

# Mount Cross Lutheran Church

102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010

805.482.3847 [www.mountcross.com](http://www.mountcross.com)

*For those of you worshipping with us in person,  
thank you for wearing your mask (indoors required; outdoors optional)  
and social distancing outdoors when singing.*

*Let us know you're watching us online - fill out our connection card:  
<https://bit.ly/MCLCConnect>.*



## **To the Parents of Our Young Children -**

*We are so glad you are here. We know how challenging it can be to get a family out the door to come to church. We hope you can relax and receive the gifts of God that are here for you today. Please don't worry about squirming children or crying babies. All are welcome here. If you feel you must leave the service with your child, please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."*

*We want them to know they are at home in this house of worship.*

## **To All Worshippers -**

*The presence of those with special needs is a gift to us and the Church. Please welcome all children and give their parents a smile of encouragement. Please greet those with special needs and their families, helping them to know they are valued and accepted in our community.*

**Thank you for being the welcoming Body of Christ!**

**3rd Sunday of Advent C  
December 12, 2021, 9:30 a.m.**

# PRELUDE - Guy Ervin III

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Pastor Julie Morris

### GATHERING SONG - "My Soul in Stillness Waits" (Haugen) - Verses 5 and 6

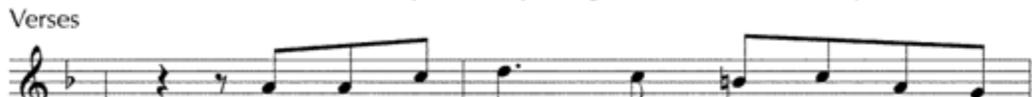
As able, the assembly stands.

Refrain



For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness  
waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.

Verses



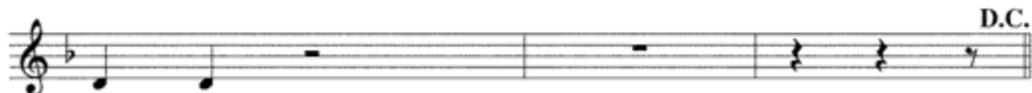
1. O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of  
2. O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our  
3. O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with -  
4. O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our  
5. Come, let us bow be - fore the God who  
6. Here we shall meet the Mak - er of the



glo - ry, your ra - diance shines in all who look to  
spir - its, our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your  
in us, and in your ad - vent, draw us all to  
pil - grim - age, we ev - er seek, yet un - ful - filled re -  
made us, let ev - 'ry heart be o - pened to the  
heav - ens, Cre - a - tor of the moun - tains and the



you, come, light the hearts of all in dark and  
Word, come, make us whole, be com - fort to our  
you, our hope re - born in dy - ing and in  
main, o - pen to us the path - way of your  
Lord, for we are all the peo - ple of his  
seas, Lord of the stars, and pres - ent to us



shad - ow.  
hearts.  
ris - ing.  
peace.  
hand.  
now.

D.C.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly,  
who fills the hungry with good things.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another,  
trusting in the tender mercy of our God.  
(*Silence for reflection*)

C God for whom we wait,  
**in the presence of one another,  
we confess our sin before you.  
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.  
We falter in our call to tend your creation.  
We find our sense of self in material wealth.  
We fear those different from ourselves.  
We forget that we are your children  
and turn away from your love.  
Forgive us, Blessed One,  
and assure us again of your saving grace.  
Amen.**

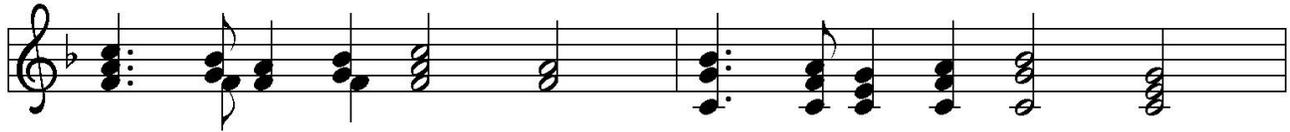
P God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
† your sins are forgiven.  
You are children of the Most High,  
inheritors of the eternal promise,  
and recipients of divine mercy.  
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C **Amen.**



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

# KYRIE - "Kyrie" (Russian Orthodox) - ELW 155



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.  
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.  
1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.  
2 Christ, . . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
Chris - te e - le - i - son.  
Lord, . . . have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*



**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH WITH CHILDREN - Joe Zimmerly**  
(sing verses 1, 2, and 3 while the first three candles on the wreath are lit)



1. Light one can-dle for hope, one bright can-dle for hope.  
2. Light one can-dle for peace, one bright can-dle for peace.  
3. Light one can-dle for joy, one bright can-dle for joy.  
4. Light one can-dle for love, one bright can-dle for love.



Christ brings hope to ev' - ry heart. He comes! He comes!  
Christ brings peace to ev' - ry heart. He comes! He comes!  
Christ brings joy to ev' - ry heart. He comes! He comes!  
Christ brings love to ev' - ry heart. He comes! He comes!

Words and music by Natalie Sleeth. © 1976, Hinshaw Music, Inc. Used with permission.

**FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

*The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.*

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup>The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SONG OF RESPONSE - Isaiah 12:2-6 - "Surely God Is My Salvation" - ACS 926



1 Sure - ly God is my sal - va - tion,  
 2 Thus with joy you shall draw wa - ter  
 3 Tell the na - tions of God's glo - ry,



I will trust and shall not fear. God the Lord is  
 from sal - va - tion's wells and springs. Sing your thanks to  
 make this known in all the earth. Praise the Lord, the



strong and might - y, my sal - va - tion true.  
 God Al - might - y for these won - drous deeds.  
 God of Is - rael, call up - on God's name.

*Refrain*



Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!

Sing ho-san - na!



Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!



Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!



Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!

Text: Zebulon M. Highben, b. 1979, based on Isaiah 12:2-6

Music: YISREAL V'ORAITA, Hasidic melody

Text © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

## SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

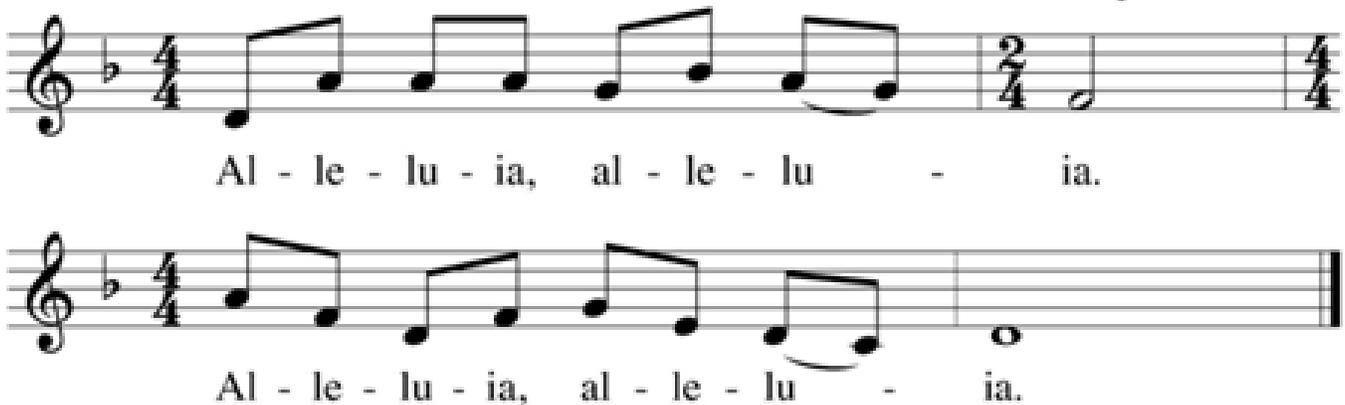
L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

As able, the assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – “Advent Gospel Acclamation” (Pishner) - sing twice**

Based on VENI EMMANUEL  
Stephen Pishner



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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## GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

P The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON - Pastor Julie Morris**



As able, the assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

## SONG OF THE DAY - "Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn" - ELW 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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The assembly may be seated.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Bless our ordination and installation celebration of deacon candidate Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson this afternoon. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing God, this holiday time of year can be difficult for those who have experienced loss. Our world is continuing to feel loss of normalcy with the ongoing pandemic. Help anyone who is struggling right now to feel your love and to experience your joy and peace that passes all understanding. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, so that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill in body, mind, or spirit this day, especially (*those on our prayer list below*).

### PRAYER CONCERNS from MOUNT CROSS

**We pray for Bob Anderson, Tom Andino** (friend of Carol Browning), **Alice** (friend of Barbara Burke), **Jenny** (daughter of friend of Barbara Burke), **Linda** (friend of Barbara Burke), **Mike Caceres** (nephew of Becky Gilbertson), **Lorraine & Mike Carpenter, Steve Doshier** (brother-in-law of Paul Crockett), **Paul Edwards and Nancy Edwards** (friends of Denise Sobolik), **Natalie Faltin, Doria & Vladimir Fanning** (sister & brother-in-law of Barbara Burke), **Bill Greason, Charlene** (sister of Glenda Greason), **Charles Hilley, Jo Holler, Paul Marigonda** (friend of Becky Riley), **Rick Mahlke** (son of friend of Barbara Burke), **Marie DeVere McClain** (daughter of Jody DeVere), **Lucille Miley, David Nadon** (friend of Miriam Hoffmann), **Karen Nelson, Lynn Nelson** (mother of Julie Fernandez), **Michael and Mercedes Olivera** (brother of Courtney Burke), **Frances Rini** (grandmother of Carina McVeigh), **Samantha Roberts** (friend of Judy and Bob Winters), **Gloria Saldano** (mother of Lisa Saner) **and the Saner family, Maria Swartz** (sister of Jo Holler), **Chris, Wayne & Maria Truchan** (friends of the Burke family), **Lois Watts, the people of Waukesha Wisconsin, Howard Wullschleger.**

*Unless otherwise specified, prayer requests remain in the bulletin for four weeks.  
If you would like to add or remove someone to or from the prayer list, please  
e-mail the church office at [office@mountcross.com](mailto:office@mountcross.com) or call 805.482.3847.*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A God who listens, we now offer you our own prayers, either silently or aloud (pause) ... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C **Amen.**

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

## OFFERING SONG - "He Came Down" - ELW 253

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 7/8 time signature. It begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note G4, and a quarter note G4. This is followed by a triplet of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4. The next measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note G4. The system concludes with a quarter note G4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note G4. The bass staff begins with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note G2, and a quarter note G2. This is followed by a triplet of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2. The next measure contains a quarter note G2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note G2. The system concludes with a quarter note G2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note G2.

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;

The second system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 7/8 time signature. It begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note G4, and a quarter note G4. This is followed by a triplet of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4. The next measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note G4. The system concludes with a quarter note G4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note G4. The bass staff begins with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note G2, and a quarter note G2. This is followed by a triplet of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2. The next measure contains a quarter note G2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note G2. The system concludes with a quarter note G2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note G2.

The third system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 7/8 time signature. It begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note G4, and a quarter note G4. This is followed by a triplet of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4. The next measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note G4. The system concludes with a quarter note G4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note G4. The bass staff begins with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note G2, and a quarter note G2. This is followed by a triplet of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2. The next measure contains a quarter note G2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note G2. The system concludes with a quarter note G2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note G2.

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;

The fourth system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 7/8 time signature. It begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note G4, and a quarter note G4. This is followed by a triplet of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4. The next measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note G4. The system concludes with a quarter note G4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note G4. The bass staff begins with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note G2, and a quarter note G2. This is followed by a triplet of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2. The next measure contains a quarter note G2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note G2. The system concludes with a quarter note G2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note G2.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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## OFFERING PRAYER

- A God of our waiting and watching,  
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people.  
Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal,  
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.
- C **Amen.**



*As able, the assembly stands for the Great Thanksgiving.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

P And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
Music © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358.  
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P Holy God, the Beginning and the End,  
our Salvation and our Hope,  
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.  
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,  
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.  
At this end of the ages  
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love  
and to heal all the suffering world.

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.

P 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.  
Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await his coming again  
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us  
and on this bread and wine we share:  
strengthen our faith, increase our hope,  
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**C Amen.**

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

**C Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

P Come to Christ's banquet.  
Feast on God's gift of grace.

*The assembly may be seated.*



## LAMB OF GOD - "What Feast of Love" - ELW 487 - Verse 1



What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift\_\_ is giv - en?



This, this\_\_ is Christ the king, the bread come down\_\_ from heav - en.



Oh, taste\_\_ and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, © 1993, admin. OCP Publications.

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

**All are welcome at the Lord's Table.** Holy Communion will be distributed in the center aisle. Ushers will dismiss people by rows, beginning from the back of the church. Please come forward to receive the bread, and then walk to the side to receive wine or grape juice. Place your empty cup in the trays provided. Communion ministers will bring Holy Communion to those with mobility challenges (or those worshipping outside who don't wish to come inside).

### **PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (for our Livestream viewers)**

A spiritual communion is a personal devotion that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion. As Martin Luther once wrote: "I can enjoy the sacrament ... every day if only I keep my eyes on the promise, that is, on the words and promise of Christ, which feeds and strengthens my faith."

As we distribute Holy Communion to the congregation here, we invite those on the livestream to offer the Prayer of Spiritual Communion displayed on your screen:



**I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in the bread and wine, and present in your people, who are gathered in spirit. In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart.**

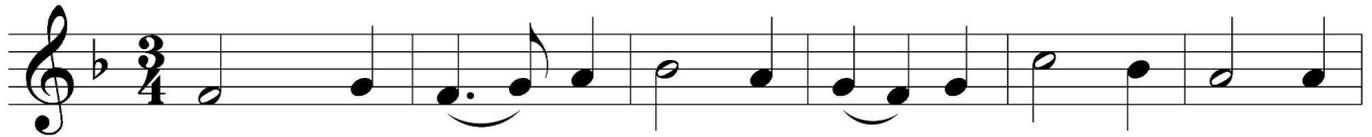
**(We pause for silent prayer).**

**Fill us all with your love and grace, and strengthen us to serve the world in your name. Amen.<sup>1</sup>**

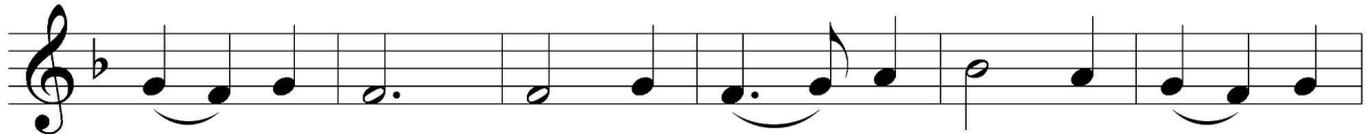
<sup>1</sup> Adapted by Pastor Julie from a prayer written by the Anglican Diocese of Niagara.

# COMMUNION SONGS -

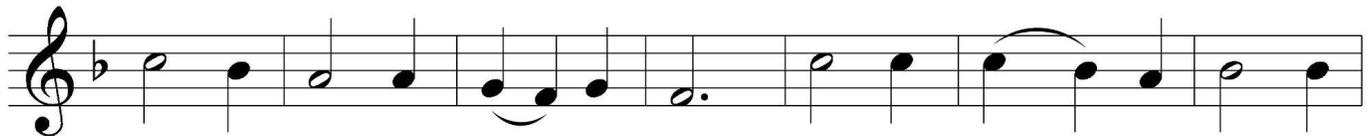
## “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (Wesley/HYFRYDOL)



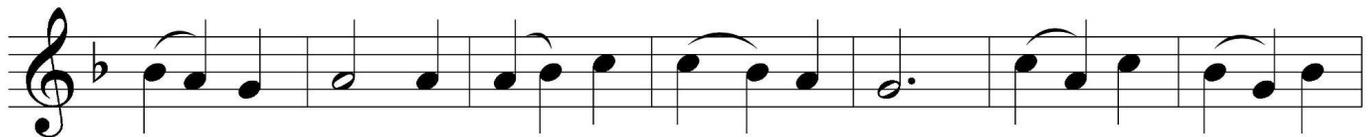
1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy  
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and



peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,  
yet\_ a king, born to reign in us for - ev - er,



let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -  
now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own\_ e - ter - nal



la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of  
spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf -



ev' - ry na - tion, joy of ev' - ry long - ing heart.  
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to\_ thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744. Music: HYFRYDOL (87.87 D), Rowland H. Prichard, 1830;  
harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906.



# “Christ, Be Our Light” - ELW 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

## *Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A** Most High God,  
you have come among us at this table.  
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,  
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,  
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**C** **Amen.**

*As able, the assembly stands for the Blessing.*

## **BLESSING**

**P** The God of hope  
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.  
And the blessing of God,  
Father, Son, ✠ and Holy Spirit  
be upon you and those you love,  
now and always.

**C** **Amen.**

# SENDING SONG - "People, Look East" - ELW 248

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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## DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is near.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE - Guy Ervin III

**Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God  
by Susan and Jim Prosser in honor of their son Jeffrey's birthday.**

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE License #A-722573 and CCLI License #2022482. Images from sundaysandseasons.com used with permission from Augsburg Fortress.

If you haven't already done so today, let us know you're watching us online - fill out our connection card: <https://bit.ly/MCLCConnect>.

Join us for **Fellowship in the Pavilion** after worship each Sunday!

Come to the Table: Mount Cross is offering **Communion reception in the sanctuary or in your car** from **11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon**. If you are unable to come inside, we will serve Communion to those who prefer to remain in their cars. Please consider your vulnerabilities and risk factors before choosing to participate.

## The Week at a Glance

### **TODAY, December 12, 2021**

Deacon Ordination and Installation,  
2:00 p.m.

Bishop Brenda Bos will preside at the ordination and installation of Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson as our Mount Cross Deacon at 2:00 p.m. today! A reception in the pavilion will follow the service.

Youth Group Christmas Party, 6:00 p.m.  
Youth Group meets at 6:00 p.m.; location TBD.  
Questions, contact Joe ([joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com)).

### **Monday, December 13, 2021**

Monday Meditation, 3:00 p.m.

The Meditation group meets on Zoom at 3:00 p.m.  
Questions, contact LaJean Wenzel.

Choir Christmas Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.

To prepare for our Advent/Christmas program next Sunday, the Choir will have an additional rehearsal this week, from 7:00-7:45 p.m., in the sanctuary (masked and with the doors open), to focus on our anthems for the program.

Lectio Divina at St. Columba's, 7:00 p.m.

Come to St. Columba's Chapel (1251 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo), Mondays at 7:00 p.m., through December 20, for Lectio Divina on the upcoming Gospels for the Sundays of Advent and Christmas.

This ancient practice of reading and reflecting on the scriptures helps enter into our Sunday worship more fully, especially in this holy time when we are preparing to celebrate the Incarnation.

### **Tuesday, December 14, 2021**

Women's Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.

The Women's Bible Study meets in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. for Tea, Cookies, and Community.

CDC Board, 6:00 p.m.

The CDC Board meets at 6:00 p.m.

### **Wednesday, December 15, 2021**

Fun with Faith, 5:00 p.m.

Fun with Faith happens at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary for Christmas Program practice. Contact Joe ([joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com)) with questions.

Adult Bible Study, 5:00 p.m.

Adult Bible Study meets at 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Life Center. We study the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday, led by Rev. Susan Klein for Advent.

### Wednesday Dinner, 6:00 p.m.

Our Wednesday dinner is at 6:00 p.m., in the Pavilion or Parish Life Center. Suggested donation, \$5.

### Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.

The Bell Choir rehearses in the loft (doors open, masked), from 6:15-7:15 p.m.

### Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Pavilion. Contact Joe ([joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com)) for info.

### Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

The Choir rehearses in the sanctuary (masked and with the doors open) from 7:30-8:15 p.m.

## **Thursday, December 16, 2021**

### Men's Bible Study, 7:30 a.m.

Men's Bible Study meets for breakfast at Marie Callender's (185 E. Daily Drive). A \$15 donation covers breakfast and a tip, but don't let cost prevent you from attending. No RSVP necessary; questions, contact Randy Churchill ([hrchurchill@verizon.net](mailto:hrchurchill@verizon.net))

### Afternoon Chapel, 2:00 p.m.

All are invited to come to the sanctuary at 2:00 p.m. for a new monthly, shortened worship service with communion, followed by fellowship.

## **Saturday, December 18, 2021**

### Decorating for Christmas, 10:00 a.m.

We'll get the church ready for Christmas by putting up the tree and decorating the sanctuary.

## **Next Sunday, December 19, 2021**

### Advent/Christmas Program, 4:00 p.m.

All are invited to the sanctuary for our Advent/Christmas Program at 4:00 p.m., with the youth telling the Christmas story, with music from our choir, bell choir, praise band, instrumentalists, and soloists.

## **Announcements**

### **Sunday Worship**

The Re-Opening Committee meets monthly to review our COVID precautions. We continue to require masks for indoor worship. Masks are optional for outdoor worship in the pavilion, but please maintain social distancing. We also need worship assistants:

<https://signup.com/Group/7769976983269200115/>.

Thank you in advance for helping to keep Mount Cross safe!

### **Help with Drive-through and Sanctuary Communion Reception**

We are looking for help to make Sunday Sanctuary and Drive-through Communion possible. If you would like to help set up or as a parking lot usher, greeter, or communion assistant, please sign up at

<http://bit.ly/WorshipandCommunionAssistants>

or call the office at (805) 482-3847.

### **Children, Youth, and Family Ministry**

Programs are going strong so check the newsletter or email Joe ([joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com)) for details or questions.

### **Anti-Racism Work of the Week:**

*These links are offered by the Peace & Justice Team in a spirit of goodwill to those who are seeking to learn from diverse voices and take action towards reconciliation and healing. We invite everyone to be a part of these ongoing conversations as we learn together.*

On white Christian mantels and white Christian church lawns across the country, nativity scenes continue to depict, in illuminated plastic and with robed volunteers, a white holy family surrounded by a throng of other white folks. What does your Jesus look like in your nativity scene?

<https://sojo.net/articles/why-we-need-see-beyond-white-baby-jesus>

### **Vaccine Sign-up Site**

COVID-19 vaccines are available by appointment at [MyTurn.CA.gov](http://MyTurn.CA.gov) or for walk-ins.

### **Altar Flowers**

To request flowers for our worship: <http://bit.ly/AltarFlowers2021>. The cost is \$35.00; you can take the arrangement home with you after worship, or pick it up at Communion following worship. If you aren't here but would still like flowers, please let us know; we'll deliver the arrangement to another member to enjoy.

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Our Prayer Shawl ministry could use additional helpers to knit or crochet prayer shawls to be given to those in need of comfort. To give a shawl or for instructions to knit or crochet one, contact Diana Hagen (805-482-6411).

### **More Ways to Give**

Thank you, Mount Cross congregation, for all the generosity you have shown in these times of trial!

To give to Mount Cross on your cell phone or tablet, download Vanco's free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play, enter zip code 93010, and choose Mount Cross.

Please email any questions about giving and/or statements to Financial Secretary Joan Brundage at [jbrundage@mountcross.com](mailto:jbrundage@mountcross.com).

### **Amazon Smile**

If you haven't already done so, choose Mount Cross Lutheran Church as your non-profit to support on [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) so 0.5% of purchases will go to Mount Cross. Thank you!

### **St. Columba's Food Pantry**

Each Sunday, we have a bin where you can bring non-perishable food for St. Columba's Project Hope food pantry. Canned vegetables or proteins are always a good choice. They could also use boxes of breakfast cereal. **Please do not donate food that is expired.**

Thanks for your support.

### **Worship Guidelines**

The Re-opening Committee met and has decided to stay the course for our worship.

**Masks are still required for indoor worship.** Although some places have chosen to make masks optional for those who are vaccinated, we, as Lutherans, love to sing and there are concerns about singing indoors and keeping people safe, which is our first priority. Because we love to sing and out of respect to those in our congregation who cannot yet be vaccinated (including children under 12), masks are required indoors for worship. Masks are optional **outside** and we offer seating in the pavilion outdoors, but we ask you to keep socially distanced from those not in your household. Thanks for your continued cooperation in following these guidelines to help keep Mount Cross safe.

### **Cookie Sale This Sunday**

Would you like to support our families going to Family Winter Camp at El Camino Pines?

Join us this Sunday out on the patio as we sell freshly baked cookies with handmade Christmas tags to help lower the cost to attend camp.

### **Winter Camps**

Are you interested in attending Winter Camp at El Camino Pines this year?

Here are the dates you can join us for some fun in the mountains:

Family Winterfest / January 15-17

High School Winter Camp / January 28-30

Middle School Winter Camp / February 25-27

\*Elementary School Camp / March 11-13 @ Luther Glen Farm

If you are interested in attending, please contact Joe in order to get registered. We can't wait for you to join us and hopefully there will be some snow this year!

### **Presto Pasta Fundraiser - Thank You!**

Thank you to the many people who showed up at Presto Pasta throughout the day supporting our kids here at Mount Cross. Because of you all, we were able to raise over \$200 as we try to send our high school youth to Minnesota for the National Youth Gathering. Thank you once again for your generosity as it means a lot to the kids of Mount Cross.

### **Hickory House Christmas Party, Wednesday, December 15**

**Sign up today** on the patio to purchase \$10 gift cards to the 99¢ Store for 35 residents of Hickory House (now called Oak Place). No need to shop! We will purchase the cards for you. Oak Place is a residential care facility in Old Town Camarillo.

Let's help make their Christmas a little brighter!

## **Poinsettias for Christmas**

Again, this year, we're asking for donations for poinsettias to help our Christmas Eve service look festive. Each poinsettia is \$5. You can sign up online: <https://bit.ly/MCPoinsettias> and include a dedication if desired.

You can make the donation through Mount Cross' online donation website <https://www.mountcross.com/online-giving.html> (choose "designated" and type in "poinsettias") OR you can mail a check to the church OR drop it in the offering bucket at worship or during drive-through Communion. No matter your method of payment, please write on your check or note on the online donation website: "poinsettias." Responses are needed by December 15, please.

For those who want to take the plants home, poinsettias will be available after the 8:00 p.m. Christmas worship service, or after 9:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, December 26.

## **Hope for the Holidays: A Project of Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services**

Help bring hope and cheer to families and children waiting in detention centers for their asylum cases to be processed. We want to give them assurance that they are not forgotten, especially at Christmas. And it's easy! All you need to do is come to the table in the patio and write a greeting on a card. We will gather the cards and send them to LIRS where they will be distributed to the detention centers. If you are participating from home, please just fill out a card at home and bring it in to add to our collection.  
(No envelope or last names, please.)

**The MC Christmas Greeting Card Board** is back! Send your Cheery Christmas wishes to all your fellow parishioners while saving time, paper and postage at the same time! Place one card in the basket in the church narthex and the Fellowship team will post it for you!

## **Advent – Prepare for the Coming of the Lord with Care**

Lutherans use the four weeks of Advent to prepare for and remember the real meaning of Christmas. The Care Team offers some simple acts of caring for these weeks:

- *This Week* – Send/give a Christmas card/thank you note to one or more person(s) who provide you a service.
- *Week of December 19* – Send/give a Christmas card/note to a neighbor that you have not exchanged cards with in the past.

## **Hospitality Sign-ups Now Online!**

Who doesn't enjoy a hot cup of coffee and a light snack after church on Sunday mornings? Sign-ups for hosting a Sunday morning Hospitality on the patio has gone online. The new link is: [https://bit.ly/MtCross\\_Hospitality](https://bit.ly/MtCross_Hospitality). Thank you for your service to the Mount Cross community!

## **2022 Generosity Campaign**



Thank you to everyone who has already submitted your pledge cards and time & talent surveys. Our church budget depends on the treasure you have committed to Mount Cross. In pledging, you are generously supporting our staff and various ministries. If you haven't had a chance to complete your pledge or survey, pledges and time & talent surveys are always accepted.

Thank you for your generosity!