

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 22ND, 2024**

**FOURTH 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**

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

## **GATHERING**

### **WELCOME**

**PRELUDE-** Conditor Alme Siderum

(Creator of the stars and night) - 7th century Advent Hymn

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>1. Creator of the stars of night,<br/>Your people's everlasting light,<br/>Jesu, Redeemer, save us all,<br/>And hear your servants when they call.</i>                 | <i>4. At your great name, exalted now,<br/>All knees in lowly homage bow;<br/>All things in Heav'n and Earth adore<br/>And own you King forevermore.</i> |
| <i>2. In sorrow at the helpless cry<br/>Of all creation doomed to die,<br/>Did save our lost and guilty race<br/>By healing gifts of heav'nly grace.</i>                  | <i>5. To you, O Holy One, we pray,<br/>Our Judge in that tremendous day,<br/>Ward off, while yet we dwell below,<br/>The weapons of our crafty foe.</i>  |
| <i>3. When Earth was near its evening hour,<br/>You did, in love's redeeming pow'r,<br/>Like bridegroom from his chamber, come<br/>Forth from a virgin mother's womb.</i> | <i>6. To God the Father, God the Son,<br/>And God the Spirit, Three in One,<br/>Praise, honor, might, and glory be,<br/>From age to age eternally.</i>   |

### **LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH**

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send an Heir, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us;

**and you promise through your Heir Jesus to save us from our sin.**

As we light these four candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the Word spoken by your prophets;

**restore us and give us life that we may be saved.**

*O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

*O come, O Hope of Mary's song,  
Exalting those oppressed so long;  
Your mercy stands from age to age,  
And lifts the lowly from their cage.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

house of Bathsheba and David, come, let us rejoice,

**for the Chosen One of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN— *I Sing A Maid*



1. I sing a maid of tender years To  
2. She watched him grow to man-hood's strength To  
3. And if the song had ended then, Our  
whom an angel came, And knelt as to a  
meet his destiny, And when the danger  
eyes would fill with tears, But ah! the song had  
might-y queen, And bowed bright wings of  
of his truth Brought him to Cal-va-  
just begun To echo down the  
flame: A nation's hope in her reply, This  
-ry, She stood by him all power-less To  
years! Now lift your voices, hearts and souls, To  
maid of match-less grace; For God's own son be-  
ease his dying pain, 'Til in the darkest  
sing with one accord To honor Mary, -  
-came her child, and she his resting place.  
hour of all, She held her son a-gain.  
-Moth-er of The Christ, the Ris-en Lord!

## 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

The musical score for the Kyrie consists of three staves, each with a 'Leader' and 'All' section. The music is written in a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

### WORD

#### FIRST READING— MICAH 5:2-5

As for you, Bethlehem, though you are the least significant of Judah’s forces, one who is to be a ruler in Israel on my behalf will come out from you, whose origin is from remote times, from ancient days. Therefore, God will give them up until the time when she who is in labor gives birth. The rest of the ruler’s kin will return to the people of Israel. This ruler will stand and shepherd the flock in the strength of the Almighty, in the majesty of the name of our God. They will dwell secure, because the ruler will surely become great throughout the earth and will become one of peace.

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

#### SECOND READING— HEBREWS 10:5-7

Christ comes into the world and says, “You didn’t want a sacrifice or an offering, but you prepared a body for me; you weren’t pleased with burnt offerings or a sin offering. So I said, “Look, I’ve come to do your will, God. This has been written about me in the scroll.”

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*"God has raised the poor and humble,  
Cast the mighty from their thrones.  
Bread He gives to fill the hungry,  
Mercy flows to all His own."*

## GOSPEL— LUKE 3:7-18

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

Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and has blessed the child you carry. Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises made to her." Upon hearing this, Mary said...

*All:*

1.3. My ——— soul pro - claims your  
2. You have cast the might - y  
great-ness, O God, and my spir - it re-joic - es in  
down from their thrones, and up lift - ed the hum - ble of



you, You have looked with love on your  
heart, You have filled the hun - gry with  
*fine last time*



ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.



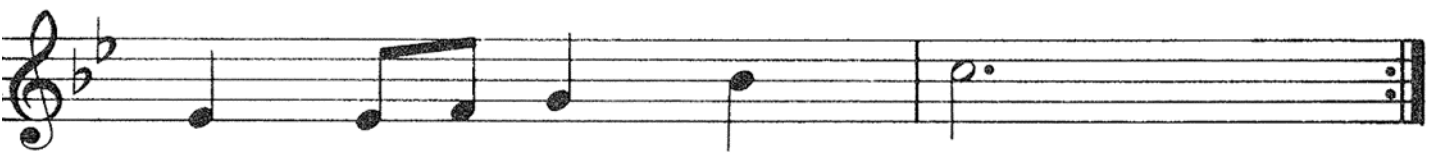
Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,  
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,



strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.  
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,



How you fa - vor the weak — and low - ly one,  
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah — and A - bra - ham,



hum - bling the proud of heart.  
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

## SERMON— PR. RON

### HYMN OF THE DAY— ELW 258: *Unexpected and Mysterious*



1 Un - ex - pect - ed and mys - te - rious is the gen - tle  
2 In a mo - men - tar - y meet - ing of e - ter - ni -  
3 We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the



word of grace. Ev - er - lov - ing and sus - tain -  
ty and time, Mar - y learned that she would car -  
com - ing Christ, to em - bod - y God's com - pas -



ing is the peace of God's em - brace. If we fal - ter  
ry both the mor - tal and di - vine. Then she learned of  
sion for each frag - ile hu - man life. God is with us



in our cour - age and we doubt what we have known, God is  
God's com - pas - sion, of E - liz - a - beth's great joy, and she  
in our long - ing to bring heal - ing to the earth, while we



faith - ful to con - sole us as a moth - er tends her own.  
ran to greet the wom - an who would rec - og - nize her boy.  
watch with joy and won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.

### 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.

*A brief silence.*

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill especially for 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.  
Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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

God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. 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.**

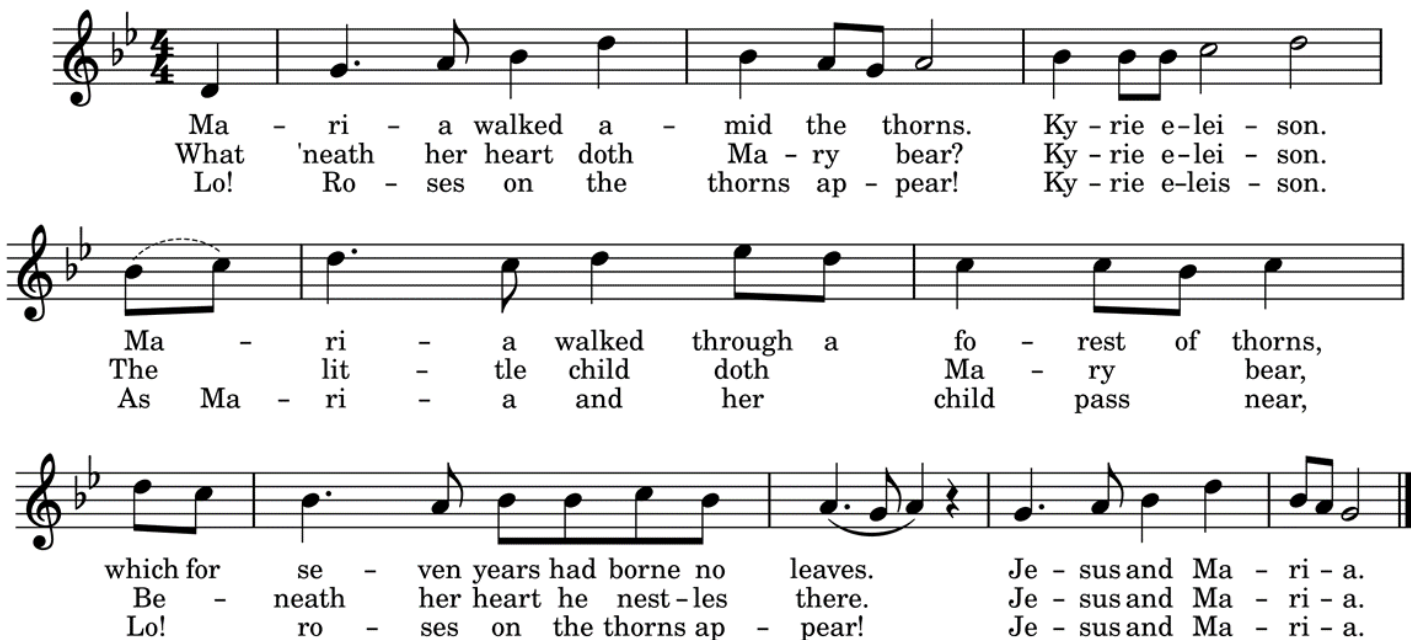
## **MEAL**

*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— *Maria Walks Amid the Thorns*



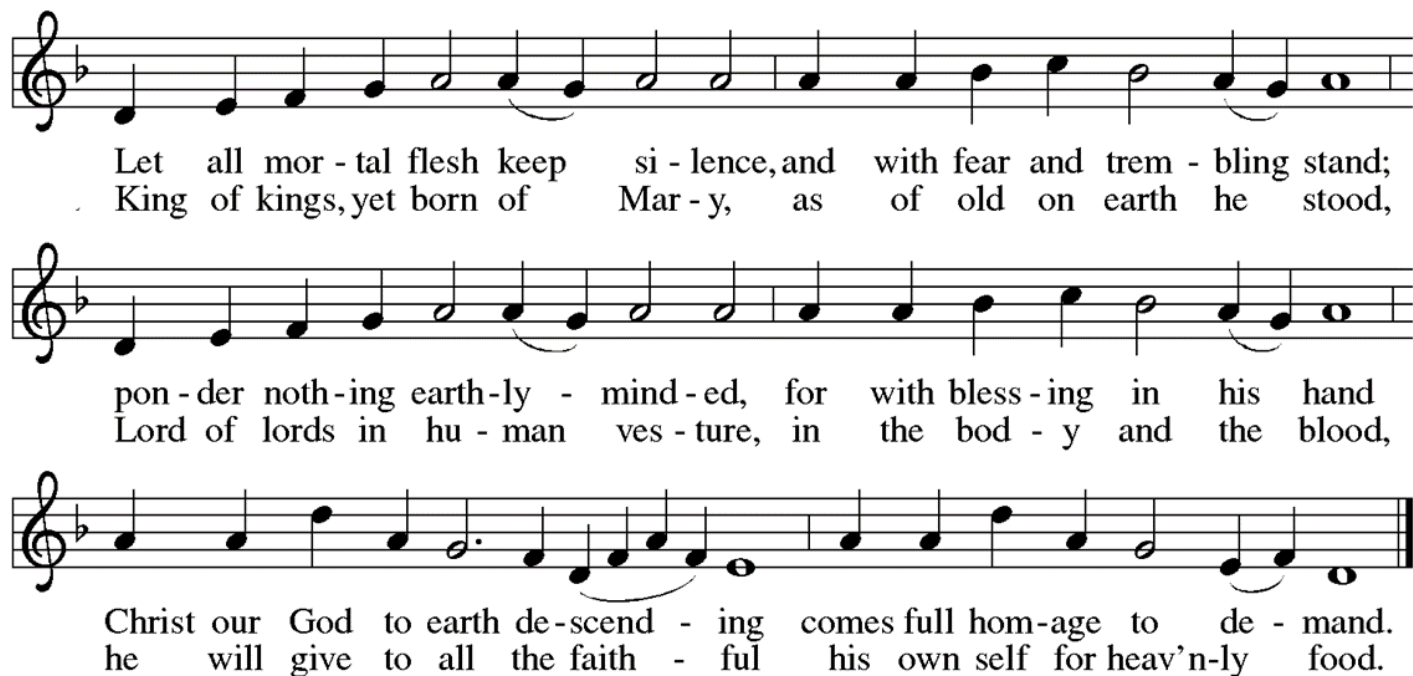
Ma - ri - a walked a - mid the thorns. Ky - rie e - lei - son.  
What 'neath her heart doth Ma - ry bear? Ky - rie e - lei - son.  
Lo! Ro - ses on the thorns ap - pear! Ky - rie e - leis - son.

Ma - ri - a walked through a fo - rest of thorns,  
The lit - tle child doth Ma - ry bear,  
As Ma - ri - a and her child pass near,

which for se - ven years had borne no leaves. Je - sus and Ma - ri - a.  
Be - neath her heart he nest - les there. Je - sus and Ma - ri - a.  
Lo! ro - ses on the thorns ap - pear! Je - sus and Ma - ri - a.

## 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 38: *O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide*



1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide; come down, come  
2 O Morn - ing Star, O Ra - diant Sun, when will our  
3 Sin's dread - ful doom up - on us lies; grim death looms  
4 There shall we all our prais - es bring ev - er to



down with might - y stride; un - lock the gates, the doors break  
hearts be - hold your dawn? O Sun, a - rise; with - out your  
fierce be - fore our eyes. Oh, come, lead us with might - y  
you, our Sav - ior King; there shall we laud you and a -



down; un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.  
light we grope in gloom and dark of night.  
hand from ex - ile to our prom - ised land.  
dore for - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

## 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— ELW 723: Canticle of the Turning

- 1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?
- Refrain*  
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.
- 2 Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of  
the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to  
flight,  
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*
- 3 From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*
- 4 Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. *Refrain*

### DISMISSAL

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

### POSTLUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dec 24th– Christmas Eve Service 5:30pm

## 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

## PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP TODAY

**The Ministers:** The Congregation

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

**Minister of Music:** Daniel Alley

**Guitarists:** George Fosselius & Randy Mayer

**Lector:** Christine

**Coffee Hour:**

**Usher:**

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

**Worship Assistant:**

**Flowers:** Greens

## PASTOR RON’S OFF WEEKS:

December 25th-31st

## 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 Jan	Will K. George & Cindy F.
Robin & Wendy	Roz	
Sandy Z.	Pat	Thelma & Mike G.
Carolina S.	Duwayne	Diane L.
Orlando G.	Joan	Carla L.
Karen H.	Pastor Doris Ng	The family and friends of Ken R.
Laurie P.	Evie D.	
Fred	Dee	The family and friends of Derek H.
Molly B.	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](#).