



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grace changes everything.



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CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

December 24, 2023

4:00pm, 5:30pm, 10:00pm

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! A blessed Christmas to you! Tonight, we celebrate the birth of hope, compassion, peace, and light in the world, Jesus Christ. May this Story become your story and fill you with strength. Thank you for being with us!

PRELUDE MUSIC

Fred Johnson, Organist/Pianist
Music Director Kathy Person, Violin
Annika Krafcik, Cello (4pm & 5:30pm)
Gloria Dei Bells (5:30pm)

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 Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray...)

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

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...**

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, and on earth peace, good will toward all."
(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...**

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!**)**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (4/5:30pm)

Assistant Minister Dana Becker

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ANTHEM (5:30pm): *Advent Peace Canon* Sanctuary Choir, Music Director Kathy Person

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: O Little Town of Bethlehem #279 vv. 1, 4
**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: "*Pieces of Peace*" Pastor David R. Mattson

THE OFFERING

(Please place check/money in donation boxes, or give with,
Venmo - [@GloriaDei-DanaPoint](#) or Zelle - gloriadei@mygloriadei.org
or donate via secure [credit/debit card](#) site: mygloriadei.org/donate. Thank you!)

OFFERTORY MUSIC: *Welcome to Our World* by Chris Rice (4pm & 5:30pm) Andy Degan
Breath of Heaven (10pm) Michelle Lum, Arts & Outreach Minister

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 time, in celebration of Your Son's birth. May these gifts be used to extend Your light and grace 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 SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (10pm)

(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. Please cross your arms in front as a signal. For those who prefer, white juice is located in the center of each tray and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)

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.

MUSIC DURING HOLY COMMUNION (10pm only): **Away in a Manger**

#277

**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.**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

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

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

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

#281 vv. 1, 3

**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...**

**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...

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

THE SENDING 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...**

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

SENDING WORDS: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE:

Fred Johnson, Organist/Pianist

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THANKS TO OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TONIGHT!

4pm: Acolyte: Evan Neiderhise; Lector: Sonja Krafcik; Parking Attendants: Carter & Scott Neiderhiser and Henri Nurminen; Ushers: Christian Asis, John Gustavson & Lynn & Wes Morgan;; Welcome Table: Leslie McNaughton
5:30pm: Acolyte: Emma Person; Lector: Jay Pederson; Parking Attendants: Tim Boyd & Jeff Contestabile; Ushers: Dennis & Karen Chernekoff, Dennis Pysz, & Susan Warneke; Welcome Table: Bob & Bonny Gillespie
10pm: Communion: Craig Collins & Bill Jonas; Lector: Kathy Martino; Ushers: Kathy Martino & Sharon Miller

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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!

NURSERY is available on Sunday mornings at 8:30am & 10am services. On Christmas Eve we are offering babysitting at 4pm & 5:30pm. Nursery is for babies - pre-K. They will be inside the preschool room closest to the church. Sign your child in and grab a pager.

NEW ARTWORK by Arts & Outreach Minister Michelle Lum and volunteers, "*Lights of the World*" is hanging from the window near organ pipes/bell choir. Thanks to all those who made it possible!

CANDLES TONIGHT - Please make sure you pick up a candle for the lighting ceremony at the end of the service. Please dip only unlit candles. That prevents hot wax from dripping or burning anyone!

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!

CHRIST IN OUR HOME - Pick up your devotional book at the Welcome Table (January - March 2024).

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL (Age 4 - 5th grade/8:30am & 10am service) *is on Christmas break & resumes January 7, 2024*. Kids leave worship with their teacher following the Children's Message and return at Communion. To register your child for Sunday school, speak with Susie Boland: fellowship@mygloriadei.org. Thanks to all our leaders and teachers in this ministry!

CONFIRMATION (Middle School) - resumes January 7 & 21, 11:15am with class & lunch. It is led by Pastor David, Assistant Minister Dana Becker or Youth Director Paige Gulck.

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - Every Wednesday, 10am and reconvenes Wednesday, January 10, 2024. All women are invited to join in! Great way to start the new year! Study is led by Assistant Minister Dana Becker and Pastor David.

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 in this read-through-the-Bible program. Questions - contact the office.

MEMBERSHIP AT GLORIA DEI: Two ways to join the Gloria Dei family: 1) From a non-Lutheran background, attend the Adult Inquiry Class, January 20, 2024 at 9am OR 2) Transfer your membership from a Lutheran church. To all joining, there will be a New Member Orientation, Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 11:15am. New members received in church on Sunday, January 28, 2024. Sign-up.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: January 12, 6:00p - 8:00pm: We begin the year with bowling. Who doesn't love striking down some pins after the holidays? Meet at Saddleback lanes (25402 Marguerite Pkwy, Mission Viejo) for some grub and games. Contact Paige Gulck at youthdirector@mygloriadei.org if you plan to attend.

GLORIA DEI ART MINISTRY — 2nd Friday monthly at 6:30pm in Bankson Hall - Next gathering is Friday, January 12, 2024. For all artists and creatives at any experience level. Contact: Arts and Outreach Minister Michelle Lum (michellelum@mygloriadei.org).

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY - Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 8am, Bankson Hall. All men are invited to a Bible study, good conversation, and wonderful food. Call the office for more details.

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.

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.

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.

"FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT PAUL" (Greece Trip) - Pastor David will be leading a group to Greece (land/sea), April 9-20, 2024. Flier available at the Welcome Table. 2 spots remain.

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).

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)

GLORIA DEI STAFF

Pastor David R. Mattson (pastordavid@mygloriadei.org)

Seminary Intern Dana Becker (danabecker@mygloriadei.org)

Administrative Assistant Carol Weinhardt (gloriadei@mygloriadei.org)

Preschool Director Shelli Parajekas (preschool@mygloriadei.org)

Minister of Arts and 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)

5pm Worship Leader Micaela Lum

THANKS TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS FOR DONATING POINSETTIAS THIS CHRISTMAS!

Kathi Anderson	In loving memory of Cliff Anderson
Christian Asis	In memory of Jack Calvert, Shirley Grace Caldwell, and Master Gunnery Sergeant Angelo Asis, USMC To give thanks for God's Grace and love
Barb Baldwin	In honor & memory of my son, Kirk (Toby) Tobiassen, firefighter/medic
Jim & Laura Bankson	In honor of Don & Marjean Bankson & Warren Holt
James & Yvonne Bell	In memory of our parents, John & Dorothy Bell and Edward & Crista Welcher
Dianne & Greg Blanda	In memory of Jim Ockerman & all those who have gone before us
Denise & Tim Boyd	In honor of our new daughter-in-law, Allie Kawata
Barbara Clancey	In memory of Anne Siminuk
Linda Curie	In celebration of Christmas
Katherine Dickinson	In honor of God's Grace
Suzanne Dirks	In honor of Mary Louise Diaz
Annette & Larry Fettis	In memory of Ernie & Joan Butler
John & Linda Friend	In honor of our family In memory of our daughter, Lisa & our parents
Phil & Sandy Furlong	For the gift of life
Bob & Brenda Gaumer	In memory of our loving parents
The Hallowell Family	In memory of Ramona Sanders In memory of Frank & Helen Hallowell
Judy Henderson	In memory of Buck Anderson, Terry Daniels & Jim Gray
Lynn Heuer & Family	In memory of her daughter, Jill Eller
Tracey Hughes	In loving memory of my parents, Eleanor & James Crowder
Bill Jonas & Kathy Martino	In loving memory of Roger & Joann Groon In loving memory of Gordy & Schmoo Johnson
Janet Klein	In memory of family members
Dellita & Mike Kobold	In honor of our children
Harold Limbong	In memory of Aunt Magdalena
Gia Lugo & Eric Overton	In celebration of our son, Henry
Tom McKeown	In honor of the blessings of my family
Leslie & Steve McNaughton	In memory of Bruce & Shirley McNaughton In memory of Sandra Burns & Norm Clifford, and Kelly Brown
Sharon Miller	In honor of Steve's birthday In memory of Marvin Miller
Jan Nastoff	In memory of my husband, Robert Nastoff
The Neiderhiser Family	In memory of Ellen Kietz & Richard Rhine
Toni Nelson	In memory of Donna Bardswich & Gladys Nelson
Daneen & Dennis Pysz	In memory of Christine Newman
The Ramsaur Family	In honor of Jorie's dad, Bob Nastoff & Bill's parents, Bill & Gloria Ramsaur
Melinda & Todd Rusinkovick	In memory of Farley & Mary Mann and Fredrick & Lucille Schuler
Donna Sandidge	In memory of my dad, Don Wilson
Hal & JoAnn Scott	In memory of Hal & JoAnn's parents: Joe, Marie Sam, Dave & Shirley
Bill & Carol Simpson	Thankful for our many blessings
David & Susan Warneke	In honor of Christ our King
Jeanette Woller	In memory of her son, Joey Campanella, loving father, son & grandson In honor of Scott Kruse, loving father, son & grandson

You may pick yours up after the 10pm service on Dec. 24, 2023, or we will put them outside the office door so you can pick your poinsettia up during the week of December 25, when the office is closed.