

# Mount Cross Lutheran Church

102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010

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

Masks are now optional at Mount Cross.

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.

Please introduce yourself to someone you do not know.

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

**Christmas Day**  
**December 25, 2022, 9:30 a.m.**

## PRELUDE - Guy Ervin III

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Pastor Julie Morris

## GATHERING SONG - "O Come, All Ye Faithful" - ELW 283 - Verses 1, 3 & 4

As able, the assembly stands.

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*  
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy and undivided Trinity, † one God.

C **Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## GREETING

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.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE - "Angels We Have Heard on High" - ELW 289

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10**

*Isaiah proclaims news of great joy: "Your God reigns!" Just as God saved the people from oppression in Egypt, God delivers Israel from exile. All the earth will witness the saving acts of God.*

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**



# PSALM 98 - "Joy to the World" - ELW 267

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,

## SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4

This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

As able, the assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - "Christmastime Gospel Acclamation"

(Chepponis/ADESTE FIDELES)



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

Music: Based on ADESTE FIDELIS, James J. Chepponis.

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## **GOSPEL: John 1:1-14**

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be “full of grace and truth.”

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

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

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

**MESSAGE - Pastor Julie Morris**



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

## SONG OF THE DAY - "Love Has Come" - ELW 292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

## NICENE CREED

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

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald your coming, O God. We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise, and for pastors, deacons, lectors, ushers, greeters, communion assistants, acolytes, and all who lead the church's worship. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

This day dawns with new hope for all living things, and from ocean depths to mountain peaks the earth rejoices. Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet and renew its resources. Bring relief to areas suffering from storms and other natural disasters. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Bring heavenly peace to this world and an end to armed conflict, especially in the Holy Land, Ukraine, Russia, Iran, and Afghanistan. Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish equal justice for all people. Give courage to all who speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day. Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel. Sustain charities, outreach ministries, and food pantries that give generously to people in need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Guard the lives of any in danger, especially those who work to protect others. Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, and safety. Grant rest to the weary and soothe those who are troubled. Bring healing to those who suffer, especially everyone on our prayer list ...

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

**We pray for Tom Andino** (friend of Carol Browning), **Mary Aschenbeck** (friend of Mary & Ric Kienitz), **Mark Caceres** (brother of Becky Gilbertson), **Mike Caceres** (nephew of Becky Gilbertson), **Crista** (niece of Karen Cherry), **Kate Fisher, Marc Grasmugg** (son of Marion Cole), **Johnathan Hammersley** (great-nephew of Marni Engh), **Jackie Hatcher, Diana and Skip Hess** (friends of Judy & Bob Winters), **Jo Holler, Nancy Jaeger, Mike McClary, Karen Nelson, Lynn Nelson, Heather Rogers** (granddaughter of Nancy and Jim Jaeger), **Julianna McKillop** (grandmother of Rachel Zook Briner), **Jeff Miller** (friend of Becky & Ken Riley), **Ansehl and Cathy Pike** (family of Marni Engh), **Dana Ripley** (father of Elliott Ripley), **Julia Rowley** (granddaughter of Nancy & Bill Rowley), **Neil Rubin** (son of Brian & Janet Rubin), **Norb and Marilyn Rud, Sally Salado** (friend of Herb & Jo Holler), **Lisa Saner, Dianne Selbrede, Cassie Sorenson** (friend of Evonne Kuchera), **Marie Swartz** (sister of Jo Holler), **and for all survivors of violence.**

*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.*

A God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God who listens, we now offer you our own prayers, either silently or aloud (*pause*) ... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

C **Amen.**

### **PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**



## OFFERING PRAYER

- A Gracious God,  
your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.  
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,  
prepare us to receive the grace and truth  
you offer at this table  
and renew in us the song of your salvation,  
in Jesus Christ our Savior.
- 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.  
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have opened the eyes of faith  
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,  
that, beholding the God made visible,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

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. 800.442.3358.  
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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 We pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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/INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P This is the table of the Lord.  
It is made ready for those who love God  
and those who want to love God more.  
So come, you who have much faith  
and you who have little;  
You who have been here often  
and you who have not been here long;  
You who have tried to follow Jesus  
and you who have failed.  
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you  
and has promised to meet you here.



*The assembly may be seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD - "Lamb of God" (Kraft/IRBY)



Lamb of God, the world's Re - deem-er, mer - cy to your peo - ple give.



Lamb of God, the world's Re - deem-er, may we in your mer - cy — live.



Lamb of God, we all im - plore, grant us peace for ev - er - more.

Text: Linda J. Kraft, Pastor, Holy Trinity ELCA, Trumbull, CT.

Music: IRBY (8 7 8 7 77).

**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 (in the center ring). 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 - "Wood of the Cradle" (O'Brien)

## Verses



1. Wood of the cra - dle, wood of the cross,  
2. Shep - herds lie sleep - ing, deep in their dreams;  
3. Star in the heav - ens bear - ing new light,  
4. Come, all who hun - ger, come, all who thirst;



Bear - ing a life - time of joy and of loss,  
An - gels a - wak - en them. "What could this mean?  
Guid - ing the sag - es and a - ges this night:  
Come, all who seek him, God's joy on the earth.



Who is your loved one? Who could he be,  
Whom do you her - ald? Whom must we find? A  
Where will you lead us? Where can he be, The  
Find him a shel - ter, bright, safe, and warm;



Born in a man - ger to die on a tree?  
child in a man - ger? Our God born in time?"  
child born of mys - t'ry who died on a tree?  
See in all peo - ple his love be - ing born.

## Refrain



This, this is Je - sus the Lord, Here in the bod - y and



blood out-poured. Come, come, walk in his ways. Kneel at the



man - ger and rise from the grave.

## “Angels from the Realms of Glory” - ELW 275

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

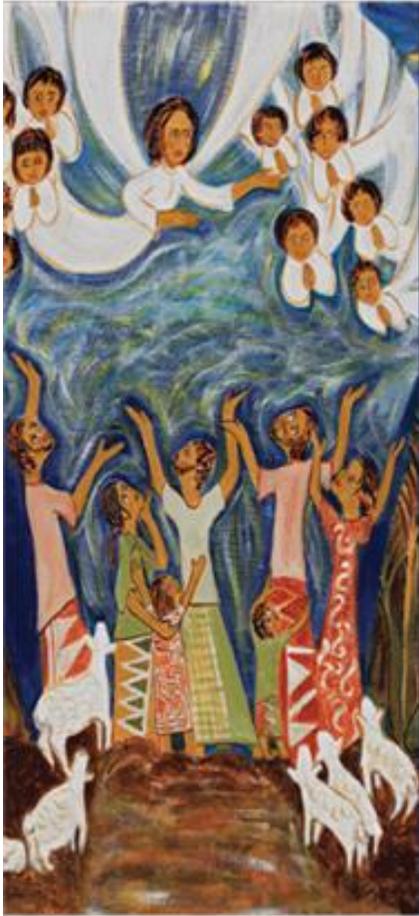
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the remaining lines of the hymn, including a refrain. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A God our redeemer,  
you have fed us at this table  
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.  
As you have gathered us in joy,  
send us forth as messengers of your peace.  
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,  
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C **Amen.**



*Glory to God  
in the highest!*

LUKE 2:14

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

### **CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

P     May Christ,  
      who by his Incarnation  
      gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,  
      fill you with his joy and peace;  
      and the blessing of God Almighty,  
      the Father, +  
      the Son,  
      and the Holy Spirit,  
      be among you,  
      and remain with you always.

C     **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG - "The First Noel" - ELW 300 - Verses 1 & 2

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

*Refrain*

night that was so deep.  
tin-ued both day and night.  
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
place where Je - sus lay.  
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

## DISMISSAL

- A Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
- C **Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE - Guy Ervin III

*Thank you to our worship leaders and assistants, technology team, and musicians!  
Have a blessed and Merry Christmas!*



## Poinsettia Dedications

Joan Brundage

In memory of my father, Robert Springer, and in honor of my mother,  
Patricia Springer

In memory of Bob Brundage

Barbara Burke

For the glory of God

For the Church and its many leaders

For family and friends

In memory of loved ones

Paul DeBusschere and Julie Morris

In Thanksgiving to God for our parents

In Thanksgiving to God for our daughters

Betty Ertel

To the glory of God

Nora and Scott Fajnor

In memory of parents Charles and Lenora Wall

In memory of parents V.J. and Arlene Fajnor

In honor of Whitney and Ben Winokur

In honor of Jackson and Brittany Fajnor

In honor of grandchildren Eli and Willow

In honor of family and friends whose love and support got us through  
difficult times

Dave and Becky Gilbertson

In memory of loved ones in the Gilbertson and Caceres families

Mary Goodenough

In honor of my family

Cy and Gayle Johnson

In honor and celebration of our children, Peter, Erik, Matt, and Summer.

Cy and Gayle Johnson and Family

In loving memory of our parents and grandparents

In loving memory of our nephew and cousin Hans Petersen

In loving memory of many dear friends we truly miss who are now with  
the Lord

Kathleen Jones and family

In memory of Mark Brickley and James Jones

Evonne Kuchera

To the glory of God

Kate Lacalamita

Merry Christmas

Tricha Lewis

In memory of George Lewis

In memory of Diane Pappas

In memory of Kosta Depterios

In memory of Craig St. Louis

Carina McVeigh

In memory of Patricia Cervenka

In memory of Justin Meek

In memory of Marion Cole

In memory of Wade Young

Julie Merrick

In honor of everyone at Mount Cross!

Pastor Julie Morris

In Thanksgiving to God for the Mount Cross Church Staff

In Thanksgiving to God for the Mount Cross Church Council

Dan and Karen Nelson

Dedicated to the Love and Care of our Mount Cross Family

Nan Philip

In memory of my parents, Harold and Jannette Andresen

In memory of Jack Philip

The Rowley and Ovick families

In memory of our parents and grandparents

Barbara Sletten

In honor of my 16 grandchildren

In honor of my 11 great-grandchildren

Rosanne and Scott Stevens

In honor of our grandchildren Avery and Jackson

Joanna Wullschleger

In memory of Howard, Kris, and Andy. Rest in peace.

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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>.

## **The Week at a Glance**

### **TODAY, December 25**

Christmas Day Worship, 9:30 a.m.  
All are welcome for our 9:30 a.m. Christmas Day  
worship!

### **Monday, December 26**

**Christmas Monday/Church Office**  
**Closed**

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

### **Tuesday, December 27**

Fellowship Committee, 7:00 p.m.  
The Fellowship Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. in the  
Parish Life Center

### **Wednesday, December 28**

NO Programs or Rehearsals  
this week.

### **Saturday, December 31**

#### **New Year's Eve**

Al-Anon, 10:00 a.m.  
Al-Anon meets at 10:00 a.m.  
in the Parish Life Center.

**The Child Development Center**  
**is closed until January 4.**

For more information on our regular programs, please visit our  
website: <https://www.mountcross.com/>

Pastor Julie, Deacon Cecelia, and Joe Zimmerly will be away December  
26 until January 3. For pastoral needs, please call the church office.  
If it is after office hours, there will be information on Pastor Julie's  
voicemail on how to reach on-call pastoral resources.

### **End-of-Year Gifts**

If you are able to do so, please help Mount Cross finish the year in good financial shape by  
making an end-of-year gift. Gifts can be made through our [website](#) by clicking the green tab  
that says "Give" or by mailing your gift to the church office. Thank you!

### **Masking Guidelines at Mount Cross**

Masks are **optional** in all indoor and outdoor settings at Mount Cross. We encourage all members to take  
precautions to protect themselves and others from illness. We continue to offer seating outside for Sunday  
worship. Our masking guidelines will change again if the COVID case rate rises and Ventura County reinstates  
a mask mandate. Thank you for your cooperation and care.

# Announcements

## Sunday Worship

We always need worship assistants, especially for technology. We will train you. Contact Vicky Edell at [vickyedell5@gmail.com](mailto:vickyedell5@gmail.com) or sign-up online at <https://signup.com/Group/7769976983269200115/>.

Thank you for serving at Mount Cross!

## Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

For information on our weekly programs, email Joe ([joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com)).

## 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.*

### Towards a Framework for Repair – On Being Podcast

Through the ruptures of the past few years and more, we've been given so much to learn, and callings to live differently. But how to do that, and where to begin?

Resmaa Menakem's book, *My Grandmother's Hands*, and his original insights into racialized trauma in all kinds of bodies, have offered new ways forward for us all. He joins Robin DiAngelo in an *On Being* podcast discussion called "Towards a Framework for Repair" This conversation is not comfortable, but it is electric and it opens possibility.

Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/Frameworkforrepair>.

## Altar Flowers

To request flowers for our worship: <https://bit.ly/AltarFlowers2022>. The cost is \$40.00; 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.

## 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** at the moment. **Please do not donate food that is expired.** Thanks for your support.

## Family Faith Formation Committee 2023 Planning Session

Join the Family Faith Formation Committee on **January 8, 2023, at 11:30 a.m.** as they set goals and create the vision for the year. This is a great opportunity to get involved with our Children & Youth Programs. Lunch will be provided! If you are interested in attending, please contact Joe ([joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com)).

## Gifts of Hope

Visit the table on the patio during December to pick up your "gift cards" and complete your Christmas shopping with ease! We will have four different amounts for the alternative gifts this year, but each donation will support rental assistance through Harbor House. For your donation, you get a Christmas card and note to gift to a friend or loved one instead of buying them an item that they might not really need. As our old friend Binney Nast used to say - "On Jesus' birthday, you get a gift Jesus would love." Keeping local families in their

## Annual Reports Requested

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2023. Annual reports from ministry chairs and coordinators are requested via email ([office@mountcross.com](mailto:office@mountcross.com)) by January 18.

## **Noisy Offering - Laundry Love**

We're doing a quick and easy collection extended through the month of December - quarters to support Laundry Love, a program that helps offset the cost of a laundromat. Once a week, Harbor House hosts a laundromat in Thousand Oaks and pays for the washing and drying of homeless neighbors' clothes and possessions. Add some quarters to the tube on the "washing machine" in the narthex, and let the homeless in Ventura County receive some Laundry Love.

## **Harbor House Glove Drive from Family Faith Formation**

Help warm the hands (and hearts) of our neighbors at Harbor House this winter!

As winter has arrived, the Harbor House community is in need of adult-sized gloves. Children's gloves are welcome too. Gently-used or new gloves are appreciated. We will have an ongoing collection throughout winter - you can find the collection box in the narthex.

## **Advent/Christmas Events and Activities**

- ❖ Next Sunday, January 1, 9:30 a.m. - Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion
  - ❖ Friday, January 6, 7:00 p.m. - Epiphany Star Service followed by a Dessert Potluck

## **Save the Dates in 2023**

Mount Cross will host Vitalant blood drives on Sunday, January 22, and Sunday, August 6. Sign-up information to follow.

## **Mount Cross Generosity Campaign**



Please contact Financial Secretary Joan Brundage at [jbrundage@mountcross.com](mailto:jbrundage@mountcross.com) with any questions or comments about the November YTD Contribution Statements you recently received. If you have not yet submitted your 2023 Estimated Giving/Pledge cards, please do so at your earliest convenience. Thanks to all of you who have already submitted them!

Mount Cross Lutheran Church  
@MountCross-LutheranChurch



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