



3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 15, 2024 (Worship: 8:30am, 10:00am, no 5:00pm today)

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 (8:30/10am - Children may leave after children’s message for Sunday school and return at Holy Communion).

TODAY is the Third Sunday in Advent. Our theme during this four week preparation for Christmas is “*A Weary World Rejoices*”. It’s all about singing and praying for days of hope, peace, joy, and love. May you discover these gifts in worship today!

PRELUDE MUSIC: *Of the Father’s Love Begotten*
Advent Tidings by Michael E. Akers

Pianist/Organist Micaela Lum
Handbell Choir

INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

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

GATHERING HYMN: *Once in Royal David’s City*

#269 vv. 1-3

**Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and meek, and lowly, lived on earth, our Savior holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav’n above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

LITANY FOR LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE

THE HYMN (during lighting of the Advent Candles)

**O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O come, Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death’s dark shadow put to flight.**

THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor David R. Mattson

(Children may leave for Sunday School and return at Holy Communion.)

THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 1: 1-3, 14-18

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs

and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

(Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**)

THE SECOND LESSON: 1 John 1:5-10

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**)

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please stand.)

Tune: *O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel*

THE GOSPEL: John 1:1-9

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. (The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ!**)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

ANTHEM (8:30am): *Advent Peace Canon* Sanctuary Choir, Art & Music Minister Michelle Lum

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

#282 vv. 1-3

**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.**

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,

**and still their heav'n-ly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ev-er o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

**And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!**

THE MESSAGE: "*Only Four Words*"

Deacon Daneen Pysz

OFFERING, OFFERTORY MUSIC

Andy Degan

ADVENT OFFERTORY RESPONSE (Taize)

(Sung 2x)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE 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 and gluten free bread is also available.)

HOLY COMMUNION MUSIC:

Lamb of God (Agnus Dei) Page 191;

Prepare the Royal Highway

#264

**Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev-'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!**

**God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!**

**Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev-'ry nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!
His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.**

**His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!**

Love Has Come

**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 BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: Go Tell It on the Mountain

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

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.** (Refrain.)

**The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.** (Refrain)

**Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.** (Refrain)

SENDING WORDS

#292

#290

POSTLUDE: *Noel Suisse* by Louis-Claude Daquin

Pianist/Organist Micaela Lum

GLORIA DEI STAFF: Rev. David R. Mattson (pastordavid@mygloriadei.org); Minister of Art & Music Michelle Lum (michellelum@mygloriadei.org); Preschool Director Shelli Parajekas (preschool@mygloriadei.org); Administrative Assistant Carol Weinhardt (gloriadei@mygloriadei.org); Deacon Daneen Pysz (deacondaneen@mygloriadei.org) Congregational Life Dir. Susie Boland (fellowship@mygloriadei.org); Youth Director Paige Gulck (youth@mygloriadei.org); Pianist/Organist Micaela Lum (pianist@mygloriadei.org); 5pm Worship Leader Harrison Michael

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS provided by Judy Young in celebration of her 19 year old grandsons, Aaron & Ethan Ohlson!

THANK YOU to the Handbell Choir for playing special music for us today!

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS - If you'd like to provide a poinsettia, complete a form at the Welcome Table & drop it in the offering box or office. Forms due TODAY. Cost: \$10.

CAROLING - TODAY, meet at church, 4pm. Come spread Christmas cheer! (No 5pm service)

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE - Prayerful, meditative healing service honoring people experiencing grief and loss. Wednesday, December 18, 7pm, Sanctuary. Questions? Speak with Deacon Daneen.

EMPTY NESTERS - "*Mingle & Jingle*" - December 20, 5pm, \$20, Bankson Hall with dinner, drinks, and Christmas cheer. (Bring an ornament to exchange, or just come.) Sign up at the Welcome Table.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

Tuesday, December 24, 4pm, 5:30pm & 10pm.
Carols, candlelight, special music, & uplifting message.
Holy Communion will be celebrated at 10pm.
Invite a friend to worship with you!

PLANNING SURVEY INSERT - If you have not completed one online, please complete one today. Pick it up at the Welcome Table and place it in the offering boxes. Thanks for helping out!

CHRIST IN OUR HOME - Pick up your copy of January - March, 2025 devotional at the Welcome Table.

PIANO DUET CONCERT - January 5, 2025, 5pm. Come see Stephanie Trick & Paolo Alderighi play four-hand piano! They'll be our guests during morning services. Come enjoy their amazing talents!

THE PSALMS AND HEBREW - Pastor David will lead a Bible study on the Psalms, while teaching some simple Hebrew. You can do it. Beginning on January 9, 6:30pm, Knudson Hall (6 weeks).

SR. HIGH BOWLING - January 10, 6pm at Saddleback Lanes. Meet at the bowling alley for burgers & bowling. Invite a friend!

MEMBERSHIP AT GLORIA DEI? Next Adult Inquiry Class (non-Lutheran background) (Jan. 11, 9am) and New Member Orientation (Jan. 12, 11:30am) for all joining. See sign-up for details or call the office.

ALZHEIMER'S RESOURCES LUNCH & LEARN (L&L) - January 19 at 11:15am, Bankson Hall. L & L to find support for yourself and learn new ways to communicate with loved ones with Alzheimers. Donation for lunch. See sign-up.

NEW GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) GROUP - Starting Tuesday, Jan. 21, 10am, Knudson Hall. This group will meet on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday/month. They will study *John: Jesus-the-Word, The Messiah, The Son of God* & facilitated by Dennis & Deacon Daneen Pysz. Open to all. Sign-up.

WOMEN'S BUNCO - Back by popular demand! Girls and women of all ages come and play, January 24, 6pm, Bankson Hall. Bring an appetizer for dessert to share. Cost: \$5. Sign-up at the Welcome Table.

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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DECEMBER 15 - 21, 2024

Today: Worship (8:30am, 10am); Nursery & Sunday School (8:30am & 10am); Christmas Caroling (4pm); NA Meeting (6:30pm)

Monday: South Coast Literacy Council (10am); RIOT (Reading Is Our Thing) Book Club (2pm); Al Anon (5:30pm); Alateen (5:30pm); AA Coed Meeting (7pm)

Tuesday: Art Installation in Sanctuary; AA Men (7am); Preschool Christmas Pageant (9:30am); Al Anon (7pm); Church Council (7pm)

Wednesday: AA Men (7am); AA Group (6pm); Blue Christmas Service (7pm); 12 Step Couples Group (7:30pm)

Thursday: AA Men (7am); AA Women (9:30am); Grief Healing (1pm); Al Anon Coed (5:30pm); Handbell Choir (6:30pm); AA (7pm); Sanctuary Choir (7:30pm)

Friday: Preschool Closed for Christmas Break; Al Anon Meeting (10am); Empty Nesters (5pm)

Saturday: AA Men (7am); Serra's Pantry (8:30am); Women's Board Meeting (9am); ACA Meeting (11:30am); Ukrainian School of OC (1:30pm); OC Tremble Clefs (3pm); Sr. High Chow & Cookie Decorating (6pm); NA Meeting (7pm)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- Sr. High Valentine Making at Gloria Dei (February 1, 6pm);
- Prime Time Seniors - Nixon Library (February 13, 2025);
- L&L - Celebrating Life Community Health Center (March 2, 2025);
- Men's Spring Training Retreat (March 7-9, 2025);
- Los Angelitos Orphanage trip (March 15, 2025);
- Women's One Day Retreat (March 22, 2025);
- Annual Church Campout (June 6-8, 2025);

- Vacation Bible School (June 16-20, 2025)
- 60th Anniversary of GDLC (September 19)

THANKS TO OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY!

8:30am: Advent Reader: Emma Person; Coffee Prep: Barb Collins; Communion: Pat McKinley & Pat Thomas; Lector: Brenda Gaumer; Ushers: Dave & Judy Ross; Welcome Table: Kathy Martino

10am: Advent Reader: Emma Person; Coffee Clean-up: Scott Lund; Communion: Katherine Dickinson & Colleen McCray; Lector: Jeanne Mills; Ushers: Margaret Dean & Dean Frasche; Welcome Table: Rebecca Horner