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# Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

W6016 COUNTY RD. W  
HOLMEN, WI 54636

**December 5, 2021 –9:00 a.m**



## 2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Welcome to Worship Service  
*The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*  
Chapter Two: Joseph of Bethlehem

You are invited to speak the **bold** text. Please stand as you are able at parts marked \*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

All creation holds its breath. **The time is almost here.**

The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing. **Excitement is all around us.**

Prepare your hearts—the grace of God takes on human form. **Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-us, comes to us.**

We gather to make ready our hearts **for the coming of Christ, our hope.**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. **As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness.** Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. **Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG:

*All Earth Is Hopeful*

### \*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

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit...O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. Amen.**

### READING: **Matthew 1:18-24**

Now the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, took place this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, not willing to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord ap-

peared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and they shall name him Emmanuel” which means “God is with us.” And when Joseph awoke from sleep he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him. He took her as his wife.

The Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

REFLECTION

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

*Joseph’s Lullaby*

\*APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

....Life-giving God, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Renew our strength and rekindle our zeal for your word and your work in this world, and make of us the living answers to prayer for the sake of all whom you love. **Amen.**

\*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

\*OFFERING

\*OFFERING PRAYER

**We offer these gifts in response to the word of hope you continue to speak. Allow us to hear your word that inspires us to give of ourselves for the sake of your beloved children. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen**

\*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.**

\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

\*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.**

\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet.

Feast on God's gift of grace.

\*COMMUNION

The body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you so much for worshiping with us today!

\*BLESSING

God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you, + bless you and keep you in hope and peace. Amen.

\*SENDING SONG

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*(music on next page)*

\*DISMISSAL

You are the body of Christ. Go now, fed and forgiven, to be signs of Christ coming to the world.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*POSTLUDE

# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.  
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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**Worship Leader:** Pastor Chris; **Worship Accompanist:** Lynn Wegner

**Birthdays this week:** December—5: Rita Johnson, Cameron Legrave 6: Laura Oines  
7: Jodi Eide, Adam Thoma 8: Mason Dokkebakken, Trent Gander 9: Troy Fiers, Jon Hal-  
verson, Megan Sacia 10: Patty Brandau, Brook Cook 11: Rick Shisler, Katie Yahнке

## Announcements

During worship, we will continue to respect each other by allowing for physical distance in the pews, wearing a mask, using sanitizer and taking communion at our seat.

Mail it Monday! In response to our mission to “Reach Out, Share Christ With ALL”, we are encouraging everyone to send mail. Write a note to someone you haven’t seen for a while or that you’ve thought of recently. Pop the note in the mail!! Share on social media using the hashtags: #mailitmonday #halfwaycreeklutheranchurch #reachoutsharechristwithall.

Thank you to all our worship service volunteers. Your time and talents make HCLC a better place of worship and reflection, of community and love, of life. Anyone who would like to volunteer, please sign up on the clipboard located at the church entrance or use the sign-up genius button on our website or E-News.

Our Advent series *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem* will continue after worship each Sunday. Everyone is welcome to stay and reflect as we await the birth of our Savior.

There is a constant need in our community for food. We have a grocery cart located near the front doors. Let’s try and fill it with non-perishable foods and toiletries during Advent.



We pray for Roy Ackermann, Katie Wier, Phoebe Kitzke, Ayla Humphrey, Ted Latham, Gayle Kuespert, Mark Sanders, Beulah Sanders, Cary Heyer, Eric Erdman, Dawson Reed, Jenny Lee, Mary Dokkebakken, Karla Johnson, Alice Fonfara, Ruth Scholze, Mildred Schwanebeck, Kathy Johnson



## Christmas Eve Worship & RSVP

The seasons of Advent and Christmas are quickly approaching! Planning a Christmas worship schedule during a time of rising COVID cases has provided another year of worship planning challenges for the Music and Liturgy team.

With much consideration, the Music and Liturgy team has decided to offer two 30-minute Christmas Eve worship services: one at 2 pm and one at 3:30 pm. In order to do our part in protecting the most vulnerable among us, we will require masks, allow for physical distance in the pews, use sanitizer, take communion at our seats, and sanitize the pews in between services. In addition, we are limiting seating in the sanctuary to 50 people per each service.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! WE ARE ASKING YOU TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP. FIRST-COME, FIRST SERVE BY NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>. If both services fill up, we will add a 3<sup>rd</sup> service at 4:30 pm, and we need time to find worship volunteers and communicate an addition to the planned worship schedule.

Here is how you can reserve your spot:

Sign up via the Sign-Up Genius Christmas Eve RSVP link posted in the weekly e-news, on the [www.halfwaycreek.org](http://www.halfwaycreek.org) website, and our Facebook page.

Sign up on Sunday morning on the paper sign-up sheets located by the sanctuary doors.

Call the office at 608-526-3701 and speak with Shari, our office assistant. Email Shari at [assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org)

*Note: If you are signed up as a worship leader (lector, AV tech, usher, etc) you do NOT need to include yourself in the total.*

An online Christmas Eve Worship Service will also be available for those preferring to worship at home.

IN ADDITION, PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL ONLY OFFER ONLINE WORSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS DAY AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>.

We understand that our worship schedule and services offered may not meet everyone's preferences so we ask your patience and understanding during this challenging time. We are just grateful for the opportunity to gather in person this year to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Together in Christ, The Music and Liturgy Team

## Upcoming Events

### **Sunday, Dec. 5 - Second Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. *The Journey, Walking the Road to Bethlehem*

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. First Communion class

### **Tuesday, Dec. 7**

6:30 p.m. Faith+Full+Life Christmas party at Journey Lutheran.

### **Thursday, Dec. 9**

6:00 p.m.—Vision Board Meeting

### **Sunday, Dec. 12—Third Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. *The Journey, Walking the Road to Bethlehem* 9:45 a.m. The Journey—3rd Sunday of Advent;

RSVP for Christmas Eve worship services

### **Friday, Dec. 17**

January Currents articles due.

## Giving at HCLC

Giving at HCLC has been made even easier. You can now go directly to Paypal and search for Halfway Creek Lutheran church. Or scan this QR code. Thank you for helping us further our mission.



## Stewardship

ADVENT - A season of expectation and preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a time we prepare our hearts and souls for the coming birth of Christ. It is a time of hope, of watchfulness, and a time of self-examination. We examine our stewardship of time, abilities and money and consider how we are using all three for showing our appreciation of God's love and grace. Thank you for your offering as it will go toward building God's kingdom.

## Additional Information

**December 12 and 19:** Advent Series during and after worship: *The Journey, Walking the Road to Bethlehem*

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**Confirmation  
Students  
QR code for  
Worship Notes  
Form**

