

# Vasa Lutheran Church

## *The Birth of Our Savior as told by the children*

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Anne Anderson

**Sunday, December 19, 2021**

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**PRELUDE MUSIC** by the Vasa Bell Choir

### **ANNOUNCING THE DAY: Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle**

Blessed are you, God of all time, for your word became flesh and walked among us. Receive our gratitude and awe for all that you have done through Jesus Christ our Lord.

As we light these candles, satisfy us with your words so that we partner with you to accomplish that which you intend for your creation.

O people restored by the Lord, come, let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. **Amen.**

### **ADVENT SONG**

Candles glowing, promise showing love that makes the world anew.  
Shines in glory, tells the story – Christ’s own love will see us through.  
With the outcast and unwelcome, Christ is steadfast, brings us all home.  
Christ’s own love will see us through! Christ’s own love will see us through!

*Sung to the tune of Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

*Lyrics by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, 2021*

**BIBLE READING** John 1:1-18 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a

father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**THE CHILDREN'S TELLING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY** *(Based on the Original Skit by Sharon Kay Chatwell, Copyright 2019. [www.Sunday-School-Center.com](http://www.Sunday-School-Center.com))*

**TEACHER:** Good morning. The first song this morning is "I will make you fishers of men". Let's sing.

**CHILDREN SING** *"I Will Make You Fishers of Men"*

**CHILD 1:** "I don't get it. How do you fish for men? What would you do with them if you caught them? And how can we go fishing right now anyway—we can't fish in the winter—the lakes and rivers are frozen."

**TEACHER:** That's a good question. Who is the song talking about? Who would fish for men?

**CHILD 2:** Well—the answer has to be Jesus, because the answer to every question around here is Jesus. But what does Jesus do with the men he catches? And who is Jesus anyway? We read about Him in the Bible every week, but who was He? We've heard a lot of stories about what He did, but why is it so important that we talk about Him every week?

**TEACHER:** Let's open the Bible and see if we can figure out the answers to your questions. The story starts in the Old Testament, in the book of Isaiah.

**BIBLE READER:** Isaiah chapter 9, verses 6 and 7 say: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

**TEACHER:** But there were other words as well. Words telling us how He would be born...

**BIBLE READER:** Isaiah chapter 7 verse 14 says: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

**TEACHER:** And even where He would be born...

**BIBLE READER:** In Micah chapter 5, verse 2 it says But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.

**CHILD 1:** So the Bible talks about Jesus even before He was born? Jesus must have been important if people knew He was coming before He was even born.

**TEACHER:** Yes—knowing about something happening before it happens is called prophesy. Many prophets talked for a long time about the Jesus coming into the world.

**PRIMARY CHILD:** How did Jesus get here?

- On a spaceship!
- He floated down from heaven on a cloud and jumped off when it got close to the earth!!
- Oh that can't be right—I've never seen anybody ride on a cloud!!
- Maybe He was like Superman and He could fly by himself!

**TEACHER:** Jesus was The Promised One... He came all those years ago, on the very first Christmas. Let's listen to the story about how Jesus came to earth.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG:** Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel ELW 257

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. Refrain

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way. Refrain

**NARRATOR 1:** A long time ago in a city of Nazareth there was a woman named Mary.

**NARRATOR 1:** Mary was promised to marry a man named Joseph, who lived there too.

**NARRATOR 2:** One day, an angel from God came and talked to Mary.

**NARRATOR 2:** The angel told Mary she was going to have a baby.

**ANGEL:** Mary, you're going to have a baby! And He will be the Son of God.

**MARY:** Oh, OK!

**NARRATOR 3:** And then the angel left!

**NARRATOR 3:** Now, Joseph wasn't sure what to do when he heard that Mary was going to have a baby.

**NARRATOR 3:** So, one night while he was asleep, the angel came to talk to Joseph too.

**ANGEL:** Joseph, Mary is going to have a baby from God. It's OK for you to marry her and take care of her and the baby. You will name the baby Jesus.

**JOSEPH:** Oh, OK!

**NARRATOR 3:** And, so that's just what he did.

**NARRATOR 1:** A while later, the Emperor in Rome, Caesar Augustus, said that everyone had to go to their own hometown to be counted.

Emperor: Everyone go to your own hometown, so that I can count you!

**NARRATOR 1:** So Mary and Joseph went to the town of Bethlehem to be counted, because Joseph was of the house and line of David. And Bethlehem was known as the City of David.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG:** Oh Little Town of Bethlehem ELW 279

1     O little town of Bethlehem,  
      how still we see thee lie!  
      Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
      the silent stars go by;  
      yet in thy dark streets shineth  
      the everlasting light.  
      The hopes and fears of all the years  
      are met in thee tonight.

4     O holy child of Bethlehem,  
      descend to us, we pray;

cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

**NARRATOR 2:** There were lots of other people there too. There were so many people, in fact, that there was no room for them in the inn. So, Mary and Joseph stayed in a stable, which was a place for animals to stay warm and dry.

**PRESCHOOL CHILDREN** together or by 2's?:

There was a cow there. (Mooo)

There was a sheep there. (Baaaa)

There was a chicken there. (Bock Bock Bock.)

And Mary and Joseph stayed there too.

**NARRATOR 1:** While they were there, baby Jesus was born and Mary took him and wrapped Him up warm and laid Him in the manger.

**PRESCHOOL:** Little children, see the light! Jesus Christ is born tonight!

**CHILDREN SING:** This Little Light of Mine  
Away in a Manger

ELW 277

*The children will sing verse 1. The congregation will join in for verses 2 & 3.*

- 2      The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
         but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
         I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
         and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
  
- 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.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

**NARRATOR 2:** That night there were some shepherds out in the fields watching over their flocks of sheep. And the angel came and talked to the shepherds. And they were terribly afraid.

**ANGEL:** Don't be afraid! I bring you good news! The Savior, which is Christ the Lord, has been born today in Bethlehem! You will find the baby wrapped in soft cloths and lying in a manger!

**NARRATOR 2:** And all of a sudden there were lots of angels saying...

**ALL ANGELS:** Glory to God in the highest. Peace on Earth! Good will to men!

**NARRATOR 2:** And then the angels left.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG:** Hark the Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

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

**NARRATOR 3:** And when the angels had left, the shepherds went and found the baby Jesus in the manger, just as they had been told. And when they found Him, they worshiped Him.

**NARRATOR 1:** Not far away, in a place called Jerusalem, there lived an evil King named Herod. One day after baby Jesus had been born, wise men came to Jerusalem looking for the newly born King of the Jews.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG:** Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing,  
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!
- 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you!  
Christ the child was born for you!

*Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.*

**NARRATOR 2:** They asked King Herod where He was.

**THREE KINGS:** Where is he who is born "King of the Jews"?

**NARRATOR 3:** So the king asked his advisors.

**KING HEROD:** Where is this King of the Jews to be born?

**NARRATOR 3:** In Bethlehem.

**KING HEROD:** (to kings) In Bethlehem. Go and find Him and let me know where He is so I can come and worship Him too.

**NARRATOR 2:** So the wise men went and found baby Jesus by following His star and when they found Him, they worshiped Him.

**NARRATOR 3:** But King Herod didn't really want to worship baby Jesus. He wanted to harm Him. The wise men were warned by God about this, so they went home another way.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG:** O Come All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the king of angels:

*Refrain:* O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing: Refrain

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr.

**NARRATOR 3:** When the King found out he was tricked, he was really mad!

**KING HEROD:** Arrghh!! I am really mad!!!

**NARRATOR 1:** He was determined to destroy this newborn king! So King Herod sent his soldiers to Bethlehem to find the baby Jesus.

**KING HEROD:** (speaking to soldiers) Go and find Him and destroy HIM!

**NARRATOR 1:** But God warned Joseph in a dream to GET OUT OF THERE!

**ANGEL:** (shouting with hands cupped around mouth)...GET OUT OF THERE!

**NARRATOR 1:** And so they did.

**NARRATOR 2:** And so Joseph and Mary and the little baby Jesus went to Egypt. And they stayed there until the evil King Herod died.

**NARRATOR 2:** After King Herod died, God told Joseph it was safe to come back because the people who wanted the child dead had now died.

**ANGEL:** (shouting to Mary and Joseph, who are still to the side) HEY! You can COME BACK NOW!!! IT'S SAFE!!

**NARRATOR 3:** Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus came back from Egypt. And they went to live in the town of Nazareth again. And that's where baby Jesus grew up... until He was grown.

**TEACHER:** And so now you've heard it all: About how God sent His Only Son to be born as a baby, so that later He could save everyone from their sins. He didn't come on a spaceship or float on a cloud, or fly like Superman. He was born just like you and me to His mother Mary and His father Joseph who took care of Him. When he grew up, Jesus taught people all around the area and some people got mad that He said He was the Son of God. So He was killed on the cross and that was foretold by the prophets too!

**CHILDREN 1 & 2:** Thank you Jesus for being born, for loving us, and for dying for us.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG:** Joy to the World!

ELW 267

- 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.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748*

**COMMUNION** *Communion will be served using pre-packaged portions.*

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION:** *We will remain seated and use pre-packaged communion portions today.*

#### **BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ be with you now and forever. Amen.

**PRAYER** 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.**

#### **SENDING HYMN:**

#### **GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN**

**ELW 290**

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

- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain
- 3 Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

*Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

The God of hope  
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that we may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God.**





Scott Sorenson, Linda Thompson, Max Tilderquist, Irene Carpenter, Paul Mikaelson, Jay Mikaelson, and Don Eckhoff (Pastor Maureen's father)

Parish Pulse:

**December 12, 2021**

Participating in Worship: 37  
(6 at WEW on 12/15/2021)  
Total Offerings: \$6,355.00

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

*Usher: Bruce Tilderquist*

***Assisting Next Week:***

*Usher: Jim Hedeem*

*Reader: Volunteer needed*



Christmas Eve Services will be held at 2:00pm and 5:00pm in the Sanctuary. For those who are unable to attend, we will also live-stream the 5:00pm service. **We are in need of a family with children who are good readers and who plan to come to the 5:00 Christmas Eve service. The family would be reading the Christmas story from Luke.**



If you would like to donate to Vasa for general expenses or church upkeep, or to the Vasa Museum, you can now use the Vanco Mobile app. Search for the Vanco Mobile app on your Smartphone, download it, search for Vasa Lutheran Church, and then you can choose where you would like your donation to go. Vasa has been using Vanco as our company for electronic payments for many years and it has a very secure system. Giving through Vanco Mobile is very easy. You can make a one time payment or arrange a payment which occurs on a regular basis. You can also find information concerning this on the church's website, [vasalutheran.org](http://vasalutheran.org).



## Faith Formation opportunities for all ages at Vasa!

- **Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 9th at 9:00 in the Lutheran Center. Faith Formation will resume on Wednesday, January 5th at 5:30 in the Lutheran Center.** We will return to using the *Friends and Heroes* curriculum featuring the animated adventures of two friends—Macky and Portia—as they fight for justice, and even survival, against the might of the roman empire. Class begins with an animated video which introduces a Bible story. Each week the lesson alternates between Old and New Testament lessons.
- **Adult Bible Study: Sunday Morning Adult Bible study will reconvene on Sunday, January 9th at 10:15 in the Fellowship Room at the Lutheran Center.** Scheduling in December got in the way for us to complete our study of the *Animals at the Manger* so we will complete it in early January. Beginning on January 23 we will have a five part Bible Study on the book of James.

January 9	<i>Animals at the Manger: Cattle</i>
January 16	<i>Animals at the Manger: Donkeys</i>
January 23	James, chapter 1
January 30	James, chapter 2
February 6	James, chapter 3
February 13	James, chapter 4
February 20	James, chapter 5
- **First Communion** for current fifth grade students will begin on Sunday, March 20 at 10:15 in the Lutheran Center. Their first communion will occur on Maundy Thursday, April 14 at 7:00.
- **Confirmation** for 7th and 8th graders will resume on Wednesday, January 5th at 5:30. Over the next 9 weeks we will study the 10 Commandments.

We, the Vasa Congregation,  
Called by God, commit to:  
Worshipping together,  
Growing in Faith,  
Serving Others,  
Welcoming and Loving All.



Vasa Lutheran Church

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