



Nursery Care is provided for young children during the Julfest program, in the Nursery downstairs.
(Please see an usher for directions.)

Please join us for a **Festive Reception** following the service, with coffee and Swedish treats, downstairs in Fellowship Hall.



The 65th Annual Julfest

Sunday, December 3, 2023

4:00 p.m.

(Where you see an asterisk, please stand as you are able.)*

PRELUDE *Traditional Swedish Melodies*

String Band

ANTHEM

Sanctus, from "A Folk Mass"

Choir and String Band

*Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts
The heavens and earth are filled with your glory
Hosanna in the highest,
Blessed be he who comes in the name of the Lord*

WELCOME *Johanna Staman and Rebecca Nelson, Julfest Coordinators*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *Rev. Todd Johnson, Senior Pastor*

Leader

Come, sisters, brothers, and friends as we celebrate the faithfulness of God to our community of faith for over a century. Join your voices, hearts, and minds as we recall the humble beginnings of our immigrant church in a new and foreign land. And let us praise God for the faithful servants who have moved the mission of this church forward in the world, serving those near and far. Might we, like Saint Lucia, reflect God's light in a darkening world.

ALL

Hear us as we sing and speak in the native tongue of this, your church, O God. Accept our thanks and praises, even as we delight in the old traditions of our church's motherland, by those both young and old in your church. Respond, as well, to our many immigrant and immigrating sisters and brothers around the world whose current state resembles our church's earliest years. Might we be a witness of your faithfulness to all of your people in new and foreign places. Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER (Congregation)** *Led by Johanna Staman*

Fader vår, som är i himmelen. Helgat varde ditt namn. Tillkomme ditt rike.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,

Ske din vilja, såsom i himmelen så ock på jorden. Vårt dagliga bröd giv oss i dag.

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;

Och förlåt oss våra skulder, såsom ock vi förlåta dem oss skyldiga äro

and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Och inled oss icke i frestelse, utan fräls oss ifrån ondo,

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,

ty riket är ditt, och makten och härligheten i evighet. Amen.

for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER *Rev. Todd Johnson*

ANTHEM

Hosianna, David's Son!

G.J. Vogler

*Hosanna, Son of David! Blessed be his Holy name
Hail to the Son of David, He comes evermore to reign.*

LESSON: Isaiah 40:3-5

Read by Julia Anderson

A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

***HYMN**

Bereden väg för Herren (*Prepare the Way, O Zion*)

Franzén, tr. A. Nelson, Swedish Melody

**Bereden väg för Herran! Berg, sjunken, djup, stå upp.
Han kommer, han som fjärran, Var sedd av fädrens hopp.
Rättfärdighetens förste, Av Davids hus den störste.
Välsignad vare han, Som kom i Herrens namn.**

**Den tron, som han bestiger, Är i hans Faders hus.
Det välde han inviger, Är kärlek blott och ljus.
Hans lov av späda munnar, Blott nåd och frid förkunnar.
Välsignad vare han, Som kom i Herrens namn.**

**Prepare the way, O Zion! Ye awful deeps, rise high;
Sink low, ye lofty mountains, the Lord is drawing nigh.
The righteous King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
O blest is he that came, in God the Father's name.**

**The throne which he ascended is fixed in heav'n above;
His everlasting kingdom is light and joy and love.
Let us his praise be sounding for grace and peace abounding:
O blest is he that came, in God the Father's name.**

YOUTH CHOIR

Goder afton

*Good Afternoon, Good Afternoon, Gents and Ladies.
We wish you all a Merry Christmas.
Good Afternoon, Good Afternoon, Gents and Ladies.
We welcome our Guest.
Good Afternoon, Good Afternoon, Gents and Ladies.
Welcome to our Joyfest!*

Tre pepparkaksgubbar

*We come, we come from Gingerbread Land, The road we wander together hand in hand
So brown, so brown are we three, With currents for eyes and hats tipped to the side.
Three old guys from gingerbread land, For Christmas we're marching hand in hand
But tomte and goaty we had to leave behind, They couldn't just abandon our ginger cookie pig.*

Nu är det Jul igen

*Now it is Christmas time. Oh, now it is Christmas time. Our hearts are filled with love and gladness.
Oh, this is the time of year. Oh, this is the time of year, When joyous song will banish sadness.*

Tomtarnas julnatt

*Now it's midnight, everyone is sleeping! All are sleeping!
The house is quiet, all the lights are out now! Lights are out now!
Tip-toe, tip-toe, tippie tippie tip-toe, tip, tip, toe!
From every corner, tomtes now are sneaking! Sneaking, tomtes!
Listen, closely, can you hear their tiptoes! Hear them tiptoe!
Tip-toe, tip-toe, tippie tippie tip-toe, tip, tip, toe!*

Nu ha vi ljus här i vårt hus

*Now we have lights, here in our home, Christmas is here, hop tra-la-la-la.
The children in a ring, dancing around, dancing around, The tree stands so green and grand in the cabin
Tra-la-la-la la, Tra-la-la-la la, Tra-la-la-la la, La-la!
Come little friend, come now again, Dance around the Christmas tree, hop tra-la-la-la
The joy is great, sister and brother, sister and brother, Papa, Mama, everyone is dancing!
Tra-la-la-la la, Tra-la-la-la la, Tra-la-la-la la, La-la!*

ANTHEM

O Du Saliga

*O thou joyful, O thou wonderful, Grace revealing Christmastide!
Jesus came to win us, From all sin within us: Glorify the holy Child!*

*O thou joyful, O thou wonderful, Love revealing Christmastide!
Loud hosannas singing, And all praises bringing: Glorify the holy Child!*

*O thou joyful, O thou wonderful, Peace revealing Christmastide!
Darkness disappearing, God's own light now nearing: Glorify the holy Child!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Rev. Todd Johnson*

OFFERING PRESENTATION *Tom Ruebel, representing Circlewood*

*(While the offering plates
are passed, you may
make an online donation
via this QR code.)*



OFFERTORY

Jul, Jul, Strålande Jul

*Christmas, Christmas glorious Christmas, Shine over white forests
The crowns of heaven with sparkling lights, Glistening bows in all of God's houses
Carol that is sung from age to age, Eternal longing for light and peace
Christmas, Christmas, glorious Christmas, Shine over white forests*

*Come, come blessed Christmas, Lower your white wings
Over the blood and alarm of war, Over all the sighs of humanity
Over relatives who rest in peace, Over the dawning lives of children
Come, come, blessed Christmas, Lower your white wings*

LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

Read by Linda Carlson

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

***HYMN**

Var hälsad, sköna morgonstund (*All Hail to Thee, O Blessed Morn*)

Wallin/Nicolai

**Var hälsad, sköna morgonstund, Som av profeters helga mun
Är oss bebådad vorden. Du stora dag, du sälla dag,
På hvilken himlens välbehag, Ännu besöker jorden!
Unga, sjunga, Med de gamla, Sig församla Jordens böner
Kring den störste av dess söner.**

**Han kommer, till vår frälsning sänd, Och nådens sol, av honom tänd,
Skall sig ej mera dölja. Han själv vår herde vara vill,
Att vi må honom höra till, Och honom efterfölja.
Nöjda, höjda, Över tiden, Och i friden, av hans rike
En gång varda honom like.**

**All hail to thee, O blessed morn! To tidings long by prophets borne.
Hast thou fulfillment given; O sacred and immortal day,
When unto earth, in glorious ray, Descends the grace of heaven!
Singing, ringing, Sounds are blending,
Praises sending unto heaven. For the Savior to us given.**

HOMILY *Rev. Todd Johnson*

***HYMN**

Gå Sion (*O Zion, Acclaim Your Redeemer*)

Servoss/Nyström/McGranahan

**Gå Sion, din konung att möta! Jerusalem gläds åt din Gud!
Strö palmer på vägen för Herren och red dig som väntande brud.
Var glad! Var glad! Var glad i din Herre och Gud!
Var glad! Var glad! Och hylla din konung och Gud!**

**Han kommer från eviga fröjder. Han lämnar sin tron av kristall,
Sin ära i ljusets palatser. Och lägges på strå i ett stall
Var glad! Var glad! Var glad i din Herre och Gud!
Var glad! Var glad! Och hylla din konung och Gud!**

**O Zion, acclaim your Redeemer! Jerusalem, welcome your King!
Strew palms on the way for the Savior, his praises exultantly sing.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice in your Savior and King!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Acclaim him your Savior and King!**

**Var glad! Var glad! Var glad i din Herre och Gud!
Var glad! Var glad! Och hylla din konung och Gud!**

ANTHEM

Julen Ar Inne

*Joy bells are ringing, Christmas is bringing
Tidings of Jesus' birth.
Candles are gleaming, Gladness is streaming,
Out over all the earth.*

*Light is ascending, Nighttime is ending,
Sunshine from God appears.
Hope of the ages, Foretold by sages,
Comes to dispel all fears.*

*Come to the manger, Kindred and stranger,
Hail now the newborn King!
In adoration, With jubilation
Peoples and nations sing!*

SANKTA LUCIA PAGEANT

THE STORY OF SANKTA LUCIA

Read by Ann Scranton

LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-3

Read by Jonah Scranton

LUCIA PROCESSIONAL: CHOIR

Strålande Helgonfé

Brandt/Hammarström/Stureborg

Brilliant saint! Once again we see your noble image, blessed bearer of light! Death overcome was like a night that passed. Over your bonfire that burned, starlight shone. High above the night sky, soon the morning will dawn. Saint Lucia!

Saint from ages passed, lovely and pious and mild you tell of light and peace for people who suffer. Shadows, which covered the earth, are dispelled by in your vigil. For us hope has not been extinguished, we wait for the light. Your crown of glory shines beautifully in starry splendor, Saint Lucia!

Up to our northern land, you were lead by God's hand, saga of light from far away shores, heralding gladness. Now you are also ours! Once again you sow starlight around, when your attendants adorn themselves in candles. Beneath your halo of light, the dawn has already begun. Saint Lucia!

Saint Lucia: *Elsie Nelson Brown*

Lucia Attendants: *Girls and young women of First Covenant Church*

Star Boys: *Boys of First Covenant Church*

LESSON: John 8:12

Read by Jonah Scranton

SAINT LUCIA and CHOIR

Nu tändas tusen juleljus

Traditional

*Now shine a thousand candles bright, upon the world's dark sphere.
The deep blue sky is set alight, as myriad flames appear.*

LESSON: Matthew 5:14-16

Read by Axel Nelson

LUCIA RECESSIONAL: CHOIR

Sankta Lucia

Traditional

CHOIR

Lyssna, lyssna: hör du änglasången

J.Holstedt

*Listen, listen, hear the angels' song! Listen, listen, "Glory be to God!"
Listen, listen, hear the angels' song. "Glory, glory, glory unto God!"
Glory be to God in the highest, Peace on earth, peace on earth.
Glory be to God in the highest, To mankind, goodwill.*

LESSON: Luke 2:8-20

Read by Håkan Axelsson

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

*HYMN

Ära vare Gud i höjd (*Our Day of Joy is Here Again*)

A.L. Skoog

**Nu glädjens timme inne är och manar oss till sång,
Vi stämma upp den lovsång kär oss änglar lärt en gång:
Ära vare Gud i höjd, frid på jorden, frid och fröjd!
Människor ett gott behag på denna glädjens dag!**

**Our day of joy is here again with love and peace and song;
come, let us join th'angelic strain with voices clear and strong.
Glory to our God we sing, glory to our Lord and King;
peace goodwill with all abide, this holy Christmastide.**

**Now to the manger let us go to worship and adore
the tender babe upon the straw, our Savior evermore.
Glory to our God we sing, glory to our Lord and King;
peace goodwill with all abide, this holy Christmastide.**

**How wonderful that God's own Son should so himself abase!
He thrust the mighty from their throne and gave the lowly grace.
Glory to our God we sing, glory to our Lord and King;
peace goodwill with all abide, this holy Christmastide.
Ära vare Gud i höjd, frid på jorden, frid och fröjd!
Människor ett gott behag på denna glädjens dag!**

***BENEDICTION** *Rev. Todd Johnson*

POSTLUDE

Jurhee Hong

Please join us for a **Festive Reception** following the service,
with coffee and Swedish treats, downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

Welcome!



OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION AND THANKS:

to members of First Covenant Church, the council, staff, and others who have planned this service, helped with decorating, provided and served the refreshments, ushered, and many other tasks. Our thanks also to each of you who have come to share with us in our annual Julfest.

PARTICIPANTS

JULFEST COORDINATORS

Johanna Staman and Rebecca Nelson

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Andrew Payne

ORGANIST *and* CHOIR PIANIST

Jurhee Hong

FLUTIST

Alec Keith

YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR

Eva Larson

LUCIA PAGEANT DIRECTOR

Johanna Staman

MUSICIANS

First Covenant Church String Band

Carol Sundholm, *piano*

SOUND AND LIGHTS

Jim Johnson

LIVESTREAM

Axel Nelson

RECEPTION COORDINATORS

Donna Larson and Eva Larson

TRANSLATION ASSISTANCE

Mark Safstrom



**Thank you for blessing Circlewood
with your Julfest 2023 offering!**

Our mission is to *accelerate the greening of faith.*



Scan this QR code to see a special message from Circlewood and donate online!

Checks can be mailed to:
Circlewood

848 N. Sunrise Blvd., Ste. B, PMB 150
Camano Island, WA 98282

ADVENT

*Join us as we take time to be present in the moment;
to savor this special time of year when we pray for light in the darkness.
All are welcome!*

Advent Worship

Every Sunday through December 24th at 10:00 am, in the Sanctuary.

Gift Wrapping Party

Saturday, December 16 from 6:00 pm –10:00 pm, in Fellowship Hall.

Bring your gifts to wrap and a snack to share.

Cocoa & Carols

Sunday, December 17 at 11:30 am (*after worship*), in Fellowship Hall.

An intergenerational Christmas carol sing-along with hot cocoa and cookies.

Christmas Eve

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24: Worship service at 10:00 am, in the Sanctuary.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 24: caroling at 10:45 pm, service at 11:00 pm, in the Sanctuary.

Join us!



**FIRST
COVENANT
CHURCH
SEATTLE**

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