**Lessons & Carols**

**December 29, 2024**

**9:30am**



**Christ Lutheran Church**

6500 E. Stearns Street

Long Beach, California 90815

Phone 562-598-2433

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[www.clplb.com](http://www.clplb.com/)

**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.

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**  Roger Halvorson

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

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

**\*DIALOGUE**

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

**By day and night he shines for all to see.**

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

**that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

**so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**

Jesus is the light of the world.

**Jesus is the light of our lives.**

Sing to God a new song!

**A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

**\*GATHERING SONG** *O Come, All Ye Faithful  ELW #283*

 *(Verses 1 & 4)*



**\*CONFESSION & 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.**

**\*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.**

**\*pRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together,

**Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**First Reading:** Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

**Second Reading:**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

 O little town of Bethlehem,

 how still we see thee lie!

 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;

 yet in thy dark streets shineth

 the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

 For Christ is born of Mary,

 and gathered all above while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to

us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter

in, be born in us today. We hear the

Christmas angels the great glad tidings

tell; oh, come to us, abide with us, our

Lord Immanuel!

**Third Reading:** Luke 1:26-35, 38

**Fourth Reading:** Matthew 1:18-25



**Angels We Have Heard on High**

1 Angels we have heard on high,

 sweetly singing o'er the plains,

 and the mountains in reply,

 echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain*

 Gloria in excelsis Deo;

 gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?

 Why your joyous strains prolong?

 What the gladsome tidings be

 which inspire your heav'nly song?

 *Refrain*

 3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;

 come, adore on bended knee

 Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

  *Refrain*

**Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-20**

**Sixth Reading:** Matthew 2:1-11

**Seventh Reading:** John 1:1-14



**We Three Kings of Orient Are**

 We three kings of Orient are;

 bearing gifts we traverse afar,

 field and fountain, moor and

 mountain, following yonder star.

 *Refrain*

 Oh, star of wonder, star of night,

 star with royal beauty bright;

 westward leading, still proceeding,

 guide us to thy perfect light!

 Born a king on Bethlehem’s plain,

 gold I bring to crown him again;

 king forever, ceasing never,

 over us all to reign. *Refrain*

 Glorious now behold him arise,

 King and God and Sacrifice;

 heav’n sings alleluia:

 alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain*

**\*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 the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY** Roger Halvorson

**\*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 heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.**

**\*Thanksgiving for the Word**

Let us pray,

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory 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.**

**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** *Go Tell It on the Mountain ELW #290*

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**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

**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.

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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.

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