



Sunday - January 4th, 2026
**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS/
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**



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 Chochoeny.

INTRODUCTION

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

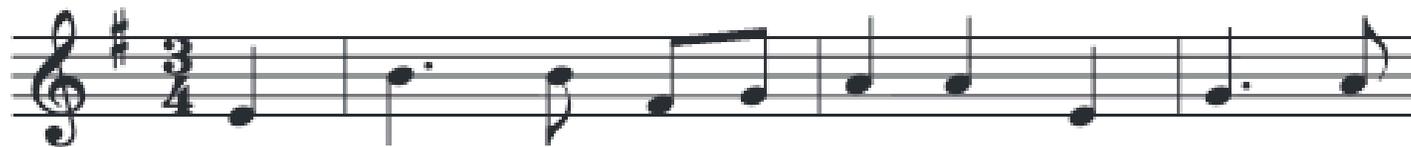
Reconciling God, **we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**

FORGIVENESS

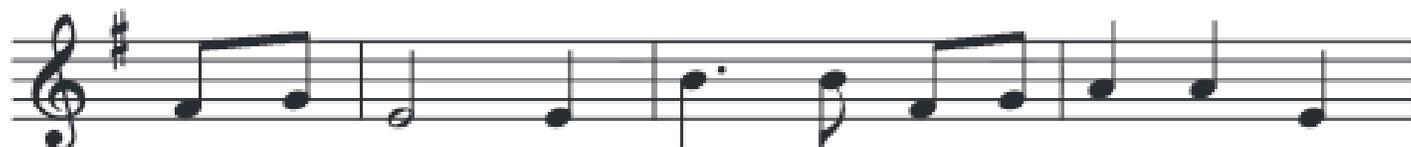
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

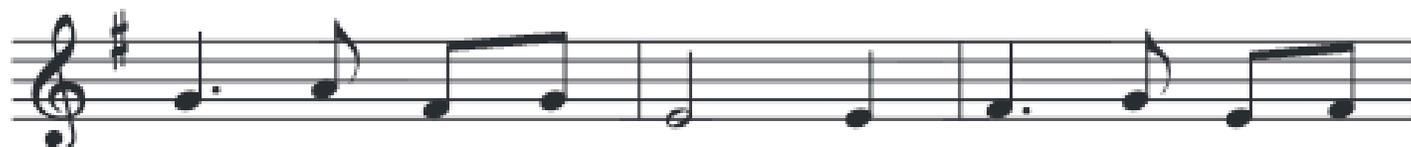
GATHERING HYMN- *Bright Star, Where Are You Leading?*



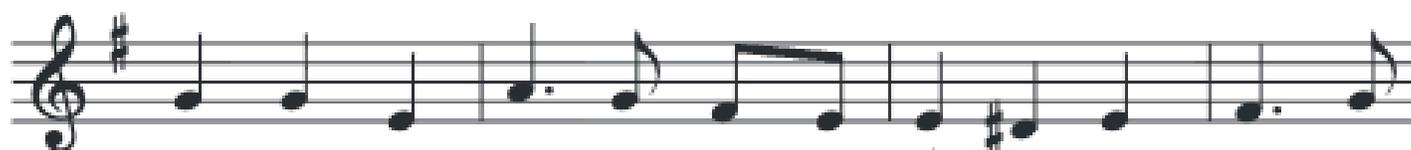
1. Bright star, where are you lead - ing? What waits be -
2. Bright shines the way of jus - tice, bright shines the
3. Though clouds ob - scure our vi - sion, and ty - rants



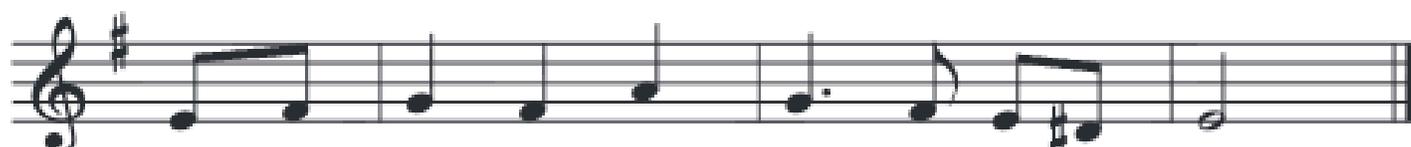
neath your light? All oth - er lights ex - ceed - ing, you
way of love, bright shines the way of kind - ness, like
blur our sight; when ha - tred and di - vi - sion would



guide us through the night. Through shad - ows, still we
stars that shine a - bove. Yet, less - er lights still
dare to dim your light, your hope, a bea - con



fol - low; you call us, come what may. Though Her - od's
woo us, and from the path we stray. Though shad - ows
bril - liant, still shines a - bove the fray. God, make our



words are hol - low, you show an - oth - er way.
would un - do us, you show an - oth - er way.
hearts re - sil - ient, to fol - low in your way.

GLORIA- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of
peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 60:1-6

1 Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

2 For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

3 Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

5 Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

6 A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72

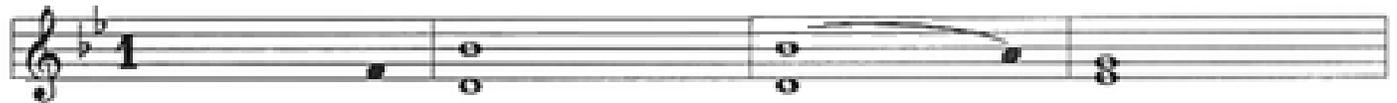
Antiphon



Lord, ev-'ry na - tion on earth will a - dore



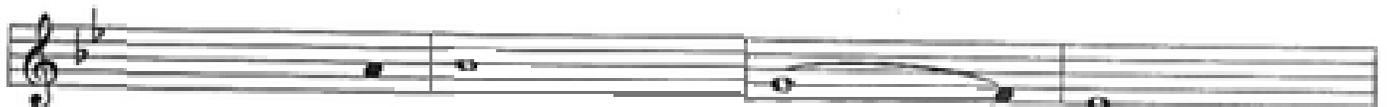
you, ev-'ry na - tion on earth will a - dore you.



1. O God, give your judgment to the king,
 2. In his days justice shall flourish
 3. The kings of Tarshish and the seacoasts
 4. For he shall save the poor when they cry



1. to a king's son your justice,
 2. and peace till the moon fails.
 3. shall pay him tribute. }
 4. shall bring him gifts. }
 4. and the needy who are helpless.



1. that he may judge your people in justice
 2. He shall rule from sea to sea,
 3. Be-fore him all rulers shall fall prostrate,
 4. He will have pity on the weak



1. and your poor in right judgment.
 2. from the Great River to earth's bounds.
 3. all nations shall serve him.
 4. and save the lives of the poor.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

**From the First Nations Version: An Indigenous Bible Translation of the New Testament*

Because I, Small Man (*Paul*), follow the Chosen One and represent you Nations in this way, I have been arrested and put in chains. I am sure you have heard how the Great Spirit chose me, because of his great kindness, to be a wisdomkeeper to all Nations. Creator chose me, by a sacred vision, to make known this hidden wisdom that I have already spoken about. When you hear this message, you will understand how I see the mystery of the Chosen One. This mystery was not made known to the generations of humankind that walked before us in the same way his Spirit has now told it to his holy message bearers and prophets.

This mystery is that the people of all Nations have equal share in the blessings promised to the tribes of Wrestles with Creator (*Israel*). They have full membership in the same body and are included in the promise through the Chosen One as told in the good story. Chosen to Tell the Good Story The gift of Creator's great kindness came to me in a powerful way and created in me a desire to serve this good story. Even though I am small and weak among his holy people, he still chose me to tell all Nations about the mysterious treasures he has hidden in the Chosen One and about the unfolding of this ancient plan—a great mystery that was hidden away for many ages in Creator's heart. So that now, through his sacred family, his great wisdom, which is like a rainbow with many colors, will be made known to the powers and rulers in the spirit-world above.

This good story gives full meaning to the ancient purpose he planned before he created all things. This purpose has now been made clear through the Chosen One, Creator Sets Free (*Jesus*). Our trust in him opens the way and gives us strong hearts to move close to the Great Spirit.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.

Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and

mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.

Lis - ten to the an - gels sing: "Glo - ry, glo - ry,

glo - ry," let the heav - ens ring!

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O God.**

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

7 Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." 9 When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his

mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Some tra-veled north, some tra-veled south to see this won - der-ful Child.
 Some tra-veled east, some tra-veled west to see this won - der-ful Child.
 Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Let the heav - ens ring!

SERMON- MC Miller

HYMN OF THE DAY- *The Call*

We greet the joy of Christ - mas and the cho - rus the an - gels
 We feel the call of Christ - mas in the mes - sage the shep - herds
 For - give us, Lord, for - give us, when we look to the rich and
 sing! Ring out a song of wel - come to Christ, the new - born
 heard. Though they were but com - mon peo - ple they were cho - sen to greet the
 strong in - stead of the low - ly sta - ble for the pow'r to right Earth's
 King! For pre - sent in that wel - come of the light through bliss - ful
 word. "Oh glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to peo - ple of good
 wrongs. Oh see us the poor and low - ly, in - spired by the song from a -
 birth is a wel - come to all peo - ple and the pro - mise of peace on earth.
 will!" But will we em - bo - dy the pro - mise when the an - cient song is stilled?
 -bove, to seek the lost and bro - ken, to heal the world with love.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Repairer of the breach, you separate us from our sin and unite us with one another. Heal the animosity in our hearts, and bind us together in love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Author of life, you sent your spirit over the waters, your breath into your children, and guiding stars across the sky. Awaken us to the plight of the planet and send us to care for your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Light that leads the way, you make yourself known to the nations. Illuminate just paths and guide leaders in the church and the world in your holy will. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Voice of the silenced, you cast the mighty from their thrones and fill the hungry with good things. Grant those in need the courage to demand equality and those with abundance the wisdom to share. Respond to any who call out in need this day especially for Karen, Julie, Fred, George G., Maryann H., Evie D., Diane, Carla, Laurie & John P., Christina B., and the family and friends of Sandy Z. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Proclaimer of promises, you raise up prophets and messengers in the places we least expect. Equip us to listen well to those who bring both good news and painful truths. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

What else do the people of God pray for?

Redeemer of the saints, you gift us with many people throughout our lives who point the way to you. We give you thanks for the recently departed and all who have loved us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY- Wexford Carol



There were three. wise - men from a - far di - rect - ed
The night be - fore that hap - py tide, The no - ble
Good peo - ple all this Christ - mas time, Con - sid - er



by a glor - ious star. And on they wan - dered night and
vir - gin and her guide were long time seek - ing up and
well and bear in mind what our good God for us has



day Un - til they came where Je - sus lay. And when they
down to find a lodg - ing in that town. But mark how
done, in send - ing his be lov - ed Son. With Ma - ry



came un - to that place where our be
all things come to pass from ev - e - ry
ho - ly we should pray to God with



lov - ed Mes - si - ah was, they hum - bly cast them at his
door re - pelled, a - las! as long fore told their re - fuge
love this Christ - mas day. In Beth - le - hem up - on that



Feet, with gifts of gold and in - cense sweet.
all was but a hum - ble ox - 's stall.
morn there was a bles - sed Mes - si - ah born.

OFFERING PRAYER

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD AND BLESSING

Presider:

Worship and praise belong to you, Great Spirit, Creator of the cosmos. Out of nothing, you called all worlds into being. Even now you draw the universe to its fulfillment. In Christ, your only-begotten Son, you have revealed yourself to the world, and all creation

sings the birth of Christ, the Saviour of the Earth. May we, like the magi in their adoration, be drawn by wonder to behold your glory.

All:

Arise and shine, for your light is with us.

Presider:

And now we give your thanks. For by the leading of a star, you made him known to the nations as the Son of David and King of Israel. You drew Melchior, Balthazar, and Caspar to behold the newborn King. You appointed a star to lead them on their way, and in a wonder beyond all reckoning, it stood still over the place where your Son was. Now, in the mystery of the Word made flesh, a new light has shone in our hearts.

All:

Arise and shine, for your light is within us.

Presider:

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation, in your Word spoken through the prophets, and in the calling of Israel to be your people. And now, in Christ Jesus, you have made Gentiles also fellow heirs of the same promise and members of one body. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and entrusted us with the work of your reconciling love.

All:

Arise and shine, and send us to bear your light.

Presider:

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

All:

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 Receive a Blessing: *You are invited to come forward with arms crossed and receive a blessing as a sign of God's abiding presence and care.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN- *Brightest and Best*

*Gitche Manitou - "Great Spirit" in the Algonquian languages

1. Hail, the blest morn, see the great Gi-tche Ma-ni-tou,
2. Cold on his cra-dle the dew-drops are shi-ning;
3. Say, shall we yield him, in cost-ly de-vo-tion,
down from the re-gion of glo-ry de-scend!
Low lies his bed, with the beasts of the stall;
o-dours of E-den, and off-rings di-vine,
She-pherds, go wor-ship the babe in the man-ger,
An-gels a-dore him in slum-bers re-cli-ning,
gems from the moun-tain and pearls from the o-cean,
Lo for his guard the bright an-gels at-tend.
wise men and she-pherds be-fore him do fall.
myrrh from the fo-rest and gold from the mine?
Bright-est and best of the stars of the mor-ning!
Dawn on our dark-ness, and lend us thine aid;
Star in the east, the ho-ri-zon a-dorn-ning,
guide where our in-fant Re-deem-er was laid.

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest! **And peace to God's people on earth!** Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace. **Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jan 16th- Annual Reports Due

Jan 25th- Annual Meeting

<p><u>Participating in Worship Today</u> Presiding/Preaching: MC Miller Minister of Music: Daniel Alley Guitarists: George Fosselius & Randy Mayer Lector: Dee A. Communion Set-up/Clean-up: Worship Assistant: Christine H.L. Flowers: Coffee Hour:</p>	<p><u>Happening This Week at CLC</u> Today 9 AM Choir Rehearsal 10 AM CLC Worship Monday 9 AM- 3 PM Senior Center 7 PM- 8:30 PM The Scouts Tuesday 7 PM Lady AA Meeting Thursday 7 PM Handbell Rehearsal Saturday 6 PM Millennium AA Meeting Next Sunday 9 AM Choir Rehearsal 10 AM CLC Worship</p>
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PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:

Julie D. Diane L. Lysle P. Mike & Liz S. The Vale Community Robin & Wendy George F.	Carolina S. Karen H. Laurie P. Fred W. Chad B. TJ B. Carla L.	Vince Thelma & Mike G. Mark Chris Phil C. Family and friends of Sandy Z. Girija and Mami
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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 Tiekue at 510-290-2125

WORSHIP FROM HOME Livestream: [Facebook.com/clec.org](https://www.facebook.com/clec.org). Bulletins can be found at christlutheranelcerrito.org/bulletins

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