



**December 23, 2018**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Angels*

**Worship Services:** Sundays at 8:30 am, 9:45 am & 11:00 am

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**WELCOME!**

**December 23, 2018**

+8:30 A.M. +++11:00 A.M.

Liturgist: +Sue Weaver +++Sharon McConnell

Greeters: +Joanne and Denny Fox +++Christy Kramer, Nyko and Don Adolph

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Brahms  
Heather Cooper, organ

**BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST** Acolyte

**VIDEO LESSON** *Angels*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP  
& LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH** +Pam Gable  
+++Don and Lori Turoso

Reader: Angels have a recurring role in the Christmas narrative. An angel is God's mouthpiece first to Zechariah about the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:8–20), then to both Joseph and Mary about the birth of Christ, communicating God's marvelous plan and the young couple's involvement in it—even answering their questions and easing their fears (Luke 1:26–38, Matt. 1:20–25). Later, an angel appears to the shepherds at night, surrounding them with God's visible glory and the famous "fear not!" greeting. The sky bursts with heavenly fanfare—a host of angels heralding the Savior's birth for their lowly and astonished audience (Luke 2:8–14). Even after Jesus' birth, Joseph is warned by an angel in a dream to flee to Egypt with his family because of Herod's vicious intent against the Christ child, thereby fulfilling an Old Testament prophecy: "out of Egypt I called my son" (Matt. 2:13–15; Hos. 11:1).

**People: The appearances of these angels are awesome—heaven invading earth at this crux of God's redemptive plan. We, with the angels, give praise and glory to the One who is worthy, as fellow messengers of his redemptive plan and heralds of his renown. And one day, all of creation will join us in worship. With one voice, every created thing on earth, above the earth, and below the earth will forever bow and glorify the Eternal God.**

Reader: The Advent wreath comes full circle this week, with only the center candle remaining. The prophecy candle, Bethlehem candle, and Shepherd's candle are all alight, and we complete the wreath's circle—a symbol of God's everlasting love and faithfulness—by lighting the angels' candle.

