



# *Second Sunday of Advent*

“Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ’s love.”

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Scottsbluff, NE  
(308) 632-8023  
[calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**December 10, 2023**

## Second Sunday of Advent

**A Warm Welcome** to all as we gather as God's people to worship our Lord. We pray our worship together would strengthen your faith and desire to know and serve the One who loves us with an everlasting love as made known to us in Jesus Christ.

*Visitors, if you are worshipping with us today, we are glad to have you with us.  
Please join us again soon!*

**KEY:** ELW and any page number = Worship hymnal (cranberry),  
OSB = Other Song Book (red), W&P = Worship & Praise (purple).

\* Indicates please stand if able. Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type.

### Welcome and Announcements

Welcome Song:

“Deo!”

Choir

### ✠WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS✠

#### \*Confession of Sins and Assurance of God's Forgiveness

*(All may make the sign of the cross ✠ the sign marked at baptism, as we begin)*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Everlasting God,  
**you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

**\*Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

Stir up our hearts, Lord God,

**to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**\*Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(You are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another)*

**\*The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

“It Wouldn’t Be  
Christmas Without. . . .

**Narration:**

**It wouldn’t be Christmas without...CANDLES**

**Youth**

*“This Little Light of Mine”*

**JaM**

*“Silent Night, Holy Night”*

**ELW #281**

**vv. 1**

**1. 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.**

**Narration:**

**It wouldn’t be Christmas without...MUSIC**

**Youth**

*“Angels We Have Heard On High”*

**ELW #289**

**vv. 1&2**

**1. Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.**

*Refrain:* **Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain***

***“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”***

**ELW #270**

**vv. 1&2**

**1. Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

***Refrain:* Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

**2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain***

**Narration:**

**It Wouldn't be Christmas without...the CHRISTMAS TREE**

**Youth**

***“O Christmas Tree”***

**O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree  
How lovely are your branches!**

**O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree  
How lovely are your branches!**

**Not only green in summer's heat,  
But also winter's snow & sleet**

**O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree  
How lovely are your branches!**

O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum,  
Wie treu sind deine Blätter!

O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum,  
Wie treu sind deine Blätter!

Du grünst nicht nur im Sommerzeit,  
Nein auch im Winter, wenn es schneit.

O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum,  
wie treu sind deine Blätter!

***“Go Tell It On the Mountain”***

**ELW #290**

**vv. 1**

*Refrain:* Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

**Narration:**

**It wouldn't be Christmas without...PRESENTS**

**Youth**

**Offering**

**“Lovely Child, Holy Child”**

**Choir**

**Narration:**

**It wouldn't be Christmas without...JESUS**

**Youth**

***“What Child is This”***

**ELW #296**

**vv. 1&2**

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

**This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!**

**2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!**

***“Away In the Manger”***

**ELW #277  
vv. 1&3**

**1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

**Reading:**

**The Holy Gospel according to the book of Luke, the second chapter**

**Youth**

**Closing Prayer**

**Benediction**

**“Joy to the World”**

**ELW #267**

**vv. 1-3**

**1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3. No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

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Linda Hauschild, 12/12; Brock Nikont, 12/14; Jim Zier, 12/14;  
Kolten Burgner, 12/16; Mary Ellen Kropp, 12/17

If we have missed your birthday, please let the office know. Thanks.



## In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **Jan Martin** (health problems—Susan Martin's relative), **Karen Stevens** (hip surgery recovery & complications—Gail Bruflat's sister), **David Pickett** (Healing—son of Virginia Pickett), **David Stevens** (recovering), **Becky Martin** (recovering), **Fran Johnson** (recovering from surgery), **Joy Arnold** (Cancer), **Joni** (stage 4 cancer), **Aimee Roos** (colon cancer & critical kidney disease—Penny Stevens' nephew's wife), **Kathy Johnson** (health issues), **William Gibbs** (Cancer—brother of Larry Gibbs), **Vicki Schmidt** (cancer treatment), **Linda Spomer**, **Catherine Rahrs** (Val Rahrs' mother), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

Prayers for comfort and safety: **Jeffery Christeleit** (deployed—Brian & Jodi Christeleit's son and Jim & Sheila Miller's grandson).



### YOUR GIVING ONLINE

Scan the **QR code** to the right, go to our website: [www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org) and click on the **Give Online** button OR download the **Vanco Now App** on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



### DECEMBER FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

**FOOD PANTRY:** Packaged Cookies

**BACKPACKS:** Applesauce

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



### **CLCW DECEMBER MISSION PROJECT:**

#### **Angel Tree**

The Angel Tree is up! Paper ornaments are on the tree with first name, age, and gift idea. The names are from the Lakota Lutheran Center. **Please bring your gift NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15th.** Please see the December Tidings for more information.





## JAM on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Our Wednesday evening youth group is for kids in kindergarten through 6th grade. We begin with dinner (ravioli bake/salad/bread/dessert) at 5:30 p.m. followed by storytelling, music, crafts, games, and lots of fun until 7 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Angie at the church.

**Endowment Fund** application forms are now available in the office. These funds may be used for outreach: Churchwide, Nebraska Synod, and local. The deadline is January 31, 2024.



**ELCA GOOD GIFTS** *How it works*

- 1**  Choose your gift.
- 2**  Get a card.
- 3**  Change lives.

Give an unexpected gift this Christmas. Gifts that grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. Meaningful gifts for everyone on your list. See the bulletin board next to the Fellowship Hall or visit <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> for your gift options.



WNCC's Very Valley Christmas is happening Dec. 9th @ 7:30pm and Dec.10th @ 2pm. Admission is FREE! A collaboration between WNCC's performing arts programs (Instrumental Music, Vocal Music and Theatre Arts) invites you to share in the joy of the season as we kick off the holiday season!

## Sunday, December 17th

Christmas Caroling Party with JAM & EPIC! Meet at the church at 4 pm - we will go caroling and spread Christmas cheer! All are welcome. If you would like to carol, come join us. We will return to the church for dinner!



### **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

We invite you to **bring a poinsettia** to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to dedicate your poinsettia *in honor of* or *in memory of* a loved one, forms will be available December 1 outside the office door. The remembrances will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Please bring your poinsettia anytime after December 17th and then stop by to pick it up after Christmas to enjoy at home.



## **Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service**

**December 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7p.m.**

**First United Methodist Church – 2002 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Scottsbluff**

A service for those for whom Christmas is not joyful; for those who are confronted with the loss of loved ones, feeling isolated and alone, perhaps even feeling depressed. On this longest night of the year, we remember and place our hope in Christ. All are welcome to attend.

Hey, have you seen our new activity on Facebook? Check it out and make sure you share! We want Calvary Lutheran to be showing up in people's feeds, to see the amazing things we have to offer here. If you have events, pictures or items that you wanted posted or shared, please send information to Tracy Steele (308) 631-4417 or [tsteele@geringschools.net](mailto:tsteele@geringschools.net),

Becca Pierce (785) 899-6951 or [rrusch18@gmail.com](mailto:rrusch18@gmail.com).

**MAKE SURE TO LIKE OR LOVE! MAKE SURE TO SHARE!!**



## WORSHIP LEADERS

**PMA Bill Huelle**

**This Sunday – December 10**

**USHERS:** Kent & Dawn Holub

**LAY READER:** Mary Jo Huelle

**POWERPOINT:** Andi Dorn

**ACOLYTES:** Ayden Tompkins & Rhyan Buckley

**MEDIA:** Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

**AUDIO:** Jim Dorn

**ALTAR GUILD:** Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler

**ORGANIST:** Tahnee Hutchinson

**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP:** *Please sign up!*

**Next Sunday – December 17**

**USHERS:** Vicki Howell & Deb Brown

**LAY READER:** Angie Hinze

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Barb Jensen

**COMMUNION ASSTS:** Rick & Lynn Margheim

**POWERPOINT:** Shawna Payne

**ACOLYTES:** Brynlee Payne & Ben Moravec

**MEDIA:** Chris Jensen

**AUDIO:** Jack Martin

**ALTAR GUILD:** Abby Newsom, Maunette Loeks-Van Patten, Barb Jensen, Nannie Walsh

**PIANIST:** Tahnee Hutchinson

**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP:** *Please sign up!*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, December 10**

10 a.m. – Worship/JAM Christmas Program

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

**Monday, December 11**

2 p.m. – Priscilla Circle @ Vicki Schmidt's home

6 p.m. – Council Meeting

**Tuesday, December 12**

1 p.m. – Quilting

**Wednesday, December 13**

12 p.m. – OWLs Lunch

5:30 p.m. – Social Ministry

5:30 p.m. – JAM

6 p.m. – Confirmation

7p.m. – Choir Practice

**Saturday, December 16**

5:30 p.m. – Worship

**Sunday, December 17**

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

4 p.m. – JAM/EPIC Christmas Caroling Party!

DECEMBER 10, 2023  
SECOND SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



*God brings peace and forgiveness.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 1:1-8	The beginning of the good news
Monday	Isaiah 40:1-11	Comfort my people
Tuesday	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Promise of the Lord's coming
Wednesday	Matthew 5:9	Blessed are the peacemakers
Thursday	Psalms 29	The voice of God in a storm
Friday	Isaiah 52:7-10	Let Zion rejoice
Saturday	Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13	A prayer for God's peace
Sunday	John 1:6-8, 19-28	John's witness to the light

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.*  
Isaiah 40:1-2 (NRSV)

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty God, help us to rely on you above all things: that our lives may find rest and peace through Christ Jesus, the Son of God. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this food; we pray for a fair distribution of the fruit of the earth that all may have enough to eat. In Jesus' name, amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the steadfast love and faithfulness of God give you peace. (Psalm 85:10)



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For a larger printable 'Taking Faith Home' go to our website [calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

DECEMBER 10, 2023  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*He Came Down*



**WEEKLY MILESTONES**

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

- Think or talk about a time when you experienced peace.
- When have you felt God's peace in your life?

**DEVOTIONS**

*Read:* Mark 1:1-8.

The first line in Mark, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God," serves as a title for the entire gospel writing. That title and that announcement of good news is the source of all the peace we can want. Mark's Gospel does not present a peace that is simply life without struggles. The peace of God that comes with the good news of Jesus involves struggle, cleansing, and letting go of one's own innocence or purity. The peace that Jesus brings, and John the Baptist introduces, involves a "repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (v. 4). The peace that Jesus brings—and continues to bring throughout our lives—is the freeing power to let go of an understanding of being able to make it on one's own or of being better than others. Worship services often begin with statements of confession and forgiveness. This offers a peace where we need not hide from the hurts and brokenness of our lives and world. It is the peace that rests on the goodness of God in Christ for us and for all.

*Discuss:* How does confession and forgiveness give you peace?

*Pray:* God of steadfast love and faithfulness, we thank you for coming to us again and again that we may know your forgiving power and have peace through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

**SERVICE**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you extend the peace of God to someone?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

The scripture readings during Advent point to Jesus. This week we light two candles on the Advent wreath. The second candle is the candle of peace. Think or talk about how the words of Psalm 85, a prayer for restoration, bring us peace. "Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts." Light the first candle of hope and the second candle of peace and say: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5)



In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)