



4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 24, 2023 (8:30am)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! Guests, please sign in at the "Welcome Table" and receive a gift. For young children, a nursery is available - sign in your child and grab a pager. We also love children in worship and Sunday school (8:30am and 10am).

TODAY is the Fourth Sunday in Advent (morning) and Christmas Eve (evening). As we sing, pray, speak about Jesus' birth, may the story and God's presence fill you with joy and peace.

PRELUDE: *Noël* by Louis-Claude Daquin

Micaela Lum, Organist/Pianist

THE WELCOME

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

GATHERING HYMN: *Joy to the World*

#267 vv. 1-2

**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.**

**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.**

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

We worship in the name of the Father... and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

We who walk in darkness
have seen a great light:

on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

A light that is a joy for all the earth,
a light that announces new life.

With celebration we greet this light.
Our Savior has come to earth.

Come Lord Jesus, we welcome Your Spirit into our hearts.
May the light of Christ bring joy to our worship. Amen.

THE HYMN: *O Come All Ye Faithful*

#283 v. 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 Lord be with you. **And also with you.**)

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

LITANY FOR LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE

(Following the reading, we sing, *O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel* #257 vv. 1, 6)

THE LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

(Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**)

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Good Christian Friends Rejoice* (Please stand.) #288 vv.1-2

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heav-en's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 1st chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

THE GOSPEL: John 1:1-12

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not

the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God. (The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.)**

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Assistant Minister Dana Becker

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF THE DAY: *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

#282 vv.1-3

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'n-ly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ev-er o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

**And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!**

THE MESSAGE: "*Good Morning!*"

Pastor David R. Mattson

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC: *Meditation on "Silent Night"* arr. Larry Shackley

Micaela Lum

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

#270 vv. 1, 3

**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!"**

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

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(All who believe Christ is present in this Sacrament are welcome to receive. Non-communing children and others who wish to receive only a blessing may come forward also. For those who prefer, white juice is located in the center of each tray and gluten-free wafers are also available.)

HOLY COMMUNION MUSIC:

Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.**

Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

Silent 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.**

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;

**glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**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.**

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

THE BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: Angels We Have Heard on High

**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.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'n-ly song?
Gloria... in excelsis Deo; Gloria...in excelsis Deo.**

**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.**

SENDING WORDS: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* arr. Wilbur Held Micaela Lum, Organist/Pianist

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GLORIA DEI STAFF: Pastor David R. Mattson (pastordavid@mygloriadei.org); Assistant Minister Dana Becker (danabecker@mygloriadei.org); Administrative Assistant Carol Weinhardt (gloriadei@mygloriadei.org); Preschool Director Shelli Parajeckas (preschool@mygloriadei.org); Minister of Arts & Outreach Michelle Lum (michellelum@mygloriadei.org); Congregational Life Susie Boland (fellowship@mygloriadei.org); Youth Director Paige Gulck (youth@mygloriadei.org); Music Director Kathy Person (music@mygloriadei.org); Organist/Pianist Fred Johnson (organist@mygloriadei.org); Spm Worship Leader Micaela Lum

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THANKS TO OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY!

8:30am: Acolyte: Will Ramsaur; Advent Reader: Will Ramsaur; Coffee Prep: Katherine Dickinson; Communion: Diane Kelly & Shelli Parajeckas; Lector: Pat McKinley; Ushers: Tim Boyd & Matt Dubow; Welcome Table: Diane Kelly

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are provided by Jim St. Martin in celebration of Ann's birthday! They are also given by Linda Curie in celebration of Christie Curie, born Christmas Day!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

December 24, 8:30am, 4pm, 5:30pm & 10pm.

Carols, candlelight, special music, & uplifting message.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at 8:30am and 10pm.

A blessed Christmas to you!

THANK YOU to the many volunteers of helping today - musicians, ushers, readers, those who decorated, clean-up, parking attendants, and so many more - and thanks to you for being with us!

BIBLE YEAR STUDY - Thursdays, 6:30pm, Pastor David leads a study on the readings and answers questions. (12/24 Ezra 7:1 - Esther). Next meeting is January 11, 2024. Never too late to join. All are welcome!

OFFERING - Please place check/money in donation boxes in the sanctuary or at the Welcome Table, or give ELECTRONICALLY - Venmo app - @GloriaDei-DanaPoint or ZELLE - gloriadei@mygloriadei.org. Alternatively you can donate via credit card or debit card through Vanco, our secure site: mygloriadei.org/donate. Thank you for supporting Gloria Dei!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY meets the *first Saturday/month, 9am, Knudson Hall*. Next meeting - January 6. For more information, call Peggy Johnson or the office.

CONFIRMATION (Junior High) - Classes and lunches begin again, Sunday, January 7, 11:30am. Questions, contact Youth Director Paige (youth@mygloriadei.org).

MEMBERSHIP at Gloria Dei? We offer two ways to officially join the Gloria Dei family:
1) From a non-Lutheran background, attend the Adult Inquiry Class, January 20, 9am **OR** 2) Transfer your membership from a Lutheran church. To all joining, there will be a New Member Orientation, Sunday, January 21, 11:15am. New members received in church on Sunday, January 28. Sign-up.

LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE TRIP - A day trip to Los Angelitos (Tijuana, Mexico) on January 27, 2024, 7am - 7pm. Passports are required. Please sign-up at the Welcome Table for more information.

MEN'S BOOK GROUP - Meets the *last Tuesday of the month, 7pm* at members' homes. *They will be meeting on January 30*. For information contact the church office.

SOUTH COAST LITERACY COUNCIL - All-volunteer, nonprofit organization whose mission is to assist adults in south Orange County to acquire English language skills. *They meet at Gloria Dei in Knudson Hall on Mondays, 10am - 12pm for formal study. On Thursdays, 1pm - 3pm, they will meet for informal game fun*. Interested in volunteering, contact gloriadei@mygloriadei.org or 949-493-3414.

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY Bible Study starts up again on Wednesday, January 10, 10am. All women are welcome at this weekly gathering. The study is led by a pastor.

"FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT PAUL" (Greece Trip) - As an alternative to the Holy Land, Pastor David will be leading a group to Greece (land/sea), April 9-20, 2024. Flier available at the Welcome Table.

MEN'S BREAKFAST STUDY - 2nd Saturday/month, 8:30am in Knudson Hall. The next meeting is January 13. All men are welcome for breakfast, brief Bible study, and friendship.

SANCTUARY CHOIR AND BELL CHOIR begin again on January 11 (Bell Choir 6:30pm & Sanctuary Choir 7:30pm). They meet each Thursday evening. We are looking for more people to join both choirs. Questions or interest, contact Music Director Kathy Person, music@mygloriadei.org.

GLORIA DEI YOUTH - All high school students we have a couple fun service projects early in 2024: January 21 - Kids will assemble hygiene kits for the homeless & February 4 - Valentine card making for church members who are unable to get out & about. You can receive volunteer hours for these activities. Contact Paige Gulck at youthdirector@mygloriadei.org if you plan to attend. .

ALOHA LUNCHEON - Ministry Celebration and Annual Meeting: All members are welcome for a wonderful luncheon (donation) and election of new Church Council, approval of annual budget, and celebration of new ministries. Sunday, February 4, 11:15am. Mark your calendars and join us.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Stephanie Trick & Paolo Alderighi Piano Concert (Feb.12); Ash Wednesday Worship and soup suppers begin (Feb.14); Billy Steele leads morning music (Feb.25); First Communion Classes begin (Feb. 28); Men's Spring Training Retreat (March 1-3); Women's One Day Retreat (March 16); Church Campout (June 7-9)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DECEMBER 24 - 30, 2023

Today: Worship (8:30am); Nursery (8:30am); Christmas Eve Worship (4pm, 5:30pm & 10pm); NA Meeting (6:30pm)

Monday: Merry Christmas! Al Anon (5:30pm)

Tuesday: AA Men (7am); Al Anon (7pm)

Wednesday: AA Men (7am); Mission Hospital Alumni Group (6pm); 12 Step Couples Group (7:30pm)

Thursday: AA Men (7am); AA Women (9:30am); Al Anon Coed (5:30pm); AA Men (7pm)

Saturday: AA Men's (7am); ACA Meeting Meeting (10:30am); ACA Meeting (11:30am); NA Meeting (7pm)