
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age
this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me,
and holy is your name.**

2 To all who live in holy fear

**your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm you dash the proud,
their scheming hearts expose.
The ruthless you have cast aside,
the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled with all good things,
the rich sent off unfed.**

3 To Israel, your servant blest,

**your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made
their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One,
give honor to the Word,
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,
one God, by all adored.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, both waiting for and living the love of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Charis Weathers & Sean Bendickson

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Liturgy adapted from A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Communion Liturgy by Rebecca Joy Summer, adapted



WELCOME VISITORS!

Welcome to BLC. We are so thankful you are worshipping with us and we pray that you feel the deep presence of God and the welcome of God's people in this place. You are invited to speak with any of our worship leaders after the service, or you may contact us at

burlingtonlutheran@gmail.com

UPCOMING BLC EVENTS & COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

Today: Choir Practice, after worship

Dec 17, 24, 31, Jan 7: Devotional discussion on Zoom, noon

Dec 21: Longest Night service, 7pm

Dec 22: Children's Pageant (& choir!) during Service

Dec 24: Christmas Eve service, 7pm

Dec 29: Creative Lessons and Carols

Jan 5: Epiphany (and Star Words)

Jan 5: Church 2.0: Star Words and Advent Highlights

Jan 7: Treaty Day: Resilience in Native American Communities, 6:30pm

Jan 30: Point in Time survey gathering at BLC, 8am – 1 pm (150 hats project!)



BEING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

We are all God's beloved children and are recipients of God's radical love and grace. All are welcome in this church community. You are welcome here if you have ever felt excluded or judged because of your gender, ethnicity, race, religion, status, ability, sexual orientation, doubts or questions. We are a community committed to racial equity, and we believe in Jesus' commandments to love God and love neighbor. Join us!

Matthew 22: 37-39

BURLINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

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