

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

December 16, 2020

5:00 p.m.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**



**BREATH OF HEAVEN**  
**WEEK 3—HELP ME BE STRONG**

**PRELUDE** *Mary, Did You Know?*

Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene  
prerecorded by Jane Howard, piano

**WELCOME**

**BREATH PRAYER**

*breathe in* Breath of heaven,  
*breathe out* help me be strong.  
*breathe in* Breath of heaven,  
*breathe out* help me be strong.  
*breathe in* Breath of heaven,  
*breathe out* help me be strong.

**ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING**

We light the candle of Hope, the candle of Peace, and  
And the third candle of joy.

Loving God, we seek the joy of your presence in the midst of our sorrows.  
Fill us deeply with your breath of life, that our hearts may be comforted  
and our hands kept open to others as we remember with Job:

“The Spirit of God has made me,  
And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”

**Amen.**

**PSALM 121**

I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

The Lord will not let your foot be moved: the one who keeps you will not slumber.

The one who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep

The Lord is your keeper, the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night

The Lord will keep you from all evil, and will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on  
and forever more.

**READING *Ephesians 3:16-19***

Michael Fuchs

<sup>16</sup>I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, <sup>17</sup>and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup>I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

**REFLECTION**

Diane Ellison

**LIGHTING CANDLES OF LOSS AND REMEMBRANCE**

Each of us comes bearing our own hurts, sorrows, and broken places. You are invited to light a candle to offer your remembrances and losses to God, and in solidarity with each other:

As the manger holds the Christ Child, Christ holds our losses, and so shares and lightens our burdens.

**Prayers of Intercession:**

For those of us grieving over what might have been, help us to honor our griefs and give time to our sorrows: Breath of heaven,

**You are Holy**

For those bowed down in sadness; for those in hospice; for those in pain; for those unable to mend broken relationships; for those feeling lost and alone: Breath of heaven,

**You are Holy**

For those who have found no room in the inn; for those so easy to forget; for those who disturb our peace; for your unexpected forgiveness and grace: Breath of heaven,

**You are Holy**

For the overwhelming changes and losses that this year of 2020 has brought upon us:  
Breath of heaven,

**You are Holy**

God of great compassion, listen to the prayers of your people. Grant to all who call on you signs of your hope, peace, joy and love. We ask this in the name of the Christ Child, who comes even yet today, bearing the breath of heaven.

### ADDING STRAW TO THE MANGER

### ADVENT BLESSING

Even as we wait, watch, and wonder,  
God is with us.  
**Amen.**

### BREATH OF HEAVEN

words and music by Chris Eaton and Amy Grant  
prerecorded by Dana Varland, soloist; Bryan Gatten, guitar

*Solo: Do you wonder as You watch my face, if a wiser one should have had my place?  
But I offer all I am for the mercy of Your plan.  
Help me be strong, help me be . . .*

#### Refrain:



Breath of Heav-en, hold me to - geth-er, be for-ev - er near me, Breath of  
Heav-en. Breath of Heav-en, light - en my dark-ness, pour o - ver me your  
ho - li-ness, for you are ho - ly, \_\_\_\_\_ Breath of Heav-en.

**MINISTERS** All People of First Lutheran Church  
**PASTOR** The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman  
**PASTORAL INTERN** Logan McLean Strike  
**PROGRAM STAFF** Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate  
Karen Sande, Director of Music  
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities  
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship  
**VIDEOGRAPHER** Shania Krause, Sam Weston  
**DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER** Stacie Curnow

**faithlovecommunity**  
First Lutheran Church

(218) 728-3668 | [flcduluth.org](http://flcduluth.org) | [flcduluth@flcduluth.org](mailto:flcduluth@flcduluth.org)



***Order Poinsettias for Advent & Christmas***

*Help beautify the sanctuary with poinsettias for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Please fill out this form and attach a check (made out to FLC) for \$13 per plant.*

*Return to church office by Monday Dec. 14th.*

***Name*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Phone #*** \_\_\_\_\_

***# Plants*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***at \$13 each = \$*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Given in memory of / in honor of (circle one):***

-----