

# 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!***

**4th Sunday of Advent C  
December 19, 2021, 9:30 a.m.**

# PRELUDE - Guy Ervin III

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Pastor Julie Morris

### GATHERING SONG - "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Marchuk/VENI EMMANUEL)

As able, the assembly stands.

#### Verses



1. O come and be the hope in all our lives though cha - os and con -  
2. O come and bring your peace up - on the earth that ev - en now still  
3. O come to us like joy of heav-en's dawn, from Mar-y's womb a



fu - sion still sur - vive. We know the path of hate all too  
longs for its re - birth. We seek to live and fol - low your  
faith - ful par - a - gon, brought forth in - to this world by love's



well. We need you, God - with - us, Em - man - u - el!  
ways. Guide us to peace and jus - tice all our days.  
pow'r, your Spir - it through her lab - ors in that hour.

#### Refrain

Re - joice, re - joice! Em - man - - - u - el

shall come to us and all things shall be well.

Verse text: Adrian Marchuk, © 2021, adapt. Refrain text: Latin 9th cent., tr. by John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.  
Music: LM with refrain; Latin, 9th cent. (VENI EMMANUEL) Chant, Mode I.

## 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.**

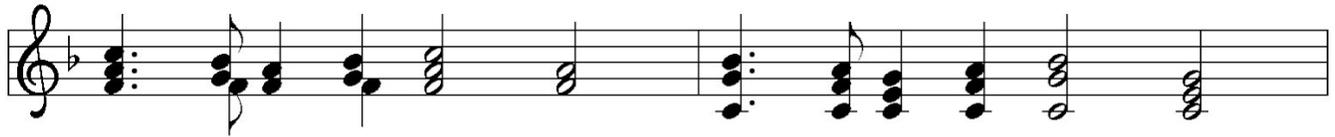
P God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
† your sins are forgiven.  
You are children of the Most High,  
inheritors of the eternal promise,  
and recipients of divine mercy.  
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

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 - lei - son.  
 Chris - te e - lei - son.  
 Lord, . . . have mer - cy.  
 Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*



**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH WITH CHILDREN - Pastor Julie**  
(sing all four verses while all four 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: Micah 5:2-5a**

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**



SONG OF RESPONSE - Luke 1:46b-55 - "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" -  
ELW 251

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

## SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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 1:39-55**

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

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

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

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

**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 - "Unexpected and Mysterious" (Lindholm/RAQUEL)



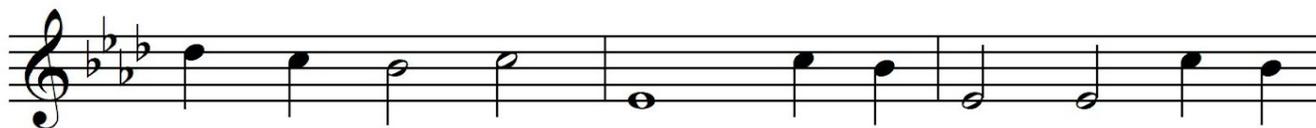
1. Un-ex - pect - ed and mys - te - rious is the  
2. In a mo - men - tar - y meet - ing of e -  
3. We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a -



gen - tle word of grace. Ev - er - lov - ing and sus - tain - ing is the  
ter - ni - ty and time, Mar - y learned that she would car - ry both the  
wait the com - ing Christ, to em - bod - y God's com - pas - sion for each



peace of God's em - brace. If we fal - ter in our cour - age and we  
mor - tal and di - vine. Then she learned of God's com - pas - sion, of E -  
frag - ile hu - man life. God is with us in our long - ing to bring



doubt what we have known, God is faith - ful to con -  
liz - a - beth's great joy, and she ran to greet the  
heal - ing to the earth, while we watch with joy and



sole us as a moth - er tends her own.  
wom - an who would rec - og - nize her boy.  
won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, © 2002, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Music: RAQUEL, Skinner Chávez-Melo. © 1985 Estate of Skinner Chávez-Melo.

*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.

A Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, to bring your word and message to all who seek your transforming grace. Show us how to share your gifts through tangible actions, not just encouraging words. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Bring comfort and aid to those who are affected by devastating tornadoes and storms, and inspire us to support Lutheran Disaster Response in sending assistance. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, bloggers, our Mount Cross Peace & Justice Ministry, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort anyone who is struggling with infertility and those who are grieving the loss of children who have died. Strengthen those who await test results, are in treatment or hospice care, and others in need in body, mind, or spirit, especially (*those on our prayer list below*).

#### **PRAYER CONCERNS from MOUNT CROSS**

**We pray for all victims of gun violence, and 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, Bonnie** (sister of Karen Cherry), **David Diehl** (son of Joe & Karen Diehl), **Steve Doshier** (brother-in-law of Paul Crockett), **Paul Edwards and Nancy Edwards** (friends of Denise Sobolik), **Natalie Faltin, Bill Greason, Charlene** (sister of Glenda Greason), **Betty Hahn** (aunt of Joan Brundage) **and her family, 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 Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness. Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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 - "In Silence We Wait" - ACS 998 - sing 3 times

In si - lence we wait, in dark - ness you  
come to us; bring us your light.

Text: Susan Masters, b. 1957

Music: IN SILENCE WE WAIT, Susan Masters

Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

## 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 - "God of the Poor (Beauty for Brokenness)" - Kendrick -  
CCLI Song # 1236690**

*Verse 1*

Beauty for brokenness  
Hope for despair  
Lord in Your suff'ring world  
This is our prayer  
Bread for the children  
Justice joy peace  
Sunrise to sunset  
Your kingdom increase

*Verse 2*

Shelter for fragile lives  
Cures for their ills  
Work for the craftsmen  
Trade for their skills  
Land for the dispossessed  
Rights for the weak  
Voices to plead the cause  
Of those who can't speak

*Chorus*

God of the poor  
Friend of the weak  
Give us compassion we pray  
Melt our cold hearts  
Let tears fall like rain  
Come change our love  
From a spark to a flame

*Verse 3*

Refuge from cruel wars  
Havens from fear  
Cities for sanctu'ry  
Freedoms to share  
Peace to the killing fields  
Scorched earth to green  
Christ for the bitterness  
His cross for the pain

*Verse 4*

Rest for the ravaged earth  
Oceans and streams  
Plundered and poisoned  
Our future our dreams  
Lord end our madness  
Carelessness greed  
Make us content with  
The things that we need

*Chorus*

*Verse 5*

Lighten our darkness  
Breathe on this flame  
Until Your justice  
Burns brightly again  
Until the nations  
Learn of Your ways  
Seek Your salvation  
And bring You their praise

*Chorus*



## “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” - ELW 265



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
“To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.  
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
“My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”  
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”  
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
“Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924  
Music: GABRIEL’S MESSAGE, Basque carol

### 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 - "Joy to the World" - ELW 267 - Verses 1, 2 & 4

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

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

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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE - Guy Ervin III

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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**

**The Child Development Center is closed from December 20 until January 3.**

**TODAY, December 19, 2021**  
Advent/Christmas Program  
4:00 p.m.

Our youth and various music groups and individuals will present a program of Advent & Christmas scriptures and music at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

**Monday, December 20, 2021**  
Monday Meditation, 3:00 p.m.

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

**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., for the final *Lectio Divina* on the 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 21, 2021**  
Church Council, 7:00 p.m.

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

**Wednesday, December 15, 2021**  
Bell Choir Rehearsal - Cancelled  
The bell choir is not rehearsing until January.

Choir Rehearsal/Carol Sing,  
6:45 p.m.

This week, anyone is welcome to come and sing through Christmas carols to prepare for our Christmastide worship and have fun, from 6:45-7:30 p.m.

**Friday, December 24, 2021**  
**Christmas Eve Worship,**  
**5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.**

Come to church for our in-person Christmas worship at 5:00 p.m. (available on livestream or recording) and 8:00 p.m.

**Next Sunday,**  
**December 26, 2021**

**Hymn Sing & Communion, 9:30 a.m.**  
The first part of our 9:30 a.m. worship next week will be singing favorite carols and seeing how they relate to and tell the Christmas story, followed by Communion.

**Monday, December 27, 2021**  
The office will be closed next Monday, December 27, for the Christmas holiday.

**(Our regular Bible studies and CYFM programs are on break until January.)**

# 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

Our programs are on a break for Christmas for the next two weeks. Check the newsletter or email Joe ([joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com)) for any 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.*

For those of you who read last week's article about seeing beyond a white baby Jesus, here is a follow-up article about St. Louis-based artist Kelly Latimore's icon, "Mama," a painting that depicts the Black Virgin Mary cradling Jesus' dead body in a style known as a pietà, that was referenced in last week's anti-racism work. [The Story Behind a Stolen Black Icon | Sojourners](#)

## Vaccine Sign-up Site

COVID-19 vaccines are available by appointment at [MyTurn.CA.gov](https://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](https://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.

## 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/note to a neighbor that you have not exchanged cards with in the past.

## **Lutheran Disaster Response - U.S. Tornadoes**

On the night of Dec. 10 and early morning of Dec. 11, an outbreak of at least 30 tornadoes swept through six states. So far, 94 people are reported dead across five states, more than 80 of those in Kentucky. For those unaccounted for, search-and-rescue operations are underway. Homes and businesses were destroyed, and over 300,000 people were without electricity.

Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and other partners in the area to assess the damage and develop an immediate and a long-term response plan. Your gifts to support these response efforts will empower our partners to meet survivors' immediate and long-term needs. Given the extent of the damage, recovery will take years as thousands of homes will need to be rebuilt or repaired. With your support, Lutheran Disaster Response can accompany survivors on the long road to recovery.

Your gifts to "U.S. Tornadoes" will be used in full (100%) to help people impacted by the tornadoes until the response is complete. [Please give to Lutheran Disaster Response.](#)

## **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!

## **Gifts of Hope**

The **Mount Cross Alternative Christmas Program** is back. This is a way to give a gift to someone this holiday season while supporting a good organization and their work. You get a lovely card and explanation of the donation to give your friend. And this year, our focus is on Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and their work with Afghan allies.

Afghan refugees and allies need our help. For two decades, the U.S. Government worked with hundreds of thousands of Afghan allies to serve the U.S. mission as interpreters, translators, cultural advisors, drivers, NGO employees, human rights activists, and more. Because of their service to the U.S. mission, our allies and their families soon became the targets of anti-American violence.

There are four options for giving. Match them to the people you usually shop for - and be creative! **Look for the table on the patio on Sundays or stop by the office on weekday afternoons.** Thanks for spreading love and HOPE to Afghan Allies and Refugees across the US.

**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!

### **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!