



1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 31, 2023 (Worship: 8:30am, 10:00am)

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).

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We give thanks for the past year and pray for God's guidance in 2024. Today we dream about the new year and the new ways the Holy Spirit is working in our lives. As we look ahead, we pray for peace in the world.

PRELUDE: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" by P.C. Lutkin

Marc Lombardino, Organist/Pianist

GATHERING HYMN: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#270 v. 1-2

**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!"**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 148)

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!
Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;

his glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people,

praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD! Amen!

GATHERING HYMN: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#270 v. 3

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 PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever—the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my whole being shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the LORD and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. (Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**)

THE SECOND LESSON: Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir through God. (Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please stand.): *Angels We Have Heard on High* #289 vv. 1, 3

**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.**

**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 Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 2nd chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

THE GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him. (The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.)**

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF THE DAY: Love Has Come

#292

**Love has come - a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

**Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;**

what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

THE MESSAGE: "One More Thing"

Assistant Minister Dana Becker

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC: *The Snow* by Edward Elgar

Marc Lombardino, Organist/Pianist

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Away in a Manger*

#277 vv. 1, 3

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.

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.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER, INVITATION TO THE SACRAMENT

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.

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
ev-er-more and ev-er-more.

Oh, that birth for-ev-er blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost con-ceiv-ing,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face,
Ev-er-more and ev-er-more.

This is he whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Ev-er-more and ev-er-more.

Let the heights of heav'n adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
ev-'ry voice in concert ring
ev-er-more and ev-er-more.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be:

#295

**honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory
ev-er-more and ev-er-more. Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

NEW YEAR'S BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: Go Tell It on the Mountain

#290

Refrain:

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev-'ry-where;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.** (Refrain.)

**The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.** (Refrain.)

**Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.** (Refrain.)

SENDING WORDS: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: *Lobgesang* by Mendelssohn

Marc Lombardino, Organist/Pianist

Reprinted hymns and podcast presented under One License #72710.

THANKS TO OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY!

8:30am:; Coffee Prep: Jim & Laura Bankson; Communion: Christian Asis & Barbara Keim; Lector: David Macher; Ushers: Lynne & Wes Morgan; Welcome Table: Sharon Derr

10am: Coffee Clean-up: Jeff Chipman & Pearl Zimmerman; Communion: Betty Prock & Susan Warneke; Lector: David Warneke; Usher: Gini Sherwood & David Warneke; Welcome Table: Jane Zeiger

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are provided by Ann & Jim St. Martin in celebration of their 47th anniversary! They are also given by Cindy Moore-Gault in loving memory of her mother, Virginia Moore.

THANKS to Marc Lombardino, Organist/Pianist for filling in today while Fred Johnson is on vacation.

NURSERY is available on Sunday mornings at 8:30am & 10am services. On Christmas Eve, babysitting is at 4pm & 5:30pm. (babies - pre-K.) Inside the preschool room, closest to the church. Sign your child in and grab a pager.

THANK YOU from the Gloria Dei staff for the Christmas gift! It is very much appreciated by everyone.

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 Jeff Contestabile for helping construct the artwork & to all those who made it possible!

JANUARY NEWSLETTER is available online (mygloriadei.org/newsletter) or pick up a copy at the Welcome Table.

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.

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.

SANCTUARY CHOIR AND GLORIA DEI BELLS begin again on Thursdays, starting up on January 11. The Bells rehearse, 6:30pm and the Sanctuary Choir (Teens/Adults), 7:30pm. Questions, speak with Music Director Kathy Person.

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.

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/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 (Mar. 1-3); Women's One Day Retreat (Mar. 16);

GLORIA DEI STAFF

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

Assistant Minister Dana Becker (danabecker@mygloriadei.org)

Minister of Arts and Outreach Michelle Lum (michellelum@mygloriadei.org)

Administrative Assistant Carol Weinhardt (gloriadei@mygloriadei.org)

Preschool Director Shelli Parajekas (preschool@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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DECEMBER 31, 2023 - JANUARY 6, 2024

Today: Worship (8:30am & 10am); Nursery (8:30am & 10am); NA Meeting (6:30pm)

Monday: Al Anon (5:30pm); Happy New Year!

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); Prayer Shawl (9am); Alice Sabadin Memorial (10:30am); (ACA Meeting Meeting (10:30am); ACA Meeting (11:30am); NA Meeting (7pm)