

**CHRIST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
ZIONSVILLE



Christmas Eve – Family Service - 4:30 pm

December 24, 2025

All members and guests, please fill out the Welcome Form found at the end of your row and pass it on to your neighbor. The pastoral and spiritual care of the members of Christ Church is very important to us. In order to care for all of you, we need to know who is present and who is not. So, please take a moment to sign the pad. The Welcome Forms will be picked up by the ushers at the end of the service.

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Looking for a Church Home?

Mr. Rogers once asked, "Won't you be my neighbor?" Jesus asked, "Who is your neighbor?" At Christ Lutheran Church (CLC) - Zionsville, our answer to Jesus' question is EVERYONE, and to Mr. Rogers - YES.

God calls us to meet people wherever they are in their journey of faith – and that includes YOU!

At Christ Lutheran Church you are welcomed, just as you are:

- Single, committed, married, divorced, lost your partner, still looking or not.
- Every race, nationality, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation
- Ready to join a group or prefer to sit back
- Regardless of knowing a little or a lot about Jesus
- Whether you have left the Church and are returning
- Whether you find yourself on this list or not

We are calling YOU neighbor! Join us!

Children in Worship

Children hold a special place in our congregation! We warmly invite children of all ages to join us in worship. We embrace their natural tendencies to giggle, poke, squirm, and swing their legs - it's all part of being a child and a precious gift to our community.

There is no attendant in the Nursery for this service. However, it is open, and you and your family are welcome to use the Nursery room if needed.

We respect and support each family's unique circumstances and preferences. Whether your child joins the main worship service or utilizes our nursery, we are here to accommodate and make everyone feel welcome and comfortable.

PRELUDE**Away in a Manger****arr. Wagner****PROCESSION OF THE CHILDREN****WELCOME****OPENING HYMN****O Come, All Ye Faithful****ELW 283**

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

CHRISTMAS CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Let us confess our sins together because Christmas calls us to a better way of life.

Holy God, as the light of Jesus streams from the manger,

we see how we have not loved God and our neighbor the way we should.

We have given in to despair instead of hope.

We have been hostile instead of peaceful.

We have shared complaints instead of joy.

We have ignored needs instead of showing love.

But Christmas reminds us every day is a new beginning, every year is a fresh start,
and every newborn baby is a symbol of God's promises.

Help us be transformed into the likeness of Christ today.

C Lord, hear our confession. Amen.

P God forgives us when we confess our sin. We do not have to feel shame. We turn away from our old behavior and start again! Receive God's forgiveness and be at peace.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – Compton Family

From the manger, hope, peace, joy, and love are growing—growing to be God with us. His name is Jesus—the Bread of Life.

First, we light the candle of hope. Hope is believing things can get better with compassion and imagination.

Next, we light the candle of peace. Peace is what happens when everyone treats each other, themselves, and the world kindly.

Then, we light the candle of joy. Joy is when you feel so thankful you could burst with excitement and gratitude.

Next, we light the candle of love. Love is the care and connection binding us together with each other and God.

Next we light the Christ candle which shines the light of God's love on all people.

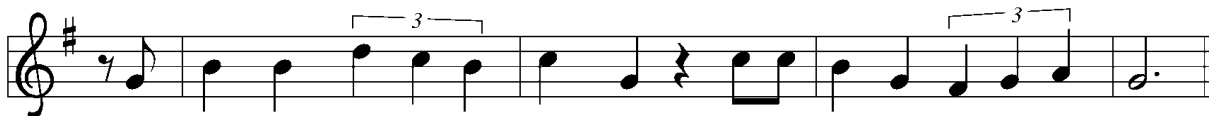
Light the Advent candles, and sing all verses from He Came Down.

He Came Down

ELW 253



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

ANTHEM

In Midnight's Silence
~ Becky Walter & Bob Russell ~

arr. Gray

First Lesson

A RULER FROM BETHLEHEM based on Micah 5:2-5

by Beck Holtz

Micah was a prophet. He spoke to the people for God. During the time when Micah was alive, God's people were afraid. They felt sad and hopeless. God sent Micah to the people of Bethlehem, one of the smallest groups of God's people, with some unbelievable news. This is good news that Micah announced to God's people. "From you, little Bethlehem, will come a wonderful leader for the whole world! He will be like a good shepherd who loved and takes care of each sheep in his flock. He will take care of all people – especially those who need extra help. All God's people will be safe with this leader because he will lead with peace and fairness. He will be the greatest leader the world has ever seen. There is hope! Live with hope, you people of Bethlehem.

Psalm

PRAISE GOD based on Psalm 8

by Madeline Compton

There are lots of poems and songs, called Psalms, in the Bible. This is a special one! Hooray for our awesome God! God made you and me and everything else! God, you are so amazing and strong and creative! Everyone thinks so-even babies! When I look up in the sky at night and see the moon and all those stars that you have made, it makes me extra glad that you care for me! You ask us to work with you – to help take care of everything you've made. And you have given us a job to do, God. You want us to care for the earth and everything that lives on it – all of the animals and birds and fish and sea animals. Hooray for our awesome God! God made you and me and everything else!

Second Lesson

A CHILD CALLED IMMANUEL based on Isaiah 7:10-17

by Eva Foley

King Ahaz, the king of Judah, would not listen to God. He wanted to become friends with people from another country who didn't believe in God. God knew this was a bad idea, because the people in the other country really wanted to hurt King Ahaz and his people. God warned. God pleaded. King Ahaz would not change his mind. He wanted his own way. "Ask me for a sign," God said. "Then you will know that I am your God. Then you will listen to me." God sent a prophet, Isaiah, to talk with King Ahaz. Isaiah did what God asked him to do. His job was to be God's voice. Isaiah warned King Ahaz that bad things would happen to him and his people if he did not listen to God. Isaiah promised that God would protect King Ahaz and his country if he listened. God even gave King Ahaz a sign to look for – a child to show him the way. Isaiah said a child would be born and live with the people. His name would be Immanuel. Immanuel means "God with us." Then the people would know how much God loved them and they would listen to God. Isaiah to tell him what to do? "I am the king!" King Ahaz said. "People listen to me. Why should I listen to you or your God, Isaiah?" King Ahaz did not listen to God and soon things went very bad for King Ahaz. His crops dried up. There was very little food. Soon his country was taken over by others. Other people, the Israelites, did listen to Isaiah. They remembered God's promise and waited many years for God's sign, Immanuel, to be born.



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

THE GOSPEL

JESUS IS BORN based on Luke 2:1-20

by Interim Pastor Hope

"We have to go to Bethlehem," Joseph told Mary. "Emperor Augustus has ordered that all of the people need to be counted." "But Joseph," Mary said, "what about our baby? He will be born soon." "We'll go slowly, Mary. Bethlehem will be crowded so we need to leave now." So, Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem, the City of David, to be counted along with all of the other people. It was cold when they arrived. Joseph knocked on many doors looking for a room, but everyone said no. Finally, an innkeeper answered his door. "I have no room," the innkeeper said. "But you can stay in the little stable in the back. It's warm, and the hay is fresh." "Joseph," Mary said. "I think it's time for the baby to be born." That night Mary gave birth to Jesus. She laid him in a manger. The animals kept them warm as they waited for morning. Outside of Bethlehem, shepherds watched their sheep on the hills. Suddenly an angel appeared. The shepherd looked up at the bright night sky. "Don't be afraid," the angel said. "I bring wonderful news. The child God promised was born tonight." The shepherds listened in amazement. The twinkling stars seemed to echo each of the angel's words. The angel continued, "Go to Bethlehem! You will find the child lying in a bed of hay!" Suddenly, many angels filled the heavens. They sang together, "Glory to God in the highest. And peace to all people on earth." "Let's hurry!" one shepherd said. "The angel said the child was born tonight!" "But what about the sheep?" another shepherd asked. "Let the angels watch them!" the youngest shepherd said. "Yes! Let the angels watch them!" The shepherds happily hurried into Bethlehem. The angel was right. The shepherds found the baby, Jesus, asleep on a bed of hay. They told Mary and Joseph all the angels had said. "The angel said the baby is the Messiah – the promised one. He is the one we have waited for," they explained. "But this is a stable. Would God be born here among the animals?" "Moo-o-o-o," said the cow. "Baa-a-a-a," said the sheep. "Nay-a-a-a," said the horse. Mary smiled. She knew that Jesus was Immanuel – God with us. Later the shepherd returned to their sheep, praising God for all they had seen and heard. Jesus was born!

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Little Drummer Boy

APOSTLES' CREED

P Gathered together by the power of the Holy Spirit we confess our common faith:

**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.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use. ** meaning - all of God's Church.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

P Jesus came to bring peace to the earth. When we pass the peace of Christ with one another, we are partnering with Jesus to make this promise come true. God's peace is among us today, so let us pass the peace.

P The peace of Christ is with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us share a sign of God's peace with those around us.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S CHILDREN

P Jesus, whose mother was Mary: we pray for God's people throughout the world for this gathering; and for all people. Lord Jesus,

C hear our prayer.

P Jesus, cradled in a manger: we pray for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Lord Jesus,

C hear our prayer.

P Jesus, sharing the stable with the animals: we pray for the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it. Lord Jesus,

C hear our prayer.

P Jesus, worshipped by shepherds and kings: we pray for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Lord Jesus,

C hear our prayer.

P Jesus, our Emmanuel: We pray for all who are sick in mind, body or soul, and we pray your peace upon them, Lord Jesus,

C hear our prayer.

P God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P Lord, we greet you this happy night,
for you have been at work in our world throughout all time.

You made all things and called them good.

You claimed your people Israel,
freed them from the bondage of Egypt,
and journeyed with them through the wilderness to the promised land.

You sent prophets to call your people back to you.

Then in the fullness of time you sent your Son Jesus,
Immanuel, born the King of Angels,
your Word in flesh appearing.
He was one of us and lived with us,
giving up all his glory for our sake to make us whole.

And yet you raised him up again
to overcome the power of death and live a new life.
Still we wait for the day when we too will share the fullness of life in him and with him.

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.

Then, 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

C 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.

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.
C Amen.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to participate in the Lord's Meal. If it's been years, or just a week, the bread and wine/juice and Jesus' presence in, with, and around them are for all. If you have questions about taking your first communion don't hesitate to speak with Interim Pastor Hope.

*Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. When you come forward you will receive a piece of bread and you will hear the words **the body of Christ, given for you**. Then you are invited to take either wine or juice from the communion assistant and you will hear the words, **the blood of Christ, shed for you**. Once you've communed place your cup in the basket the children are holding.*

If you would prefer to come forward for a blessing only, please place your arms crossed over your chest.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHT



*At this time, the sanctuary lights will be dimmed, and you are invited to stand .
Please turn on your electronic candles.*

HYMN

Silent Night

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

BENEDICTION

P You have heard the story of the birth of Jesus—that he came to bring hope, peace, joy, and love to the world.

Go now to continue the celebration in the streets, in your homes, and as you travel.

Feed the hungry, bring justice to your communities, and comfort your neighbors.

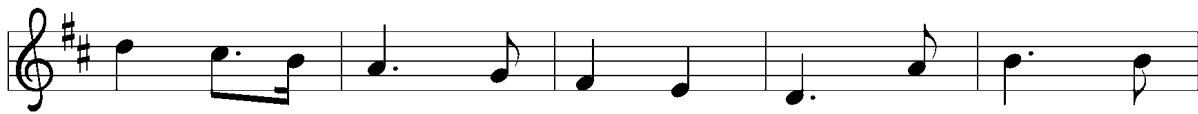
Go in peace. And all God's people say,

C Amen!

Once the pastor extinguishes her candle, please extinguish yours.

HYMN

Joy to The World v. 1&4



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

PROCESSION OF THE CHILDREN

POSTLUDE

On Christmas Night

arr. Childs

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*Want to know more about Christ Lutheran Church?
If you want more information about the church, please email the pastor at
pastor@clczionsville.org*



SERVING US AT WORSHIP THIS EVENING

Interim Pastor: Hope Moran
Usher: JoAnne Tuffnell
Communion Assistants: Joe Pittman, Bob Russell
AV Assistant: Bob Behrend

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*Please scan if you would like to
give an electronic offering.*

