



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Grace changes everything.*

Dana Point, California

gloriadei@mygloriadei.org Mygloriadei.org 949-493-3414



## 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 14, 2025

(Worship: 8:30am, 10:00am, no 5:00pm today.)

**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 3rd Sunday in Advent. Our theme during this four week preparation for Christmas is MESSENGERS OF HOPE ("Angels We Have Heard on High"). Also, today, the Sunday School children will present the Christmas story as only they can do it! (10am) We're glad we can support them in learning the story by heart.

PRELUDE: Joy by George Winston Micaela Lum, Organist/Pianist (8:30am/10am)

**GATHERING HYMN: Once in Royal David's City**

#269 vv.1-2

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:  
with the poor, and meek, and lowly, lived on earth, our Savior holy.

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

(People read **bold** words.)

The Advent of our God brings light to our world.

**May the light of Christ show us the way.**

The Advent of our God brings light into the darkness of sin.

**May the light of Christ show us the way.**

The Advent of our God brings hope to places filled with violence.

**May the light of Christ show us the way.**

The Advent of our God brings peace to those engulfed in sorrow.

**May the light of Christ show us the way.**

Come Lord Jesus, we welcome Your Spirit into this place.

**May the light of Christ show us the way. Amen.**

Come Lord Jesus, we welcome Your Spirit into our hearts.

**May the light of Christ show us the way. Amen.**

**THE HYMN: Once in Royal David's City**

#269 v.3

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LITANY FOR LIGHTING OF THE 3RD CANDLE

(Following the reading, we sing, **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**  
**O come, O come, Em-man-u-el, and ransom captive Is-ra-el,**  
**that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

#257 vv.1,4

Refrain

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O Branch of Jes-se, free your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vic-t'ry o'er the grave.**

(Refrain.)

THE LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (Please stand.)

Tune: *O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel*

**Alleluia, alleluia. O come to us Emmanuel.**

(The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**)

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-6

**When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." (The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.)**

ANTHEM (8:30am): *O Holy Night* arr. Craig Courtney

Sanctuary Choir, Art & Music Minister Michelle Lum

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (10am)

**HYMN OF THE DAY: Good Christian Friends Rejoice**

#288

**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!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

THE MESSAGE: *On the Offense*

Pastor David R. Mattson

OFFERING & OFFERTORY MUSIC: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* by Dallas Blair

Nathan Wilson, Trumpet

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE: The Doxology**

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light; through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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

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. Gluten free wafers are also available.)

**HOLY COMMUNION MUSIC:**

**Lamb of God** (Agnus Dei)

Page 191

**The First Noel**

#300

**The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain: **Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,**

and so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)

And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wher-ev-er it went. (Refrain)

This star drew near to the northwest,  
o'er Beth-le-hem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right o-ver the place where Jesus lay. (Refrain)

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full rev'rently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. (Refrain)

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**  
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.

#279

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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!

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

THE BLESSING

**SENDING HYMN: Go Tell it on the Mountain**  
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!**

#290 vv.1-2

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.)

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

POSTLUDE: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* arr. Kristina Langlois  
Micaela Lum (8:30/10am)

Text sts. 2,6,7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted & livestreamed under One License #727101. Photo by Mike Ash on Unsplash.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are provided by Judy Young for her grandsons, Aaron and Ethan's, 20th birthdays and in celebration of Ron Bacon's birthday.

**THANKS** to trumpeter Nathan Wilson for the beautiful music today!

**CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIAS** - Help beautify the sanctuary by providing a poinsettia in memory/honor of someone. Cost \$10. Forms located at the Welcome Table. Place completed forms in an offering box. Due TODAY.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** - Thanks to Children's Ministry Director Molly Healey, Youth Director Paige, all the children and families for putting on the play today! (10am)

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING** - Today, meeting in the upper parking lot at 3pm to head out for Christmas caroling. (There is no 5pm service.)

### **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

**4pm, 5:30pm, and 10pm**

Candlelit services with carols, choirs, instrumental musics, and more.

Holy Communion celebrated at the 5:30/10pm service.

Invite a friend to the celebration of the world's greatest hope - the Savior's born!

**ADVENT DEVOTIONS** counting down the days to Christmas with Pastor David - [www.mygloriadei.org/advent-devotions-2025](http://www.mygloriadei.org/advent-devotions-2025). Join him on a walk and conversation.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** is during morning services: children ages 4-5th grade. If you have any questions, contact Children's Ministry Director Molly Healey.

**GIFT CARDS** - See Christmas tree at the Welcome Table and grab a tag. Place all gift cards in the offering box or return to the church office by Wednesday, December 17.

**SERRA'S PANTRY** - Next volunteer opportunity, Saturday, Dec. 20, 8:30am-12pm. Email/call the church office with any questions at [gloriadei@mygloriadei.org](mailto:gloriadei@mygloriadei.org).

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE** - Sunday, December 21, 5pm. A time of reflection, meditation, and remembrance.

**PRIME TIMERS** (Seniors) - MISSION IN LIGHTS - December 29, 4pm. See the sign-up.

**TRICK AND ALDERIGHI CONCERT** - January 4, 5pm. Jazz piano duo Stephanie Trick and Paolo Alderighi are back! They are also playing special music at the morning services.

**NEW G.I.F.T. GROUP** (Growing in Faith Together) group meeting (50+) at Madelyn and Jim Jansma's home. They will be studying Romans and meeting on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm. Dessert served. First meeting - Jan. 20. Sign-up at the Welcome Table.

**MEMBERSHIP AT GLORIA DEI?** If you are interested in becoming a member and for all the details, see the sign-up at the Welcome Table. New members received February 1.

**KERYGMA BIBLE OVERVIEW** led by Pastor David, Thursdays, 6:30pm beginning January 15. Thirty lessons covering both the Old and New Testament.

**PRAYERS?** - Meet with a prayer partner at the Candle Station before or after services.

**OFFERING** - Thank you for supporting Gloria Dei! Please place check/money in donation boxes or give electronically - Venmo app - @GloriaDei-DanaPoint or Zelle - gloriadei@mygloriadei.org. You can also donate via credit/debit card through Vanco, our secure site: [mygloriadei.org/donate](https://mygloriadei.org/donate).

**THANKS TO OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY!**

**8:30am:** Acolyte: Annabel Greer; Coffee Prep: Barb Collins; Communion: Barb Collins & Diane Kelly; Lector: Paige Gulck; Ushers: Lynn & Wes Morgan; Welcome Table: Barb Collins **10am:** Acolyte: Ansley Ramsaur; Coffee Clean-up: Scott Lund; Communion: Laurene Holmes - Hylton & Kim Santore; Lector: Dean Frasche; Ushers: Sharon Miller & Katherine Dickinson; Welcome Table: Rebecca Horner

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR DECEMBER 14-20, 2025**

**Today:** Worship (8:30am & 10am); Nursery (8:30am & 10am); Caroling (3pm) **Monday:** South Coast Literacy (10am); RIOT Book Club (2pm); Al Anon (5:30pm); Alateen (5:30pm); AA Coed (7pm) **Tuesday:** AA Men (7am); Preschool Christmas Pageant (9am); Staff Meeting (11am); Al Anon (7pm) **Wednesday:** AA Men (7am); Women's Bible Study (10am); Piano Tuning in Sanctuary (1pm); Mission Hospital AA (6pm); 12 Step Couples (7:30pm) **Thursday:** AA Men (7am); AA Women (9:30am); Seniors and Friends AA (1pm); Al Anon (5:30pm); Handbell Choir (6pm); AA Men (7pm); Sanctuary Choir (7:15pm); Chorale Rehearsal (8:15pm) **Friday:** Al Anon (10am) **Saturday:** AA Men (7am); Serra's Pantry (8:30am); ACA Group (11:30am); Ukrainian Worship (1pm); Ukrainian School (1:30pm); Choir Christmas Party (5pm)

✦ Vacation Bible School (July 6-10, 2026)

**GLORIA DEI STAFF:** Rev. David R. Mattson (pastordavid@mygloriadei.org);  
Art & Music Minister Michelle Lum (michellelum@mygloriadei.org);  
Preschool Director Shelli Parajekas (preschool@mygloriadei.org);  
Administrative Assistant Susie Boland (gloriadei@mygloriadei.org);  
Deacon Daneen Pysz (deacondaneen@mygloriadei.org);  
Youth Director Paige Gulck (youth@mygloriadei.org);  
Children's Ministry Director Molly Healey (childrensministry@mygloriadei.org);  
Pianist/Organist Micaela Lum (pianist@mygloriadei.org);  
5pm Worship Leader Harrison Michael

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

- ✦ Aloha Luncheon/Annual Meeting (February 1, 2026, 11am)
- ✦ Women's Winter Bunco (February 6, 2026, 6pm)
- ✦ Men's Spring Training Retreat (March 6-9, 2026)
- ✦ Women's 1 Day Retreat (March 14, 2026)
- ✦ Sara Groves in Concert (May 2, 2026)
- ✦ Church Campout (June 12-14, 2026)