



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Grace changes everything.*

Dana Point, California

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## 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 21, 2025

(Worship: 8:30am, 10:00am, 5:00pm\*)

**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 4th Sunday in Advent. The countdown to Christmas is almost finished. Today, the focus is on the many ways that God speaks to us. Certainly through Word and Sacrament, but also through music, art, poetry, and many other ways. May you hear God's voice clearly speaking to you during this time of worship.

\* 5pm is a Blue Christmas service.

PRELUDE: *A Winter's Night So Deep* arr. Brenda Austin

Handbell Choir (8:30am/10am)

Harrison Michael, Worship Leader (5pm)

(Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Noah Johnston, 9:30am)

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

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

**GATHERING HYMN: *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 PRAYER OF THE DAY

LITANY FOR LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE

(Following the reading, we sing, ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***.)

#257 vv.1, 5

**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.** (Refrain)

Refrain: **Rejoice! Rejoice!**

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

**O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide your heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.** (Refrain)

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Deacon Daneen Pysz  
(Children may leave for Sunday school and return during Communion.)

FIRST READING: *Darkness on Christmas Eve* by Carol Penner

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Coventry Carol* arr. Peter Eldridge Gloria Dei Quartet

SECOND READING: *A Hymn on the Nativity of My Savior* by Ben Jonson

SOLO (8:30am): *O Holy Night* by A. Adam Michelle Lum  
ANTHEM (10am): *O Holy Night* arr. Craig Courtney  
Sanctuary Choir, Art & Music Minister Michelle Lum

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1st chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**)

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

**Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.**

(The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**)

THIRD READING: *Christmastide* by Christina Rossetti

SPECIAL MUSIC: *The Rose* by Ola Gjeilo Gloria Dei Chorale

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HYMN OF THE DAY: In the Bleak Midwinter** #294  
**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.**

**Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;**

**in the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him — give my heart.**

THE MESSAGE: *Poetic Justice* Pastor David R. Mattson

FINAL READING: *House of Christmas* by G.K. Chesterton

THE OFFERING, OFFERTORY MUSIC: *O Come All Ye Faithful* arr. Dan Forrest  
Nathan Wilson & Micaela Lum

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE: 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)

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**What Child is This**

#296

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross he borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.**

Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

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

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

THE BLESSING

#295

**SENDING HYMN: Angels We Have Heard on High**

#289 vv.1-2

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.**

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

POSTLUDE: *Three Festive Carols* arr. Hayes & Gaspard  
Nathan Wilson & Micaela Lum (8:30/10am)  
Harrison Michael (5pm)

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are provided by David Macher in celebration of Dororthy Jacobson's 103rd Birthday. Also in celebration of Vanessa Good's birthday.

**THANKS** to our Handbell Choir, Sanctuary Choir, Gloria Dei Chorale, our quartet, Nathan Wilson and Micaela Lum for all the music today!

### **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.

**ILLUMINATED LETTERS** -

**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.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE** - Sunday, TONIGHT, 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.; Communion: Bonnie Gillespie & Sonja Krafcik; Lector: Liane Schuller; Ushers: Christian Asis & Tim Boyd; Welcome Table: Kathy Martino  
**10am:** Acolyte: Ansley Ramsaur; Coffee Clean-up: Ron & Melody Bacon; Communion: Lisa Mers & Susan Behnke; Lector: Dennis Pysz; Ushers: Laurene Holmes-Hylton & Gia Luho-Overton; Welcome Table: Ann & Jim St. Martin **5pm** - Blue Christmas: Reader: Carol Simpson

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR DECEMBER 21-27, 2025**

**Today:** Worship (8:30am( Noah Johnston Baptism) & 10am); Nursery (8:30am & 10am); Blue Christmas (5pm) **Monday:** South Coast Literacy (10am); RIOT Book Club (2pm); Al Anon (5:30pm); Alateen (5:30pm); AA Coed (7pm) **Tuesday:** AA Men (7am); Staff Meeting (11am); Men's Book Club (6pm); Heart Lifters (6:30pm); Al Anon (7pm) **Wednesday:** CHRISTMAS EVE Worship (4pm, 5:30pm & 10pm); AA Men (7am); Mission Hospital AA (6pm); 12 Step Couples (7:30pm) **Thursday:** CHRISTMAS DAY; AA Men (7am); AA Women (9:30am); Seniors and Friends AA (1pm); Al Anon (5:30pm) **Friday:** Al Anon (10am) **Saturday:** AA Men (7am); ACA Group (11:30am); Ukrainian School (1:30pm)

**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)
- ❖ 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