

December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Christ's Lutheran Church
700 East Pennsylvania Avenue
Oreland, Pennsylvania

*Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church
connects individuals to God, each other, and the community.*

Welcome to Worship at Christ's Lutheran Church!

During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

Gathering Song
Verses 5 and 6

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
ELW # 257

Welcome

Dear people of God, we come to this service with joy and anticipation to hear the message of angels and to again return in heart and mind to Bethlehem to experience the loving kindness of our God in the form of a baby lying in a manger.

In our worship, the Word of God as well as music old and new will draw us again to the heart of the Christian message – a message filled with eternal hope and joy.

Confession and Forgiveness

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace and love.

Silence for reflection.

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

In Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy!

Amen.

**Carol
Verses 1 and 4**

**Angels, from the Realms of Glory
ELW # 275**

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, you break into our world with messages of comfort, peace, and joy. Renew our strength as we wait for your coming. Shine your light for those who live in darkness. Establish your peace throughout the earth. Prepare our hearts for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of us all.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(The Devaney Family)

As we light the third candle, we remember the shepherds, simple men, out in the dark and cold night tending their flocks. Surely the last thing in the world they expected was the arrival of angels. The last thing they anticipated was an invitation to come and worship the Christ child. And yet it happened---and it happened to them. Sometimes, wonderful things come when we least expect them. This Advent, we pray that we will be open to the miracles all around us. Let us accept the invitation to come, just as we are to the manager in Bethlehem to share the joy of the Savior's birth. **Amen.**

Candle is lit.

Angels We Have Heard on High ELW # 289

Verse 1



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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

“Love Came Down at Christmas” Joel Raney Celebrating God’s Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

Narrators: Wes Craig, Becca Shelor

- I. “Love Came Down”
- II. “Come, Emmanuel, Come” (Hope)
- III. “Grant Us Peace” (Peace)

Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.

³ Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

¹⁹ The sun will no more be your light by day,
nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you,
for the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.

²⁰ Your sun will never set again,
and your moon will wane no more;
the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your days of sorrow will end.

I will wait for the Lord,
and I will hope in God who saves us.

Carol Verses 1 and 2

**Once in Royal David’s City
ELW # 269**

- IV: “Listen to the Joyful Song” (Joy)
- V: “Love Be Yours, Love Be Mine” (Love)
- VI: “Love Divine” (Reprise)

Please stand.

Lesson: Luke 1:68-79

68 “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.
69 He has raised up a horn^[a] of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David
70 (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),
71 salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us—
72 to show mercy to our ancestors
and to remember his holy covenant,
73 the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
74 to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,
77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
78 because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
79 to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

I will wait for the Lord,
and I will hope in God who saves us.

Apostles' Creed

Let us name and proclaim the God who saves us, using the words of 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.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*You are invited to share God's peace with those around you
and to greet those who are worshipping online.*

Please be seated.

Interlude

Offertory Hymn
Verse 3

What Child is This
ELW # 296

Offering Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Generous God, you invite us to live generous lives,
trusting that you have given us to each other to work together:
We are better together.

In service to our neighbor, in love for all creation,
and in proclamation of your good news for all:
We are better together.

Bless these gifts we've gathered,
give us generous hearts,
honest commitment to the call you've placed before us,
and sincere trust that we can rely on your grace and sufficiency
as we continue to serve you and your people.
Amen.

Please stand.

Responsive Prayer

O Lord our God, be gracious to us;
we wait for you.

Dispel the darkness,
that all nations may come to your light.

Establish your peace on the earth:
Join our voices to sing your praise.

Comfort the sick and weary especially Rachael, Pam, Roseann, Joanne, Ken, Marlene, Marge, Eleanor, John, Sam, Charles, Grace, Fred, Jay, Bob, the Engle family, the Rose family, the Nelson family, and the Villeux family.
Renew their strength and power.

O Lord our God, come to us,
that the earth may behold your glory.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

May God who comes among us,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is coming soon.
Thanks be to God.

Carol

Joy to the World
ELW # 267

A Word About Today's Music

Our service this morning is a variation of a service of Lessons and Carols. The inspiration for this piece was Christina Rossetti's poem, "Love Came Down at Christmas." It was written by Joel Raney and in addition to some original material, there are many familiar carols and Christmas favorites woven into the piece.

Love is the central theme of Christmas. God so loved the world that He came to earth as a Baby. There is a focus on the central themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. We hope this choral message is a meaningful Christmas worship experience for you all.

***A very special thank you to Ken Selinger and the Chancel Choir
for leading today's Service of Lessons and Carols.***

Online Giving

*To make an offering to support the work of Christ's
Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America, you may use this QR code to access our
site for secure online giving.*



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Thank you to the following for sponsoring the Christmas decorations and poinsettias

Karen Bennion	In celebration of the season
Don & Judy Berger	In celebration of family near and far In celebration of family In memory of family In memory of friends
Jim & Mary Jane Brenneman	In memory of our parents In celebration of our children and grandchildren
Leigh-Ann Bussinger	In memory of William and Eunice Pfeiffer
Sherri Edwards	In memory of Ann and Duck Edwards In memory of Evelyn Edwards
Shirley Engle	In memory of Clyde Engle In celebration of my wonderful family
Ross & Sue Frantz	In celebration of our daughters, sons-in-law, and grandchildren In memory of John & Dot Frantz and Joan Reynolds
Jean & Steve Godsall-Myers (Omi and Opa)	In celebration of Chris Reynolds In honor of our grandchildren, Charlie & Eva Myers
Pat & Don Hallman	In celebration of our family Kate, Jonathan, Christine, Josiah, Matthias In memory of our parents The Rev Mr & Mrs Robert A Laubach Mr & Mrs Pershing H Hallman
Jim Heidler	In memory of Eleanor Heidler, mother In memory of Marie Farr, sister In memory of Louise Watts, aunt
Cheryl Kaighn	In memory of George Kaighn
John & Debbie Melnick	In memory of our parents Alice & John and Helen & John In celebration of Jennifer & Danny
Jerry, Gail and the Polis Family	In memory of Jim Polis In memory of Heather Polis
Chris Reynolds	In memory of Joan Reynolds In celebration of my wonderful family
Kim Righter	In celebration of family and friends
Susan & David Ross	In memory of Raymond Ross In memory of Joan & Stan Hiltabiddle
Ken & Betsy Selinger	In memory of our parents and Ken's brother, Steve In celebration of our children, Stephen and Kristen and grandchildren, Cassidy and Ryan
Dolores Sweeney	In memory of Lawrence Sweeney
Dolores Sweeney, daughter	In memory of Joseph and Elise Dodel
Earl & Allison Uehling	In celebration of grandparents In celebration of Jenny, Thom, Abby, Shan, & Carly
Paul & Bonnie Zieger	In memory of Hermina and Paul Raser In memory of Ruth and Wilbur Zieger In memory of Anna Zieger

Your Prayers Are Invited

We hope you will add the following people to your personal prayers. Those who are listed longer than 6 weeks can be found on the long term prayer list through the link in the weekly e-news or the monthly Link newsletters. To add a name to the prayer list or provide an update, please contact the office.

Bob (friend of Betsy and Ken Selinger)
John A. (friend of Mike Messer)
Marlene Foody
Grace Griffin (daughter-in-law of Glenn & Robin Griffin)
Jay Griffin (Glenn Griffin's brother)
Ken Hartman (friend of Wes Craig)
Marge Holmes
Fred Orrik (Becca Shelor's grandfather)
Charles Piantieri (husband of Diane Piantieri)
Rachael Rinders (friend of the Kaegler Family)
Eleanor Rothenheber
Pam Schilling (friend of the Kelly Family)
Sam Weiss (friend of Ross & Sue Frantz)
Joanne Wendte (sister-in-law of Lynnmarie Harkins)

We remember in prayer the family and friends of Julie Nelson (daughter of former members Erik Nelson and Helen Nelson, deceased and granddaughter of Ed Piczek, deceased) who died recently. May her loved ones be comforted by the promise and hope of the resurrection.

We remember in prayer the family and friends of Chris Veilleux (friend of Pastor Kaegler) who died recently. May his loved ones be comforted by the promise and hope of the resurrection.

Christ's Lutheran Church
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Ministers	The People of Christ's Lutheran Church	
Senior Pastor	Reverend Axel Kaegler	
Director of Spiritual Formation	Becca Shelor	
Director of Music	Ken Selinger	
Administrative Assistant	Lorraine Pfeiffer	
Preschool Director	Sally Mead	
Sexton	Pete Carr	
Assisting Minister	Jenna Balaicuis	
Soundboard	Diane Polis	
Livestream	Rick Daniels, Don Hallman, John Melnick, Paul Zieger	
Counter(s)	Sue Frantz	
Closer	Matt Menard	
Assisting Minister 4 pm Christmas Eve	Family Tables	
Assisting Minister 8 pm Christmas Eve	Don Hallman	
Assisting Minister next Sunday	Paul Zieger	

This Week at CLC!

Sunday	9:00 am	Family Tables (chapel)
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 am	Worship at CLC and online
	11:30 am	Coffee Hour (lobby)
Monday	9:30 am	Monday Morning Men
	11:00 am	CLC Yarners (200)
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Lions/Tigers (203/204)
	7:00 pm	AOL Scouts (200)
	7:00 pm	Webelos (PH)
Wednesday	4:00 pm	Family Service
	8:00 pm	Candlelight Service
Thursday	CHRISTMAS DAY	Church offices closed
Friday	8:00 pm	AA (200)