



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grace changes everything.

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CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

December 24, 2021
3:00pm, 4:30pm, 6:00pm

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! A blessed Christmas to you! Tonight, we celebrate the birth of hope, compassion, and peace in the world, Jesus Christ! Given the year, our worship this year will not only take place inside, but outside and online. It will also be simpler, in other words, perfect. Thank you for being with us!

THE PRELUDE: *Various Selections*
Night of Silence by Daniel Kantor

Fred Johnson, Organist/Pianist
Music Director Kathy Person, Violin

THE GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP (Luke 1:78-79)

(People read/sing **bold** words.)

By the tender mercy of our God,

The dawn from on high will break upon us,

To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

To guide our feet into the way of peace.

Come, let us welcome the Christ into our hearts anew!

Come Lord Jesus, bring Your light, hope, and peace. Amen.

(The Advent Candles and Christ Candle are lit during the hymn.)

THE GATHERING HYMN: **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

#283 vv. 1-2

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

come and behold him, born the king of angels:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,

born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

(The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**)

Gracious God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light. Grant that we may reflect Your light to a darkened world; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS READING: Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time

came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.
(Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**)

THE HYMN: Angels We Have Heard on High #289 v. 1
**Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria... in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

THE CHRISTMAS READING: Luke 2:8-14
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"
(Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**)

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Angels We Have Heard on High (Please stand.) #289 v. 3
**Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria... in excelsis Deo;
Gloria...in excelsis Deo.**

THE GOSPEL: Luke 2:15-20
(The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 2nd chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**)
**When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.**
(The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**)

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ANTHEM: *The Cherry Tree Carol* (4:30pm) Sanctuary Choir, Soloist Michele Lum

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: O Little Town of Bethlehem #279
**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel**

THE MESSAGE: ***“Fear Less”*** Pastor David R. Mattson

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC: *"See Amid the Winter's Snow"* arr. by D. Forrest Pastor Veronica Gould

THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Hark the Herald Angels Sing (please stand.) #270 v. 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!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER
Gracious God,
**Humbly we offer our gifts in joyful thanksgiving for this holy night, in celebration of
Your Son's birth. May these gifts be used to extend Your compassion to the entire world;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (After each prayer: Lord in Your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**)

THE LORD'S PRAYER
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.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES
(To avoid hot wax, please keep lit candles upright. Thank you!)

THE GOSPEL READING: John 1:1-5,9-14

THE HYMN: ***Silent Night, Holy Night***

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

#281 vv. 1, 3

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

THE SENDING HYMN: ***Joy to the World***

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

#267

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

Sending Words: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: *Postlude on “Ding Dong! Merrily on High!”* by Lasky Fred Johnson, Organist/Pianist

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THANKS TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS FOR DONATING POINSETTIAS!	
John Adams	In memory of Big John & Marjorie Adams
Cliff Anderson	In memory of Madeline Anderson
Kathi Anderson	In memory of Matthew Elijah Court
Ruth Anderson	In memory of my husband, Harvey & granddaughter, Elli
Denise & Tim Boyd	In memory of Daniel Bretigan, Tim's nephew
Don & Susie Caskey	In honor of Don's parents, Al & Viviane Anderson
	In honor of Susie's parents, Bill & Christine Hedrick
	In memory of our four parents
John & Linda Friend	In memory of our precious daughter, Jan
Phil & Sandy Furlong	In memory of Frank & Helen Hallowell
The Hallowell Family	In memory of Velda Chase, loving mother & servant of our Lord
Ren & Shelly Higgins	In memory of my mom & gram
Laurene Holmes-Hylton	In celebration of family & friends
Rebecca & Richard Horner	In memory of Joy Horsch
Rudy Horsch	In celebration of all the beautiful music at Gloria Dei
Diane Kelly	In memory of loved ones
Janet Klein	In honor of our family
Dellita & Mike Kobold	In celebration of Christmas
Sonja Krafcik	In celebration of Henry and prayer for world peace
Gia Lugo	In memory of Marie Cunningham
Connie Masciorini	In celebration of our children Charlotte & Taylor
John & Kristina Mayfield	In celebration of Don & Melly's marriage
The McCarty Family	In celebration of Julian Becca's baby daughter
	In memory of my parents, Gerhardt & Lucille Walz
Tami McMullen	In memory of Sandra Burns & Norm Clifford
Leslie & Steve McNaughton	In memory of Bruce & Shirley McNaughton
	In memory of Jack & Carolyn Scott
	In celebration of Leonardo Jack Buchner
	in memory of Marvin Miller
Sharon Miller	In honor of the Glory of God
Erika Mills	In memory of the Ella & Carl Luth & family and George Moore
Virginia Moore	In memory of Patricia & James Gault and Pernell Gault
	In memory of Bryan Samuelson
	In honor of Richard Rhine
Erin & Scot Neiderhiser	In honor of Annie & Shelley
Gene Rathbun	In memory of Tom Richards
Barbara Richards	In honor of Robin Pauling
The Ross Family	In memory of Jack Pike
Mary Jane Rylaarsdam-Pike	In memory of Donald & Ruth Schultz and William Schultz
Robert Schultz	In honor of John & Margaret Vislocky
Dianne Scott Schultz	In honor of our parents
Carol & Bill Simpson	To the glory of Jesus Christ
Ann & Jim St. Martin	In celebration of the Risen Lord
David & Susan Warneke	In memory of Jeri Steck, Carol's mom
The Weinhardt Family	In honor of Tom & Sharon Poppenhouse, Poppy's grandparents
The Welin Family	In honor of Larry & Linda Welin, Poppy's grandparents

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are provided by Sharon Miller in celebration of Steve's 42nd birthday! They are also given by the Mattson family in celebration of the Savior's birth and the blessing of family and friends.

CHILDCARE is available for young children/babies at all Christmas Eve Services. For childcare, go to the preschool room closest to the Sanctuary. Sign-in and grab a pager.

OFFERING - Please place check/money in boxes, or **ELECTRONIC GIVING** - Venmo app - @GloriaDei-Dana Point. Alternatively, you can give via credit card or debit card through our secure site: mygloriadei.org/donate. Thank you for supporting the ministry of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church!

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - In 2022, this study begins again on Wednesday, January 12, 10am. All women are invited to meet in the Sanctuary & refreshments will be served early.

GUIDELINES for worship - please speak with an usher (blue vests) about your reserved seat. Face masks required inside! (Extras masks at the Welcome Table). The 4:30pm service will be livestreamed: www.youtube.com/GloriaDeiLutheranChurchDanaPoint. FYI - All church/school staff have been vaccinated. (If you need assistance receiving a vaccination, please contact the office.)

CONFIRMATION (6th-8th graders) will resume on Sunday, January 9, 2022, 11:15am. Questions, speak with a pastor or Youth Director Paige Gulck (youth@mygloriadei.org).

SANCTUARY CHOIR (Teens/Adults) - All levels of ability are welcome! Practice is on Thursdays at 7:30pm for one hour in the Sanctuary. We will resume practice on January 13, 2022. At this time, choral masks are provided. For details - Kathy Person: music@mygloriadei.org.

NURSERY is available at the 8:30am & 10am services. Services for babies - pre-K. The attendants are vaccinated and they will be wearing masks. They will be inside preschool room closest to the church.

BRASS GROUP rehearses Tuesdays, 5pm (Sanctuary). All levels of ability are welcome! Questions - pastordavid@mygloriadei.org.

GOD SQUAD (3rd - 5th Graders) - LaserLand - Wednesday, January 12, 4pm. Meet at LaserLand (27741 Crown Valley #315A, Mission Viejo) followed by pizza. Contact the office or email Barb Collins if attending - sundayschool@mygloriadei.org. As always, feel free to invite a friend!

MEMBERSHIP AT GLORIA DEI: See the sign-up at the Welcome Table. There are two ways to join: Attend the Adult Inquiry Class (Saturday, Jan. 22, 9am) or transfer membership from another Lutheran congregation. The Adult Inquiry Class covers the "basics" of the Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective. To both groups, there will be a get-to-know-you brunch on Saturday, January 22, 11:15am. New Members will be officially received during worship - Sunday, January 30.

MEN'S RETREAT - SPRING TRAINING BASEBALL (Tempe): Annual event takes place March 4-6, 2022. Sign-up for this popular, first-come-first-served event will take place in mid January.

GLORIA DEI COOK BOOK - Pick up your copy at the church office. Contact Carol Weinhardt at 949-493-3414 or gloriadei@mygloriadei.org. Thanks to all for your recipe contributions. Thanks to the Women's Board for organizing.

DEVOTIONALS - Pick up a copy of "*Christ in Our Home*", January - March 2022, at the Welcome Table.

PRESCHOOL TEACHER AID - Preschool Director Shelli Parajeckas is interviewing for a part time position, 15 hours per week, working in the three year old classroom. If interested in applying, please contact her at preschool@mygloriadei.org.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - RIOT (Reading Is Our Thing) meets the *third Monday of each month at 2pm*. The group meets in Knudson Hall. Next meeting is January 17. They are reading *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley. If interested in joining the book club, please contact the office at 949-493-3414.

MEN'S BOOK GROUP - Meets the last Tuesday of the month, 7pm. Meeting in person at O'Neill's Bar & Grill (26772 Avery Parkway, Mission Viejo/Arroyo Trabuco Golf Course). They are reading *The Night Portrait* & will meet on January 25. For information contact the church office.

DEI-LY SERVICE: PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY - first Saturday/month, 9am, Knudson Hall. In January, they meet on the 8th (second Saturday) instead. SERRA'S PANTRY - Provides food to those in need, third Saturday/month, 8:30am. January 15 is the next volunteer time. QUILTING GROUP currently prepares all quilts from home - provided to newly Baptized. SOUTH COAST LITERACY COUNCIL - assists adults in south OC in English language skills, Monday and Thursday mornings 10am - 12pm. LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE MINISTRY (Tijuana Mexico) - Regularly assists this children's ministry. If interested in any of these opportunities, contact the church office.

UPCOMING: Annual Meeting/Ministry Celebration (February 6); Ash Wednesday (March 2); Concordia College Choir from Minnesota in Concert (March 2, 7pm); Wednesday Soup Suppers for Season of Lent (March 9, 6pm); First Communion Instruction begins (March 13, 10am).

THANKS TO OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY!

3pm: Acolyte: Johannes Fugate; Chair Set Up: Gene Rathbun; Lector: Kristina Mayfield; Parking Attendants: Tom Cawein & Dennis Chernekoff; Usher: Christian Asis & Barbara Richards; Welcome Table: Margaret Cawein & Shelli Parajeckas

4:30pm: Acolyte: Romy Rettig; Lector: Dr. Sonja Krafcik; Parking Attendants: Tom Cawein & Chuck Weinhardt; Usher: Lynne & Wes Morgan, Dave & Susan Warneke; Welcome Table: Tim Boyd

6pm: Acolyte: Emma Person; Lector: Marcy Backhus; Parking Attendants: Tom Cawein; Usher: Craig Backhus & Greg Person; Welcome Table: Storrow & Wayne Johnson