**Christmas 2024**



**Christ Lutheran Church**

6500 E. Stearns Street

Long Beach, California 90815

Phone 562-598-2433

www.christlutheranlb.com

Preschool 562-594-6117

<http://www.clplb.com/>

***Christmas Worship Assistants***

Thank you to everyone for supporting our Christmas Worship Services. Your commitment to our church family’s Christmas experience is greatly appreciated.

**Christmas Eve**

**December 24 at 5:30pm**

Wreath Lighter: The Treat Family

Assisting Minister: Robin Black

Reader: Ruth Depuy

Communion Assistants: Matt & Rebecca Green, Brianna Peralta,

Ushers: Matt and Rebecca Green, Heather Nielsen, Jeff Rodrigues

Altar Guild: Valerie Weisel

**Christmas Eve**

**December 24 at 10:00pm**

Wreath Lighter: Linda McGee and Rob McGee

Assisting Minister: Lisa Cottrell

Reader: Don Koepke

Communion Assistant: Bryce Bonilla-Haenn

Usher: Linda McGee and Rob McGee

Altar Guild: Valerie Weisel

**Christmas Day**

**December 25 at 10:00am**

Wreath Lighter: The Timney Family

Assisting Minister: Chris Caldwell

Reader: Matthew Timney

Communion Assistant: Shannon Timney

Ushers: Matthew Timney

Altar Guild: Valerie Weisel

**Welcome to worship! We’re glad you’re here!**

To assist in your worship:

**bold** print means we respond together

**\*** meansrise in body or spirit,

+ you may make the sign of the cross should you so desire.

**It is our joy to worship with your whole family!**

We encourage everyone of all ages and abilities to worship together.

We offer a “pray-ground” located in the back left of the Sanctuary for those with littles to have some room for movement and activity. The Narthex (gathering space at the entry) also has some resources for families, including activity bags filled with crayons, paper and storybooks. These supplies can be used in the Narthex or brought into the Sanctuary. For those that find themselves in the Narthex, there is a speaker with which you can still hear the service. Lastly, a changing table is located in the restroom off the Narthex. Please ask an usher if you need any assistance.

**TODAY’S worship THEME**

In winter’s deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus’ birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.



Worship services for

Christ Lutheran Church- Long Beach

are live-streamed and archived to YouTube.

By entering the sanctuary and by your presence here,

you consent to be photographed,

filmed, and/or otherwise recorded.

Please alert an usher if this is of concern to you.

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**PRELUDE** 5:30pm- Roger Halvorson & Lonnie Timney

*Baby Born a King* 10pm- Chancel Choir 10am- Roger Halvorson

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

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

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

**SONG** *He Came Down ELW #253*

He came down that we may have light;

He came down that we may have light;

He came down that we may have light,

Hallelujah forevermore.

O Christ who was and is and ever shall be:

**Light the fire of hope in our hearts, open us to your call to peace, ground us in your love. Amen.**

Let us pray,

God of new life, you made this holy night burst forth in songs of great joy. Place in us this same thrill of hope, that we may ponder your grace in our hearts. We pray in the name of the one who is full of grace and truth, Jesus Christ, life and our love.

**Amen.**

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God-with-us,

**we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved,

☩ forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

**Amen.**

A sheet music with text and notes

Description automatically generated**\*GATHERING SONG** *Joy to the World ELW #267*

A sheet music with text and notes

Description automatically generated**\*GREETING**

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

A sheet of music with text

Description automatically generated**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE** G*ood Christian Friends, Rejoice! ELW #288*

**\*pRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together,

**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. Amen.**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**CHILDREN’S CHAT**

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 9:2-4,6-7 PewBible Old Testament Pg. 706

**SECOND READING** Titus 2:11-14 PewBible New Testament Pg. 232

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Prepare the Royal Highway ELW #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!

**\*GOSPEL** Luke 2:1-20 Pew Bible New Testament Pg. 59

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 2nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The reading concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**\*Nicene CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*A brief silence.*

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**\*SHARING OF PEACE**

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

**OFFERTORY** *O Holy Night* 5:30pm- Kim Philips

*Glory (Let There be Peace)* 10pm- Chancel Choir

*Angels’ Carol* 10am- Chris Caldwell & Kim Philips

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *What Child Is This ELW #296*

What child is this, who, laid to rest,

on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet

while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the king,

whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

haste, haste to bring him laud,

the babe, the son of Mary!

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray together,

**God of hope,** **you fill the hungry with good things. Give us hopeful hearts and open hands to receive your love and share our abundance, that all may be fed. In the name of the one who sustains all life, Jesus Christ, our love. Amen.**

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord,**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy…

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*SONG OF THANKSGIVING** *Love Has Come ELW #292*

 *(Verse 1)*

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life…

…Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

…All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*LORD’S PRAYER**

**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.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

We believe that this is Jesus' table. All are welcome and invited to commune.  We serve communion by “intinction”; receive the bread and dip it in the chalice of red wine. Currently we are offering individual communion cups as an alternative to intinction if you so desire. Both wine and grape juice (white) are offered in the tray. Gluten free wafers are available; let your server know. Should you choose not to commune, you are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms across your chest to let us know to give you that blessing.

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

**lamb of god** *Lamb of God**ELW pg.191*

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**COMMUNION SONG** *Away in a Manger**ELW #277*

**\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together,

**Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.**

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**\*BLESSING**

The God of love, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING** **SONG** *Silent Night ELW #281*

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Roger Halvorson



**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**

**Pastor**  Rev. Nikki Fielder, pastor@christlutheranlb.com

**Office Manager** Kim Croes, [officemanager@christlutheranlb.com](mailto:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com)

**Preschool Director** Lisa Clinton, info@clplb.com

**Choir Director** Kim Philips, kimsings@msn.com

**Accompanist** Roger Halvorson

**A/V Technicians** Brad Croes and Josh Baker

**Missionary to Colombia** Linda Gawthorne

**Mission Statement**

Living by Christ’s example, we welcome, serve, and love all through God’s grace.

**Vision Statement**

Embracing the truth that God’s love and grace is for all, Christ Lutheran Church is a vibrant and active community spreading the good news through acceptance, action, and benevolence.

**A heart shaped logo with a cross

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**Our Position**

Christ is ALIVE!

**Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Welcome Statement**

Christ Lutheran Church is a congregation who joyfully welcomes everyone who enters our doors. We recognize that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has bestowed on us. We proclaim ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation to all of God's children, welcoming into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. We commit ourselves to the work of anti-racism and creating an anti-racist space. We believe that through our openness we all grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.

**LIKE** us on **Facebook** at [www.facebook.com/christlutheranlb](http://www.facebook.com/christlutheranlb)

Write a review of Christ Lutheran Church on **YELP**