

# Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

## Peachtree City, Georgia

The Second Sunday of Christmas + January 3, 2021 + 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music

Sue Hamre Smith and Rita DeNell, Musician Leaders

P = Pastor L = Lector [reader] C Congregation ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (hymnal, if you have one at home)

**PLEASE NOTE: We will not distribute paper copies of this Worship Guide. All will be projected on the screens. If you would like, you could print a copy and home and bring it with you,**

### PRELUDES

*Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion, so please prepare ahead of time wine/grape juice and bread appropriate to the number in your family. Our liturgy declares we celebrate with "the church on earth and the hosts of heaven." So in these days of required distancing, longing to share the Lord's Supper again soon physically together at one table of the Lord, we acknowledge communion always connects us "remotely" and powerfully with the Church through time and space. This will be another form of that connection. We understand no precedents are being set in these unique times.*

### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Fritz

### GATHERING CAROL: *The First Noel*

ELW Hymn 300

2 [Shepherds] look-ed 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*

*Refrain*

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

3 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 wherever it went. *Refrain*

5 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*

Text: English traditional

### GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

### SCRIPTURES: Matthew 2:1-12 [CEB]; Isaiah 60:1a; John 1:1-5, 10-14 [NRSV]

P Today's Readings are from the Gospels according to Matthew and John.

### MATTHEW 2:1-12

—Common English Bible

L After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

C Arise, shine; for your light has come.

—Isaiah 60:1a, NRSV

- L <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him.  
<sup>4</sup>He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They said, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet [Micah] wrote:  
<sup>6</sup>“*You, Bethlehem, ... are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel.*”  
<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you’ve found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him.”  
<sup>9</sup>When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was.
- C **Arise, shine; for your light has come.**
- L <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. <sup>11</sup>They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

**JOHN 1:1-5, 10-14**—*New Revised Standard Version*

- P <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
<sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
- C **Arise, shine; for your light has come.**
- P <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.  
<sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.  
<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.
- C **Arise, shine; for your light has come.**
- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Common English Bible (CEB)* Copyright © 2011 by Common English Bible*New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)* New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.**SERMON**

Pastor Miriam

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Arise, Your Light Has Come**ELW Hymn 314*

- 1 Arise, your light has come! The Spirit’s call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.**
- 2 Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive’s liberty, good tidings to the poor.**
- 3 Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**
- 4 Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God’s pow’r will make us strong.**

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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## OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

P Let us confess our baptismal faith together.

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*When the petition concludes "Hear us, O God." please respond, "your mercy is great."  
The prayers are ended with these words, "God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus." Please respond, "Amen."*

**INVITATION TO OFFERING: *Link to give:*** <https://coslutheran.org/give/>

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## SHARING COMMUNION WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD

*As the pastors and worship team commune, please join them and the whole Church remotely by communing each other/yourself with these ancient words of promise:*

*"The body of Christ for you" and "The blood of Christ for you."*

**SONG DURING COMMUNION:** *On Christmas Night*

- 1** On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring.  
On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring:  
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful king's birth.
- 4** All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night.  
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:  
“Glory to God in highest heav'n; peace on earth, and goodwill. Amen.”

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.

**PASTORAL BLESSING****BENEDICTION**

- P** Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day + through the Word made flesh.
- C** Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN:** *Love Has Come*

*ELW Hymn 292*

- 1** 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.
- 2** 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.
- 3** 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!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

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**DISMISSAL**

- P** Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.  
Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
- C** Thanks be to God.

*Altar Guild:*

*Tech crew:*

**Recent gifts of Sanctuary Flowers were given to the glory of God**

*by Dick and Pat Ronco in memory of Mike and Jack Larken,*

*by Bob and Benya Spruck in celebration of their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary,*

*and by Kathie Manes in honor of the birthday of Jeannine Manes.*