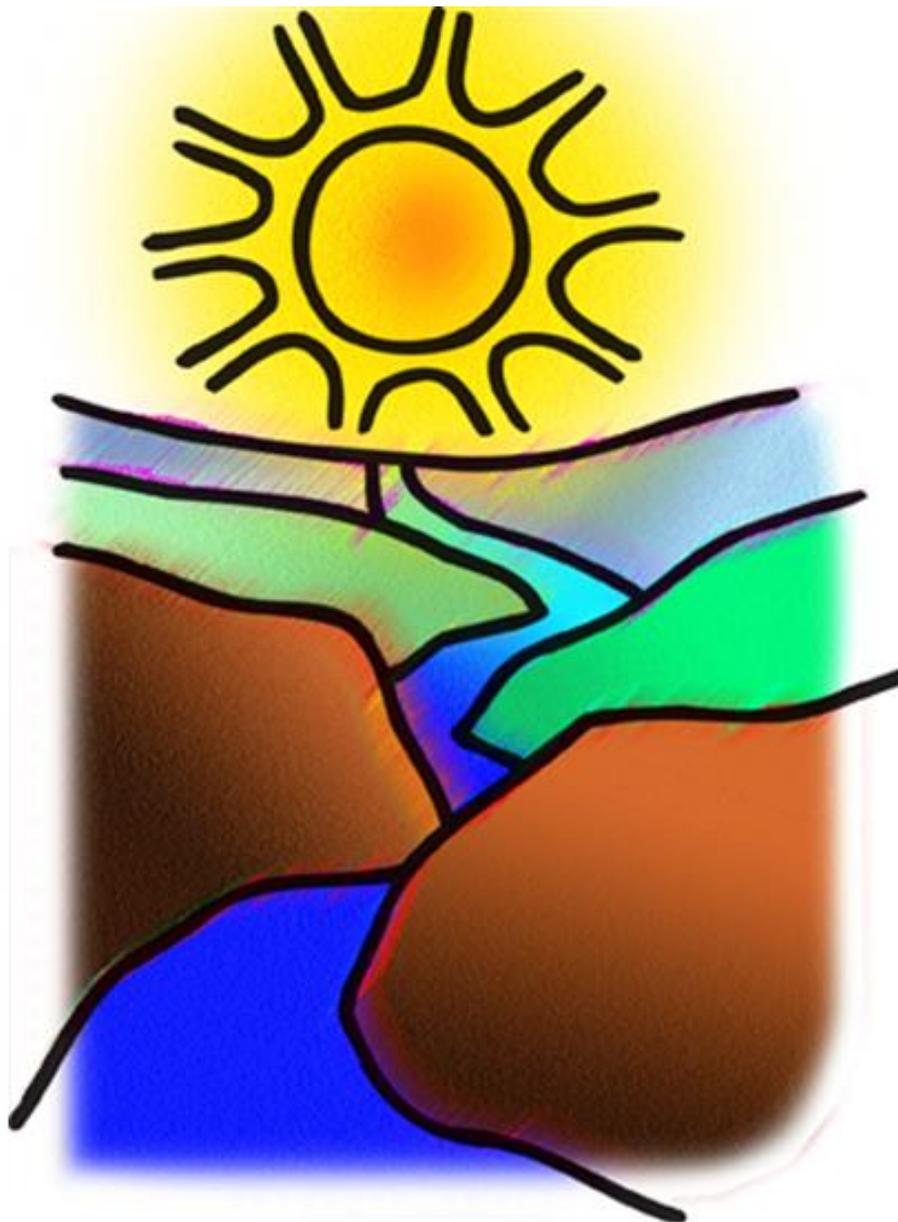


Mount Cross Lutheran Church

102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010

805.482.3847 www.mountcross.com



**3rd Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020, 9:30 a.m.**

PRELUDE - Carol Browning

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Vicar Amanda Berg

TEMPLE TALK ON ANTI-RACISM - Becky Riley

GATHERING SONG - "Christ, Be Our Light" - ELW 715 - Verses 1, 2 & 5



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.

P Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

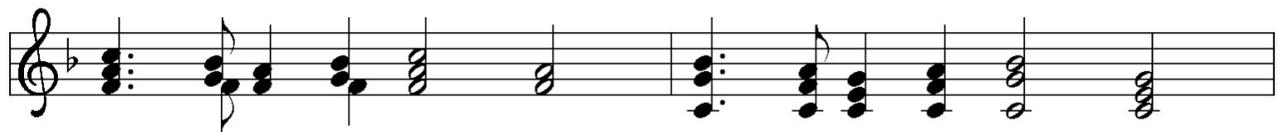
P Loving and forgiving God,

C **we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ.**

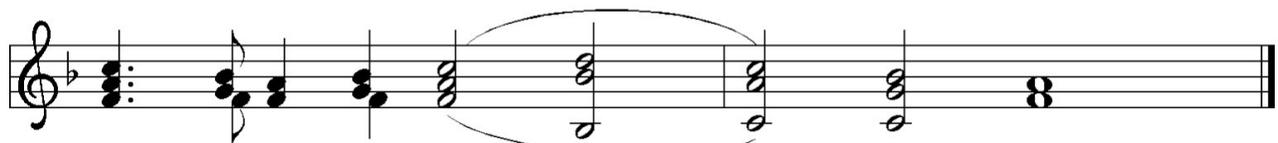
P People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

KYRIE - "Kyrie Eleison" - ELW 155 (sing in Greek)



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

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

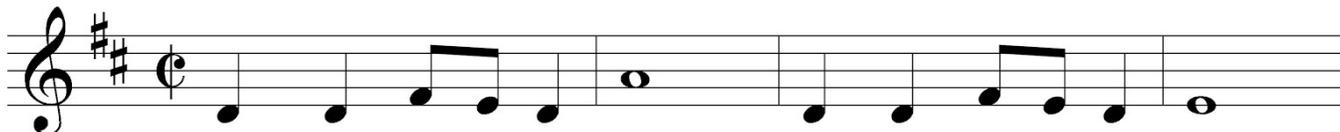
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH



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.



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!

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord

has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

L Word of God, word of life.
 C **Thanks be to God.**

SONG OF RESPONSE - "Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel" - LBW 34 - Verses 1 & 4



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's
 4 Oh, come, blest Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your
 5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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.

Copyright © 2000 by GIA Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

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

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

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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 - "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" - ELW 249 - Verses 1, 4, and 5



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, Our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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.**

The assembly may be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Guide our Southwest California Synod, especially during this time of an Interim Bishop, and inspire the leadership of the ELCA. Bless the congregations with which we are in full communion, especially St. Columba's Episcopal Church. Embed your word in all our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Protect all who are threatened by violent winds, wildfires, snowstorms, or other natural disasters. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness and justice, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who are seeking safety, for all who have fled danger in their homelands, and for those who are homeless. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A God of peace, send your healing grace to our world which is suffering because of the coronavirus. Bring comfort to all who are in distress - physically, emotionally, financially, spiritually - because of the pandemic. We especially lift up those on our prayer list (*names from bulletin list*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING SONG - "Homeward Bound" (Keen; arr. Althouse)

Dan Nelson and Stan Patscheck, soloists



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. 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. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

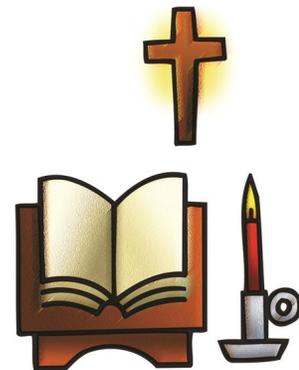
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
C **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

P Loving God, send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;
gather into one all who desire to share this bread and wine;
and fill us with your Holy Spirit.
All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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.



BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.
The assembly may be seated.

“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.

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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.”

The Assisting Minister invites those joining from home to say the following prayer:

Jesus, my savior and friend, thank you for your presence in the Sacrament of Holy Communion and your presence with us here and now. Trusting your words, “This is my body; this is my blood—given for you,” I welcome you into my heart. Let my life witness to your grace and peace. Strengthen all of us with faith, hope and love until we can meet at your table again. Amen.¹



¹ Adapted by Pastor Julie from prayers written by Bishop Guy Erwin and St. Alphonsus Liguori.



COMMUNION SONG - "God of the Poor (Beauty in Brokenness)" - Kendrick

Verse



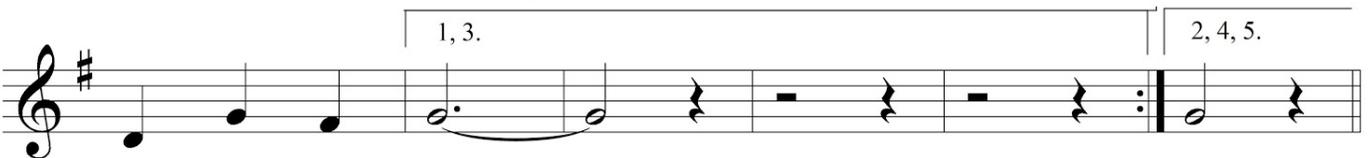
1. Beau - ty for bro - ken - ness, hope for des - pair, Lord, in Your
 2. Shel - ter for fra - gile lives, cures for their ills, work for the
 3. Re - fuge from cru - el wars, ha - vens from fear, cit - ies for
 4. Rest for the rav - aged earth, o - ceans and streams, plun - dered and
 5. Light - en our dark - ness, breathe on this flame, un - til Your



suff - 'ring world, this is our prayer. Bread for the chil - dren,
 crafts - men, trade for their skills. Land for the dis - pos - sessed,
 sanc - tu - 'ry, free - doms to share. Peace to the kill - ing fields,
 poi - soned, our fu - ture our dreams. Lord, end our mad - ness,
 jus - tice burns bright - ly a - gain; un - til the na - tions



jus - tice, joy, peace, sun - rise to sun - set Your
 rights for the weak, voic - es to plead the cause of
 scorched earth to green, Christ for the bit - ter - ness, His
 care - less - ness, greed. Make us con - tent with the
 learn of Your ways, seek Your sal - va - tion and



king - dom in - crease.
 those who can't
 cross for the pain.
 things that we
 bring You their

speak.
 need.
 praise.

Chorus

God of the poor, friend of the weak, give us com-pas - sion we pray,
 melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain. Come, change our love from a
 spark to a flame.

Words and music: Graham Kendrick. © 1993, Make Way Music.
 CCLI Song # 1236690. All rights reserved.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

P The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
 the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
 the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
 ✚ now and forever.

C **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE - Carol Browning

*The flowers at the altar are given
 by Jim and Susan Prosser in honor of Jeffrey's birthday
 and
 by Keith and Jan Mason for the blessing of their 66th wedding anniversary.*

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.

Join us for **Community Conversation Time on Zoom** following this service! Grab a cup of coffee or tea and some treats and visit with us. There is a **new Zoom link**: <http://bit.ly/CommunityConversationTime>.

Or to join by phone, call **1 669 900 6833**. You will be asked for the **meeting ID (889 0267 0619)** and **passcode (302996)**.

Come to the Table: Mount Cross is offering **Drive-Through Communion** today from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We ask that you please consider your vulnerabilities and risk factors before choosing to participate in drive-through Communion. Pick up a 2020 directory, if you haven't already. If you need to make corrections to the directory, please email office@mountcross.com or call 805-482-3847, from 1:00-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

PRAYER CONCERNS from MOUNT CROSS

We pray for an end to the coronavirus, for doctors, nurses, and caretakers, for researchers, all involved in the vaccine efforts, and for the families grieving the loss of each victim.

We celebrate Jeffrey and Marli Saner's 13th birthday today and give thanks for the faith and witness of the Saner family!

We pray also for Angelica (friend of the Marroquin family), **Elizabeth A, Robert and Robin A** (friends of Becky & Ken Riley), **Roger Allmandinger** (brother-in-law of Jim & Susan Prosser), **Sharon Benner** (sister of Karen Gramacki), **Cynthia Bishop** (friend of Bob and Judy Winters), **Mike Carpenter, Terry Cline** (relative of Jim & Karen Gramacki), **Rob Conant** (boyfriend of Mary Goodenough's daughter), **Stephanie Copenhaver** (friend of Kathleen Jones), **Howard Corey, the family of Barbara D'Addario, Travis and Jacquanna Davis, Sonja Demeter, Tom Demeter** (uncle of Allison Johnson), **Bob Edell, Steve Engh** (friend of Gayle & Cy Johnson), **the family of Edith Frederick, Ron Higginbotham, Charles Hilley, Michael Mann** (nephew of Keith Selbrede), **Sandra Manning** (friend of Judy Winters), **Norm Morgan, Karen Nelson, Lisa Saner, Patricia Springer** (mother of Joan Brundage), **the family of Madaline Statton, Mike Turek** (friend of the Henrys), **Dominic Valenzano** (friend of Herb and Jo Holler), **Bill Voigt** (father of Heather Edwards), **Lisa and Kurt Wyrick** (friend of Becky & Ken Riley).

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 or call 805.482.3847.

The Week at a Glance

TODAY, December 13, 2020

Youth Group, 6:00 p.m.
High School Youth gather with Joe Zimmerly **via Zoom**,
email joe@mountcross.com for info.

**Because of the most recent COVID-19 orders
from the state, all our programs will be
on Zoom this week.**

Monday, December 14, 2020

Monday Meditation, 3:00 p.m.
The Monday Meditation group meets at 3:00 p.m. To
join by computer or smart phone/tablet go to
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83666658855> or to call
on your phone, dial 1 (669) 900-6833. You will be asked
to enter the Meeting ID which is 836 6665 8855 and
then push pound (#).

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Women's Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.
The Women's Bible Study meets today,
at 9:00 a.m. **via Zoom** to finish an Advent Bible Study.
Contact Pastor Julie, pastorjulie@mountcross.com, or
Vicar Amanda, amanda@mountcross.com
for the Zoom information.

Upper Room Zoom, 12:00 noon
Upper Room Zoom meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
It's a nice 15-minute break in your day that includes
scripture, prayer, and relaxing video/audio.
Join us as often as you'd like.
Join: <http://bit.ly/MCUpperRoomZoom>
OR, you can call in on a phone. Dial 1 (408) 638 0968.
You will be asked for a Meeting ID. It is 847 4745 9576,
then push pound (#).

Church Council, 7:00 p.m.
The Church Council meets tonight via Zoom.

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Fun with Faith, 5:00 p.m.
Fun with Faith (Preschool through
5th grade) meets with the Children, Youth &
Family staff from 5:00-6:00 p.m., **via Zoom**. Any
questions, contact
Joe at joe@mountcross.com.

Adult Bible Study, 5:00 p.m.
On Wednesday evenings at 5:00 p.m., we gather
to study the Gospel for the upcoming week, via
Zoom: <http://bit.ly/MCWednesdayNights>
OR you can call in by phone, 1 (669) 900 6833.
Meeting ID: 827 1932 0163, Passcode: 615543.

Confirmation, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Students preparing for Confirmation meet
with Joe Zimmerly **via Zoom**. Email Joe
(joe@mountcross.com)
if you have any questions.

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Men's Bible Study, 7:30 a.m.
Men's Bible Study meets every other Thursday
from 7:30-9:00 a.m. via Zoom:
<http://bit.ly/MCMensBibleStudy>
OR you can call in by phone, 1 (408) 638 0968
Meeting ID: 891 5038 5706, Passcode: 521872.

Upper Room Zoom, 12:00 noon
Upper Room Zoom meets on Tuesdays and
Thursdays. It's a nice 15-minute break in your
day that includes scripture, prayer, and relaxing
video/audio. Join us as often as you'd like.
Join: <http://bit.ly/MCUpperRoomZoom>
OR, you can call in on a phone. Dial 1 (408) 638
0968. You will be asked for a Meeting ID.
It is 847 4745 9576, then push pound (#).

Announcements

Sunday Worship

The Re-Opening Committee has approved a
testing phase for outdoor worship. Email
office@mountcross.com or call 805-482-3847 if you
are interested in attending the service in person.

When arriving for Sunday morning worship,
participants should park in designated areas or on
the street; sign in and have their temperature taken;
wear a mask; practice social distancing; bring a chair
(some chairs available).

Thank you in advance for helping to
make this a safe worship experience!

Help with Sunday Worship and Communion

We are looking for help to make Sunday worship
and drive-through Communion possible. If you
would like to sign up 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.

If you'd like to serve as a lector, intercessor, or
musician on a Sunday, either by joining us on-site
for the live stream or by recording in advance,
please contact the office.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

To find out about our programs,
email Joe (joe@mountcross.com) for
other details or questions.

Help Needed for Christmas Eve Drive-through Communion

Our Christmas Eve service will be pre-recorded, to air at
5:00 p.m. on **December 24**. We will be offering
Drive-through Communion that afternoon from
3:00-4:30 p.m. We need volunteers to assist with
distributing communion and being an usher or greeter.

Please sign up to help:

<https://bit.ly/ChristmasEveCommunion>

Donate Poinsettias for Our Christmas Eve Video Worship Service

Poinsettias will help our Christmas Eve service look
festive on camera. To donate towards this, please
complete the online form **by December 15**:

<https://bit.ly/PoinsettiasforChristmasEve>

Each poinsettia is \$5. You can purchase through
Mount Cross' online donation website
<https://www.mountcross.com/online-giving.html>
(choose "designated" and type in "poinsettias") OR
mail a check to the church OR drop it in the offering
bucket during drive-through Communion. No matter
your method of payment, please write on your check
or note on the online donation website: "poinsettias."

Virtual Reading of the Christmas Story

Are you interested in participating in a virtual reading
of the Christmas Story through the Gospel of Luke?
We are asking for **children and youth volunteers** to
be readers and actors which can all be done from
your home. If you are interested, please sign up using
this link: <https://signup.com/go/snxqMcf>

Christmas Tag Fundraiser

It's the night before Christmas and as you are
wrapping your last few presents you wonder, "Where
are my gift tags?" This year, Mount Cross is selling
gift tags made by our children and youth - a pack of
25 gift tags for only \$5! We will be selling these tags
this weekend and next during Drive-through
Communion. See you there!

Hickory House Christmas Party

We won't have the traditional Christmas party for
the 36 residents of Hickory House this year, but
we still plan to give them Christmas cards and a
\$10 gift card to the 99¢ store! Mary Goodenough
will deliver cupcakes and cards for the residents.
Help us make this Christmas special for Hickory
House. Please bring or mail donations of \$10 or
more to the church before December 15 (write
"Hickory House" in the memo line). We also
accept cash donations.

Thank you so much!

Outdoor Christmas Tree Decorations

For our Christmas Drive-through Communion
and Christmas season, we want to decorate the
trees that you see when you first pull into the
parking lot. If you would like to **donate an
unbreakable ornament** - store-bought or
homemade - for our tree, please bring it to
Drive-through Communion this Sunday or next.

Gifts of Hope

This year our Gifts of Hope campaign will again
lift up **Friends of Fieldworkers**.

Friends of Fieldworkers is a non-profit charity
established to help improve the lives of the
families of fieldworkers in Ventura County. They
receive contributions of cash and in-kind gifts
(clothing, bedding, books, household items,
furniture, etc.), sponsor activities for children,
and provide assistance with such matters as
education and healthcare. To contribute,
check us out during Drive-thru Communion,
call the church office or Gordon Henry
(805-279-9250), or contribute online.

More Ways to Give

Thank you, Mount Cross congregation, for all the
generosity you have shown in these times of trial! We
want to make it as simple as possible for you.

If you'd like 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 the April Year-To-Date
statements to Financial Secretary Joan Brundage at
jbrundage@mountcross.com. Also, if you haven't
already, choose Mount Cross Lutheran Church as
your non-profit to support on smile.amazon.com so
0.5% of purchases will go to Mount Cross. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP

"Perhaps you are here for just such a time as this." Esther 4:14

2021 NUMBERED GIVING ENVELOPES READY FOR PICKUP

The Stewardship Team invites you to pick up your box of 2021 Numbered Giving Envelopes, **if you checked the box on your pledge form that you would like them:**

- **Sunday, December 13** – 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the church patio

If you did not mark on your pledge form that you would like envelopes **OR** you did not pledge but would like envelopes, you can leave a message for **JOAN BRUNDAGE**, Church Financial Secretary, with the office or at the Sunday Envelope Table. Joan can also be reached at jbrundage@mountcross.com. Envelopes will be made ready for you to pick up.

The Stewardship Team will deliver envelopes to your home if you are not able to pick them up at the church. We will contact persons whose envelopes remain at the church after December 13. We want you to have the convenience of the envelopes, particularly if leaving home is not currently possible or advisable for you.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENTS AND YOUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

We look forward to an opportunity to offer more specific thanks but there is no such thing as too many thanks. Those of you who have already made commitments of time, talents, and/or treasure for 2021, we thank you for joining with others as we face continued uncertainty. As a church, we have worked hard to adapt to fluid circumstances and meet unpredictable needs. Our goal is to have people and resources sufficient to be able to continue the path as God leads us.

For those whose contemplation of what they may have to offer in 2021 may not have concluded, we only ask that you give as you are able. Please also know that there are times that we are meant to receive and that your church family is here to give aid, comfort, and support. Without that, how are we the church? Each of us will have times when we give and times when we receive.

Blessings to all,
The Mount Cross Stewardship Team

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SEVERAL 2021 PLEDGES

Our Mount Cross Financial Secretary, Joan Brundage, informs us that there is a strong possibility that 2 or 3 financial pledges for 2021 that were made using the online pledge form were lost before they were processed on or before October 26th. **We ask that if you used the online pledge form this fall AND made your pledge early in the Stewardship Campaign (October 16 – 26), please contact Joan Brundage (jbrundage@mountcross.com) to confirm that she has your pledge in the system.**

If it turns out that your pledge was accidentally deleted when the system was first opened, we will ask your kind cooperation in completing a form once again. This can be done either online or with a paper form. We assure you that there will not be any double pledges if the original pledge is found in the system.

Joan Brundage, our Mount Cross Financial Secretary, can be contacted at jbrundage@mountcross.com or by leaving a phone message with the church office (805-482-3847). To assure confidentiality of financial pledges, the Financial Secretary is the only church official who has knowledge of pledged giving.