

PRAYER REQUESTS

****Family of Babs Mattran, sister-in-law to Nancy Caddick
****Barb Langton, sister-in-law to Carol Lair
****Family of Dick Koval, father to Bill & Diane Payne's daughter-in-law
****Barb Powell
***Nancy Caddick
***Allison Watters, friend of Marcia Matthews
***Cookie Ortiz, friend of Lena Wagner
***Andrew Kitchell, son to Richard & Beth Kitchell
***Larry, friend of Dave Franklin
***John Novak
***Kelly, friend of Jan Pazdur
***The family of Stephanie Sanders, friend of Kathy Giannini
***Nicole Spindler, daughter to Rick Spindler
***Cheryl Bowen, friend of The Walters family

**Jon, grandson to Marcia Mathews
**Maribeth, friend of Jill Newsom and Kris Schumacher
*Tyler Schwer, nephew to Gino & Shelly Pupillo
*Sadie Kartikous, aunt to Doug White
*Bella Trueb, granddaughter to Dave Trueb
Rene & Richard Taylor, sister to Debbie Olson
Natalie Gouwens, friend of Jon Lair
Caitlin Musick, friend of Jon Lair
Erika Weiskopf, friend of Diane Comandella
Doug White
Sonia White
Mary Lou Brumm, friend of Mary Lou Porter
The Musgrave family, friends of Jill Newsom

Senior Pastor—Rev. Denise Robinson
Pastor of Youth & Family—Rev. Becky Sundquist
Today's Liturgist—Diana Rogers
Music Director—Pablo Valladares
Treasurer—Linda Boender
Connections Coordinator—Nancy Caddick
Facility Manager—David Miller
Technical Director—Dan Zilai
Office Operations Manager—Donna Zehner



WELCOME TO FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2024

9:00am Traditional Worship at Ridge

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, friends, for this is the day Advent begins, this journey of joy in the darkness. We wait in the darkness, expectantly, longingly, anxiously, and thoughtfully. The darkness is our friend. In the darkness of a womb, we were nurtured and protected. In the darkness of a womb, the Christ-child was made ready for the journey into light.

You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.

Only in the darkness can we see the splendor of the universe – the blankets of stars and the solitary glowings of distant planets. In the darkness of sleep, we are restored and renewed. But even though darkness can be a friend and a place of refuge, we long for light.

We pray together and give thanks knowing you are with us, O God. Yet even as we know you are with us, we await your coming. In the darkness, we watch for a sign of God’s hope.

* HYMN OF PRAISE

#196 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Dave Walters, Denise & Emily Labus

RESPONSE

#2090 Light The Advent Candle v1

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Rev. Becky Sundquist

OFFERING

Chancel Choir

* DOXOLOGY AND BLESSING OVER OFFERING

PRAISES AND PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYER SONG

#472 Near To The Heart Of God

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER

*SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-5

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of

Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE MESSAGE

**It Was Not A Silent Night
Bethlehem**

Rev. Denise Robinson

HOLY COMMUNION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

#384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling v1, 2, 4

***BENEDICTION & POSTLUDE** *As worship concludes we move to the Gathering Room, where we are invited to greet one another and share in fellowship.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers—Donated by Donna Hill.

Wednesday Night Dinner and Bible Study—Join us for a light meal and Bible Study on Wednesday, December 4th, at 6:15pm in the Fellowship Hall. Ridge will host a light meal in the Fellowship Hall entryway followed by a pastor led Bible Study at 7pm. The main doors will remain locked. Please use Door B.

Hanging of the Greens—TODAY, all are invited to the Hanging of the Greens at 5pm starting in the sanctuary for a short service and ending with pizza.

Parents Night Out—Ridge will host a Parents Night Out starting at 5:30pm on Friday, December 6th.

RAFT Annual Christmas Luncheon—Thursday, December 12th at Teibel’s Restaurant in Schererville. Please sign-up on the RAFT bulletin board by December 4th.

A Night In Bethlehem—An interactive event that will be in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 13th at 6pm.

Attendance—Please let us know that you are here by completing the [Blue Gather](#) card and any additional information.

* *You are invited to remain seated or stand as you are able.*

