

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

Peachtree City, Georgia

December 12, 2021 9:45 a.m.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor
Luanne Harms, Interim Contemporary Worship Director
Dana Frick, Keyboard and Vocals
Kendra Campbell Milburn, Vocals
Brad Milburn, Vocals

P= Pastor **C** = All **L** = Leader

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG: Christmas Lullaby

*I'll never have the power to control the land,
Or conquer half the world, Or claim the sun.
I'll never be the kind who simply waves her hand
And has a million people do
The things I wish I'd done.
But in the eyes of heaven My place is assured.
I carry with me heaven's grand design.
Glory, Oh, Glory I will sing the name of the Lord,
And He will make me shine,
And I will be like Mother Mary
With a blessing in my soul,
And I will give the world my eyes
So they can see.
And I will be like Mother Mary
With a blessing in my soul,
And the future of the world inside of me.
In the eyes of heaven My place is assured.
I carry with me heaven's grand design.
Glory, Oh, Glory I will sing the name of the Lord,
And He will make me shine,
And I will be like Mother Mary
With a blessing in my soul,
And I will give the world my eyes
So they can see.
And I will be like Mother Mary
With a blessing in my soul,
And the future of the world inside of me.
And I will be like Mother Mary
With the power in my veins
To believe in all the things I've yet to be.
And I will be like Mother Mary,
And I'll suffer any pains
For the future of the world,
For the future of the world
Inside of me.*

Music and lyrics by James Robert Brown

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen

FIRST LESSON

- L** Philippians 4:4-7
- L** Today's Lesson is from Paul's letter to the Philippian Christians, the fourth chapter.

Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in him! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side, working with them and not against them. Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute!

⁶⁻⁷Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life. will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

- P** The Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.
- C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P When crowds of people came out for baptism because it was the popular thing to do, John exploded: "Brood of snakes! What do you think you're doing slithering down here to the river? Do you think a little water on your snakeskins is going to deflect God's judgment? It's your life that must change, not your skin. And don't think you can pull rank by claiming Abraham as 'father.' Being a child of Abraham is neither here nor there—children of Abraham are a dime a dozen. God can make children from stones if he wants. What counts is your life. Is it green and flourishing? ►

Because if it's deadwood, it goes on the fire."

¹⁰The crowd asked him, "Then what are we supposed to do?"

¹¹"If you have two coats, give one away," he said. "Do the same with your food."

¹²Tax men also came to be baptized and said, "Teacher, what should we do?"

¹³He told them, "No more extortion—collect only what is required by law."

¹⁴Soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?"

He told them, "No harassment, no blackmail—and be content with your rations." ▶

¹⁵The interest of the people by now was building. They were all beginning to wonder, "Could this John be the Messiah?"

¹⁶⁻¹⁷But John intervened: "I'm baptizing you here in the river. The main character in this drama, to whom I'm a mere stagehand, will ignite the kingdom life, a fire, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He's going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He'll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he'll put out with the trash to be burned."

¹⁸⁻²⁰There was a lot more of this—words that gave strength to the people, words that put heart in them. The Message! But Herod, the ruler, stung by John's rebuke in the matter of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, capped his long string of evil deeds with this outrage: He put John in jail.

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🎵 Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Melissa Jacobson

SONG OF THE DAY: Noel

Love incarnate, love divine,

Star and angels gave the sign.

Bow to babe on bended knee,

The Savior of humanity.

Unto us a Child is born.

He shall reign forevermore.

Noel, Noel

Come and see what God has done.

Noel, Noel

The story of amazing love!

The light of the world, given for us.

Noel

Son of God and Son of man,

There before the world began.

Born to suffer, born to save,

Born to raise us from the grave.

Christ, the everlasting Lord,

He shall reign forevermore.

Noel, Noel

Come and see what God has done.

Noel, Noel

The story of amazing love!

The light of the world, given for us.

Noel ▶

Noel, Noel

Come and see what God has done.

Noel, Noel

The story of amazing love!

The light of the world, given for us.

Noel, Noel

music + lyrics by Chris Tomlin

OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

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.**"

When the prayers conclude,

please respond, "**Amen.**"

INVITATION TO OFFERING:

Link to give: <https://coslutheran.org/give/>



BENEDICTION

℣ The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace
in believing, so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit, † through Christ
Jesus for whom we wait.

☩ **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: special presentation

DISMISSAL

℣ Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of
joy and life.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**