

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 8TH, 2024**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C**



**OUR MISSION:** God calls us to live and share the amazing love and grace of Jesus Christ with all people.

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. Christ Lutheran Church is a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation that welcomes all. May God bless us in Word and Sacrament, music and community in our worship today. The service is complete in this bulletin. The spoken responses are **bolded text**.

We acknowledge that our building of worship is built upon the territory of xučyun (Huichin), the unceded land stewarded by the Ohlone people who speak to their Creator and loved ones in the language of Chochenyo.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

## **GATHERING**

### **WELCOME**

### **PRELUDE**

Aria: "But who may abide" from *The Messiah* - George Frideric Handel

But who may abide the day of His coming  
And who shall stand when He appeareth  
For He is like a refiner's fire

### **LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH**

Please rise in body or spirit and join me in the lighting of the Advent wreath as printed in your bulletin.

Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse and his wife Nitzevet,

**who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor,  
who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.**

As we light these two candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another,

**and fix our eyes on Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.**

O come, O voice in desert clear,  
 "Prepare the way, the Lord is near!"  
 Make straight the paths, the hills laid low,  
 That every heart His grace may know.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice!  
 Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel

O come, O Messenger of God Most High,  
 Who speaks the truth to purify;  
 Refine our hearts like silver's flame,  
 That we may glorify Your Name.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice!  
 Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel

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

**GATHERING HYMN—** *Long Ago, Prophets Knew*



1. Long a - go,	pro - phets knew	Christ would come,	to re - new
2. God in time,	God in man,	This is God's	time-less plan:
3. Mar - y, hail!	Though a - fraid,	She be - lieved,	she o - beyed.
4. Jour-ney ends!	Where a - far	Bet - l'hem shines,	like a star,



Come to make	all things new,	Bear His peo-ple's	bur - den,	Free - ly love and
He will come,	as a man,	Born Him-self of	wo - man,	God di - vine - ly
In her womb,	God is laid	Til the time ex -	pect - ed,	Nur-tured and pro -
Sta - ble door	stands a - jar:	Un-born Son of	Mar - y,	Sav - ior, do not



par - don.					
hu - man.	Ring, bells, ring,	ring, ring!	Sing, choirs, sing,	sing, sing!	1~3 When he comes,
tect - ed.					4. Je - sus comes,
ta - ry!					



when He comes,	Who will make Him	wel -	ome?
Je - sus comes,	We will make Him	wel -	come!

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## KYRIE

Musical score for Kyrie, featuring three staves of music. The first staff is for the Leader and the second and third staves are for All. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

### WORD

#### FIRST READING— MALACHI 3: 1-4

Look, I am sending my messenger who will clear the path before me; suddenly the Lord whom you are seeking will come to the temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you take delight is coming, says the Lord of heavenly forces. Who can endure the day that is coming? Who can withstand the appearance of the One? That day is like the refiner's fire or the cleaner's soap. The One will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver, purifying the Levites and refining them like gold and silver. They will belong to the Lord, presenting a righteous offering. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in ancient days and in former years.

“Word of God, Word of Life.” Thanks be to God.

#### SONG OF ZECHARIAH (LUKE 1:68-79)

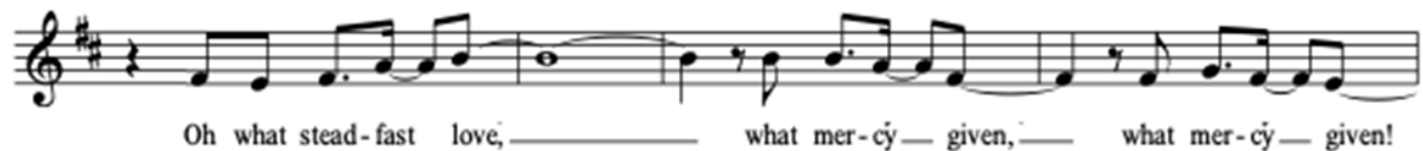
*O bless the God of Israel, the God who comes and who redeems,  
Who raised a Savior for the word from David's house, the promised King.*

Musical score for the Song of Zechariah, featuring two staves of music. The lyrics are: That we should be saved as the proph - ets spoke: His cov - en - en - tal love, His mer - cy shown, His mer - cy shown.

*The oath God swore to Abraham has been granted unto us,  
That we might serve Him without fear in holiness and righteousness.*



*You, my child, will prophesy, will go prepare the way for Him,  
Making His salvation known in forgiveness of their sins.*



*The tender mercy of our God, the sunrise from on high  
Shines its rays into the dark, guiding us into His Life.*



*O bless the God of Israel, the God who comes and who redeems,  
Who raised a Savior for the world from David's house, the promised King.*

## SECOND READING— PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers. I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy. I'm glad because of the way you have been my partners in the ministry of the gospel from the time you first believed it until now. I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus. I have good reason to think this way about all of you because I keep you in my heart. You are all my partners in God's grace, both during my time in prison and in the defense and support of the gospel. God is my witness that I feel affection for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

This is my prayer: that your love might become even more and more rich with knowledge and all kinds of insight. I pray this so that you will be able to decide what really matters and so you will be sincere and blameless on the day of Christ. I pray that you will then be filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes from Jesus Christ, in order to give glory and praise to God. **Amen.**

“Word of God, Word of Life.” **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*God of every nation,  
God of every race and land,  
redeem all of creation  
with your almighty hand.*



## GOSPEL— LUKE 3: 1-6

The Gospel according to... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius—when Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea and Herod was ruler over Galilee, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—God's word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins.

This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet, A voice crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way for the Lord; make a straight path. Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be leveled. The crooked will be made straight and the rough places made smooth. All humanity will see God’s salvation.”

This is the Good news. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON— PR. RON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY—** “*Wade in the Water*” African-American Spiritual

**Wade in the water, wade in the water, children  
Wade in the water. Oh God’s a-gonna trouble the water.**

*Oh who is that yonder dressed in red? God’s a-gonna trouble the water.  
Look just like the people that Moses led. God’s a-gonna trouble the water.  
Now see those people dressed in gold? (etc...)  
These are disciples of Christ I’m told. REFRAIN*

*And who is that band all dressed in black  
They came a long way. Ain’t turning back  
Oh who is that yonder dressed in blue?  
It look like the ones who made it through. REFRAIN*

*Like Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego  
Through faith into the fiery furnace I go  
Like David slew Goliath with just one shot  
My faith in the Lord is fiery hot. REFRAIN*

*Now if you don’t believe that I’ve been redeemed  
Then follow me down to Jordan’s stream  
Like John in the wilderness, bold and free,  
I’ll prepare the way for His glory to be. REFRAIN*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God’s presence.

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering especially Karen, Julie, Sandy, Fred, George G., Maryann H., Evie D., Diane, Carla, the family and friends of Ken Reid, and the family and friends of Derek H. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

*What else do the people of God pray for?*

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

### **MEAL**

*The white juice in the center rim is non-alcoholic, the red on the outside is wine.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

### **OFFERING**

*For nearly two thousand years, churches across the globe have collected a weekly offering for God's work in the world. In addition to paying our staff and utilities, these monies also go toward feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, caring for the ill, and natural disaster work, in partnership with Lutherans around the world.*

**OFFERTORY MUSIC—** Choir Anthem: *Halina, Hesus* Filipino Advent Hymn, "Eduardo P. Hontiveros, SJ"

*Halina, Hesus, halina*

*Come, Jesus, come*

*Sa simula, isinaloob Mo  
O Diyos, kaligtasan ng tao  
Sa takdang panahon ay tinawag Mo  
Isang bayang lingkod sa Iyo*

*From the beginning, you planned,  
O God, the salvation of man,  
As foretold, you called  
a nation to serve you.*

*Halina, Hesus, halina*

*Come, Jesus, come*

*Gabay ng Iyong bayang hinirang  
Ang pag-asa sa Iyong Mesiya.  
"Emmanuel" ang pangalang bigay sa Kanya:  
"Nasa atin ang D'yos tuwina."*

*Guided by your chosen people,  
our hope embodied in your Messiah;  
"Emmanuel" is the name given to him.  
"God is with us always."*

*Halina, Hesus, halina  
Halina, Hesus, halina*

*Come, Jesus, come  
Come, Jesus, come*

# OFFERTORY PRAYER

## COMMUNION



Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;  
King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.  
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav' - n - ly food.

In the night in which he was arrested, Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying: Take, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new promise, my very life, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me.



Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard on the way;



as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,



comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.



At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



“Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, is the Lord, God Most High!”

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**AGNUS DEI**

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us.  
 Cordero de Dios, que quitas el pecado del mundo, ten piedad de nosotros.  
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.  
 Grant us peace. Grant us peace. Danos la paz. Danos la paz.*

**COMMUNION HYMN— LBW 312: Once He Came in Blessing**

1 Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;  
 2 Still he comes with - in us; still his voice would win us  
 3 Thus, if you have known him, not a - shamed to own him,  
 4 Those who then are loy - al find a wel - come roy - al.

came in like - ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;  
 from the sins that hurt us; would to truth con - vert us  
 nor have spurned him cold - ly, but will trust him bold - ly,  
 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re - lease us;

bore the cross to save us; hope and free - dom gave us.  
 from our fool - ish er - ror ere he comes in ter - ror.  
 he will then re - ceive you, heal you, and for - give you.  
 let us here con - fess you, till in heav'n we bless you.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

*The Nunc Dimittis (Latin=Now You Dismiss), first sung by Simeon at Jesus' dedication at the temple when he was 8 days old (Luke 2) and today from Advent through Epiphany, reminds us how we too have just encountered Christ at the table.*

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in  
peace: your word has been ful - filled. My  
own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -  
pared in the sight of all peo - ple: a light to re -  
veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther,  
and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and  
will be for - ev - er. A - - men.

# SENDING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BLESSING

## SENDING HYMN— 354: *Arise, O Christian People*



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -  
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the  
3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on  
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your  
best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this  
high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty  
side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The  
heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The  
soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That  
Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from  
low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -  
heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -  
now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.  
bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.  
ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.  
glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dec 11th & 18th– 7:30pm—Holden Evening Prayer @ Hope Lutheran

Dec 15th– Christmas Coffee Hour

Dec 19th— Handbell Concert 7:15-7:45pm followed by Caroling! Invite your friends and neighbors

Dec 24th– Christmas Eve Service 5:30pm

## PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP TODAY

**The Ministers:** The Congregation

**Presiding/Preaching:** Pr. Ron Valadez

**Minister of Music:** Daniel Alley

**Guitarists:** George Fosselius

**Guest Cantor:** Randy Lee

**Lector:**

**Coffee Hour:** Cordell

**Usher:**

**Communion Set-up/Clean-up:**

**Worship Assistant:**

**Flowers:** Greens

## PASTOR RON'S OFF WEEKS:

December 25th-31st

## HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT CLC

### **Sunday**

9:00 AM-9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM CLC Worship

12:00 PM Good Table Worship

### **Monday**

9:00 AM-3:00 PM Senior Center

### **Tuesday**

7:00 PM Lady AA Meeting

### **Thursday**

7:00 PM– Handbell Rehearsal

### **Saturday**

6:00 PM Millenium AA Meeting

## PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR

Julie D.	Mark M.	Brook
Mike and Liz S.	George G.	Jerome S.
Chad B.	Philip Y.	Barbara LM
TJ Baar	Maryann H.	Robin
The Vale Community	Heidi	Will K.
Robin & Wendy	Jan	George & Cindy F.
Sandy Z.	Roz	Thelma & Mike G.
Carolina S.	Pat	Diane L.
Orlando G.	Duwayne	Carla L.
Karen H.	Joan	The family and friends of Ken R.
Laurie P.	Pastor Doris Ng	
Fred	Evie D.	The family and friends of Derek H.
Molly B.	Dee	
	Anna	

## DON'T FORGET YOUR OFFERING

Thank you for your continued financial support of Christ Lutheran. It is very much appreciated. Options for giving include bringing offerings in person, mailing checks, or giving electronically with Tithely. For the latter, simply click the “Giving” tab on the church website. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amy Tiekou at 510-290-2125

## WORSHIP FROM HOME!

Join us and invite friends and neighbors to our Sunday worship service!

**Facebook Livestream:** Every Sunday morning there will be a video livestream of worship available on our church [Facebook](#).

**Online Bulletins:** Bulletins for each worship service are available online every week. To download a copy, go to the church website and visit our [Bulletins page](#).