

CHRISTMAS EVE



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
December 24, 2021
4:30, 6:30, and 8:30 P.M.

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Christmas Eve ☩ December 24, 2021 ☩ 4:30, 6:30, 8:30 P.M.

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

☐ = Pastor ☑ Congregation ⬆ Please stand as you are able. *ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (hymnal)*

PLEASE NOTE: We will distribute paper copies of this Worship Guide. All will be projected on the screens. If you would like, you could print a copy at home, or view it on your tablet or phone.

PRELUDES

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion, so please pick up a prefilled communion "kit" on the altar rail as you approach the altar; gluten-free are available along with the white grape juice kits. Please tell an usher if you need a communion kit brought to you where you sit. All are welcome to commune who acknowledge that Jesus is present in this sacrament and in their lives. ☩ At home you may prepare ahead of time wine/grape juice and bread appropriate for your family. Our liturgy declares we celebrate with "the church on earth and the hosts of heaven." We acknowledge that communion always connects us "remotely" and powerfully with the Church through time and space.

CHIMING THE HOUR

⬆ **PROCLAIMING CHRISTMAS and TOLLING THE BELL**

Pastor Fritz

⬆ **CAROLS:** *In the Bleak Midwinter, St. 1*

ELW Hymn 294

**1 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 midwinter, long ago.**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW Hymn 279

**1 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.**

**3 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.**

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893 Public Domain

Away in a Manger

ELW Hymn 277

**1 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.**

Text: North American, 19th century Public Domain

In the Bleak Midwinter

**3 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.**

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894 Public Domain

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

ELW Hymn 282

**1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
 from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
 The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876 Public Domain

Angels from the Realms of Glory

ELW Hymn 275

**1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
 Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king. ►**

**2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
 God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
 Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-2 Public Domain

↑ GREETING

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

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
G **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 4, 6-7

Pastor Miriam

- L** Today's Lesson is from Isaiah, the ninth chapter

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined ...
⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor,
 You have broken as on the day of Midian ...
⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.
 He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
 from this time onward and forevermore.
 The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

- L** The word of the Lord.
G **Thanks be to God.**

↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

ELW Hymn 289

- 1** **Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 3** **Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
 come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.** *Refrain*

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

↑ HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14

- P** The Holy Gospel according Luke, the second chapter.
G **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.
²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

WOMEN: ⁶**While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.**

⁷**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.**

MEN: ⁸**In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.
⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
 and they were terrified.**



4

P ¹⁰But the angel said to them,

A **“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be
a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”**

P ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

A ¹⁴**“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”**

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Fritz

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ELW Hymn 283

**1 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:**

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

**4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: Refrain**

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4

Public Domain

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*When the petition concludes “Merciful God,” please respond, “receive our prayer.”
The prayers are ended with these words, “Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us,
we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love
made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.” Please respond, “Amen.”*



WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ELW page 144

↑ 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 and join their unending hymn:

C **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!

—ELW Hymn 279, St. 4

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Public Domain

↑ 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

- ☩ **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

As the pastors and worship team commune, please join them and the whole Church. Please approach down the diagonal aisles and return to your seat by the middle or outside aisles. At home, commune each other or yourself, with these ancient words of promise: "The body of Christ for you" and "The blood of Christ for you."

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

ELW Hymn 290

Refrain: **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Refrain**
- 3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain**

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

Public Domain.

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN: *Silent Night*

ELW Hymn 281

- 1 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, sleep in heavenly peace.**
- 2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**
- 3 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, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885 Public Domain

↑ PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION

- ☩ 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. ☩ **Amen.**

↑ **CLOSING HYMN:** *Joy to the World*

ELW Hymn 267

- 1 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, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 Public Domain

↑ DISMISSAL

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

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Altar Guild: Carol and Paul Talbott, Linda and Mark Barbour

Tech Crews: Joni Siepert and Brad Milburn (4:30)

Eric, Shelly, Andrew, and Justin Jakubowski, Mark Bunker (6:30)

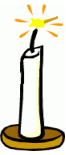

David and Sara Turk, Brad Milburn, Joni Siepert (8:30)

*We welcome you to worship on this night of miracles.
As with the shepherds on that dark night long ago we, too, are greeted
with the angel's Good News as Christ makes his way among us.
May worship give you joy and peace; and may you know goodwill in your relationships.*

CANDLE GUIDELINES AND CAUTION

Candlelight services are beautiful, but also dangerous. Please use extreme care in the lighting and use of your candle. Hot wax burns the skin and is difficult to remove from clothing and furniture. Precautions are required when many people hold lit candles. Therefore, in conjunction with the Fire Marshall and the staff of the church, we ask you to follow these simple rules:

1. **AGE LIMIT:** Candles are to be held ONLY by those who are 12 years old and older. Please, NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF 12 SHOULD HOLD A CANDLE AT ANY TIME. Small hand-held flashlights will be available to parents to share with children under 12 years of age at candle lighting time. *Please* do not give children the flashlights ahead of time. It can become distracting to other worshipers and worship leaders. Thank you!
2. **TO PREVENT BURNING:** Please keep the candle close to you at all times to prevent burning the person in front of you.
3. **HOT WAX:** Please be careful not to tip a candle while it is burning or while the wax is still liquid.
4. **TO LIGHT A CANDLE:**

		Please tilt the UNLIT candle so that the wick is in the flame of the upright candle. Thank you.
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5. **TO EXTINGUISH A CANDLE:** Please blow gently so the wax does not splatter. Keep the candle upright for 15 seconds after it is extinguished until the wax hardens
6. **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS** are readily available in the narthex of the church.
7. **TO RETURN A CANDLE:**
8. As you leave, please deposit candles in boxes at the exits. Your child may keep the flashlight or return it to a box as well.

THANK YOU for your cooperation.

Please be careful.

MUSIC and WORSHIP MINISTRY:

4 & 5 Year Olds (sKIDDles): Meet on Wednesdays from 5:00-5:30pm

1st Grade-5th Grade M&M's: (Music and the Master) Meet on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30pm

High School and Adults:

***The COS Clarinet Choir** Meet on Sundays, Lunch 12:15-12:45 pm and Rehearsal 12:45-1:45 pm

***The COS Brass** (Brass, Saxophones, Percussion) Meet on Sundays from 7:00-8:00 pm

***The COS Flute Choir** Meet on Mondays from 7:00-8:00 pm

The COS Peace Ringers (Handbells) Meet on Tuesdays at 4:00 pm

Joyful Noise (Handbells) Meet on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm

Sanctuary Choir Meets on Wednesdays from 7:30-9:00 pm

Greeters, Ushers, *Communion Servers, Readers, *Worship Assistants: serve worship services in supporting roles

Service Coordinators: serve Fellowship Hall contemporary services in leadership, supporting roles

Altar Guild: prepares the altar and its furnishings and linens for each service

*These ministries will return as soon as the pandemic allows.

CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILY MINISTRIES:

Sunday School: Teach children on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am, or assist teachers

LOFT (High School), **LOGOS** (Middle School Confirmation): Meet Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30 pm.

Besides weekly learning, regular events for service, fellowship, and fun are offered.

Vacation Bible School: Learning and fun for elementary-age children; many volunteer roles in teaching, assisting, even leading recreation or preparing refreshments;

tentative date: May 31 - June 3, 2022

Little Lambs: Meet Thursdays at 10:30 am., for parents and their young children

College Care: Provide support to our college students through mail and phone.

CONNECT, SERVE and VOLUNTEER:

Front Office Volunteers: Answer phones, greet visitors 10 am to 2 pm, Tuesdays through Thursdays

Social Services Ministry: Joshua's Gift (Weekly Backpack Ministry); Thanksgiving baskets;

Christmas gifts; Summer Lunch Program; other Ministries of the Month.

Disaster Relief: COS Mission trips to local and regional areas that provide support to repair and rebuild homes affected by disaster.

Cross Ministry: Create crosses using metallurgy to transform nails into crosses; distributed widely.

Bread Run Ministry: Collect bread and pastries in area to deliver to the soup kitchen in Atlanta.

***Creative Arts:** Help prepare COS for Special Seasons and Events.

Buildings and Grounds: Maintain our Main Campus and Palmetto Road properties.

WEEKLY:

Bible Studies All are welcome to join in on any of our at-the-church Bible Studies.

Wednesday afternoon study at 3:00 pm

Sunday Read-through-the-Bible at 12:15 noon.

Text Talk: Meet Sunday mornings at 9:40 am during the Faith Formation Hour to discuss scripture related to the lectionary text each week.

MONTHLY:

CANVAS: Creative Art Ministry, Gather the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 pm for fellowship and creative art activities using a variety of art supplies.

R.O.M.E.O.'s (Retired Old Men Eating Out): Gather monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 11:30 am for Lunch and a Guest Speaker.

COS Book Club: Monthly discussion of a selected book, September through May.

Meet in conference room at COS the 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: *Gather monthly on the 4th Tuesday in the evening to make and prepare prayer shawls and other gifts of comfort. Skill not required! The ministry continues from homes, but in-person will resume when possible.

G.I.F.T. Groups (Growing in the Faith Together): These are small groups that meet regularly in the church or in individuals' homes. There is always a social component, and most groups center around a faith-based study and/or service to the community. There are many versions of small groups: please ask.

PERIODICALLY:

Camping Ministry: Gather as a group in the spring and fall for a weekend of camping at R. Shaefer Heard Campground at Lake Eufaula, Alabama. The group gathers at a host site for breakfast and dinners. A worship service with communion is celebrated on the lake Saturday afternoon. Tent Campers to Houses on Wheels are invited. Next scheduled weekend: April 29 - May1, 2022

***HOPS & HYMNS** A community event where we gather at Line Creek Brewery Company in PTC on a Sunday evening for a few hours of enjoying talented COS musicians, singing songs, sharing snacks, and locally crafted beer. This is a family-friendly venue where children are welcome.

Outdoor Worship at Palmetto Road: Have you had a chance to attend a Youth & Family or Fellowship event at our beautiful 33-acre property in Tyrone? Outdoor Worship is usually held in October and frequently in the spring with communion and contemporary music. A potluck lunch is often shared

GIFTS of POINSETTIAS or SUPPORT of LANDSCAPING

Bill and Linda Volckmann, to the Glory of God

Miriam and David Beecher, in honor of their sons, Matthew and Andrew

Katharine Manes, in honor of her grandchildren, Jackson and Anna Manes

Bradford Milburn, in honor of Nana

Gloria Wilkins, in honor of her daughter, Maya Wilkins.

Clint and Karen Barbour, in memory of their niece, Nora Robinson

Miriam and David Beecher, in memory of Sunny Wilkerson Beecher

Kathy Brinkman, memory of her parents, Rev. Richard and Barbara McLeroy

Leona Davis, in memory of her mother, Nancy Davis

Leona Davis, in memory of her father, Paul Davis

Leona Davis, in memory of her sister, Evelyn Davis

Patricia Frye, in memory of her husband, Randy Frye

Linda Hackett, in memory of her husband, Bob Hackett

Linda Hackett, in memory of her father, Mike Hilovsky

Linda Hackett, in memory of her mother Margaret Hilovsky

Melissa Jacobson, in memory of her father-in-law, Jim Jacobson

David D. Kilgore, in memory of her mother, Judy Kilgore

David D. Kilgore, in memory of her husband, Jay Atkins

David D. Kilgore, in memory of her grandmother, Madge Fowler

David D. Kilgore, in memory of her father, Major David M. Kilgore

Katharine Manes, in memory of her husband, John Manes.

Katharine Manes, in memory of her mother-in-law, Madelyn Manes

Katharine Manes, in memory of her father-in-law, John Bruce Manes

Katharine Manes, in memory of her father, Hal Rhodes

Katharine Manes, in memory of her mother, Elizabeth Rhodes

Chuck and Susie McVea, in memory of Enzo McEwen

Chuck and Susie McVea, in memory of Giovanna McEwen

Bradford Milburn, in memory of Meme

Guy, Elizabeth, and Jack Richards, in memory of their daughter and sister, Catherine Crosby Richards

Nancy Shepack, in memory of her father, John Hart

Nancy Shepack, in memory of her mother, Lynn Hart

Reenie Sullivan, in memory of her husband, Fran Sullivan

Reenie Sullivan, in memory of her mother, Fran Kolts

Linda Volckmann, in memory of her sister, Avalyn Naugle

Linda Volckmann, in memory of her brother, Claude Cook

