

Mount Cross Lutheran Church

102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010

805.482.3847 www.mountcross.com

LUTHERAN RETREATS, CAMPS & CONFERENCES

El Camino Pines

Luther Glen Farm



FAITH



RENEWAL



COMMUNITY

**2nd Sunday of Advent
LRCC Camp Sunday
December 6, 2020, 9:30 a.m.**

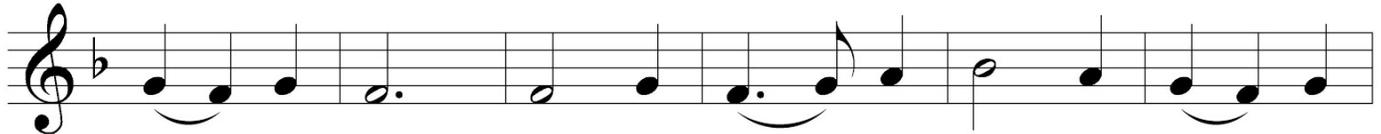
PRELUDE - Carol Browning

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Vicar Amanda Berg & Nicolas Egertson

GATHERING SONG - "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"



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



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



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



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



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

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

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.

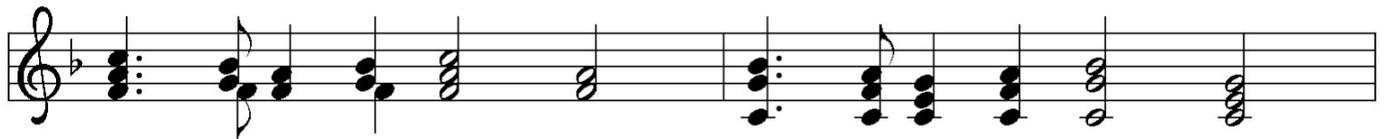
P Loving and forgiving God,

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.**

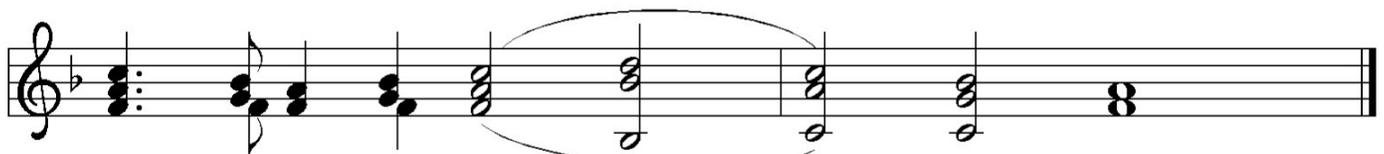
P People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

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.

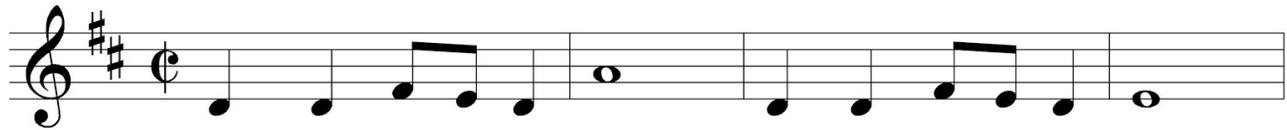
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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.



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

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11 (Video reading by Mira Stouch)

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

SONG OF RESPONSE - "Come Light Our Hearts" (McCracken)

Chorus

For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait.

For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait.

Tru - ly our hope is in You. Tru - ly our hope is in You. —

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the chorus. The first staff is labeled 'Chorus' and has the lyrics 'For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait.' The second staff has the same lyrics. The third staff has the lyrics 'Tru - ly our hope is in You. Tru - ly our hope is in You. —'. The music is in 6/8 time and the key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#).

Words and Music: Sandra McCracken, ASCAP. © 2014, Drink Your Tea, admin. by Music Services.
Used with permission. All rights reserved.

Verse 1 (sung twice)

O Lord of life, our only hope,
Your radiance shines on all who look
to you in the dark. Emmanuel, come,
come light our hearts.

Chorus

Verse 2 (sung twice)

O Joy above all other loves,
in You we find more than enough.
We come as we are, O heal and restore,
Come light our hearts.

Chorus

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a (Video reading by Daphne Lewis)

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

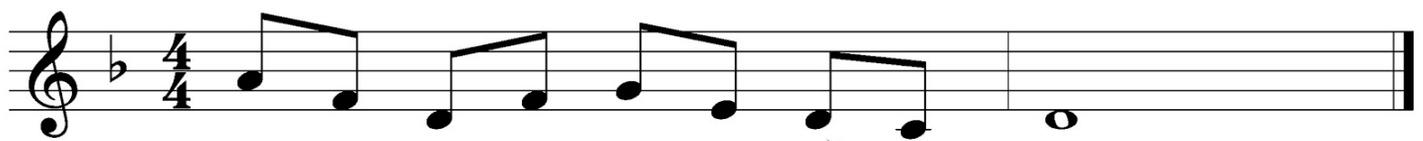
As able, the assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

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: Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

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

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

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The assembly is seated.



SERMON - "Waiting in Hope" - Nicolas Egertson, LRCC Program Director

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

SONG OF THE DAY - "He Came Down" - ELW 253

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in G major (one sharp) and 7/8 time. It consists of two systems. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, and C5, then a quarter rest, eighth notes B4, A4, G4, and F4, and finally a quarter rest. The bass staff begins with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes G3, A3, B3, and C4, then a quarter rest, eighth notes B3, A3, G3, and F3, and finally a quarter rest. Both staves feature two triplet markings over the eighth notes. The second system continues the melody in the treble staff and accompaniment in the bass staff, ending with a final chord in the treble staff and a quarter rest in the bass staff.

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

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

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

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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.

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. May our Spirits pause during the next few weeks so we might gather at the manger refreshed, smiling, and full of joy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we are not worthy of your gifts; we no longer stop to stare at the stars or watch a bird in flight. We worry about what is missing from our lives and overlook the abundance of what we have. Give us hearts overflowing with gratefulness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. We thank you for the variety of faith, the plentiful fruits of the Spirit, and the abundance of choice, flavor, and style. Give us wisdom to listen, search, and use conflicting ideas as tools to challenge the clarity of our own faith. Come to us now, Lord, in the diversity of our needs. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, be with those who are having to do their jobs differently in this season. Be especially with those who support our camp programs at Luther Glen and El Camino Pines. Bless their efforts as they reach out to our churches through media. Challenge them to embrace the changes with enthusiasm and hope for the future. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace, especially those on our prayer list (*names from bulletin list*). 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 - Camp Song

Nicolas Egertson, LRCC Program Director

Anthony Eder, LRCC Director of Outreach



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.
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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:

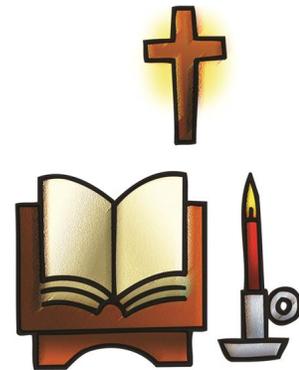
C **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

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.

FRACTION RITE - "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



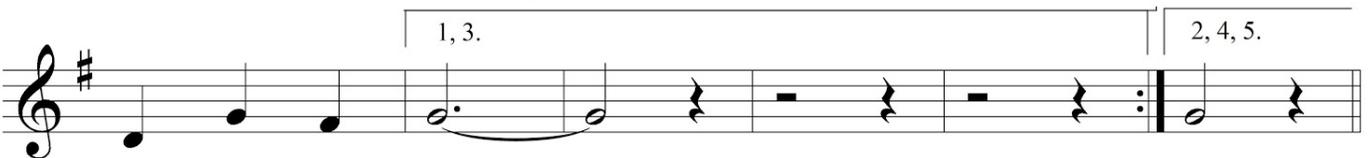
1. Beau - ty for bro - ken - ness, hope for des - pair, Lord, in Your
 2. Shel - ter for fra - gile lives, cures for their ills, work for the
 3. Re - fuge from cru - el wars, ha - vens from fear, cit - ies for
 4. Rest for the rav - aged earth, o - ceans and streams, plun - dered and
 5. Light - en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

- A** 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.**

RECOGNITION OF OUR MOORPARK COLLEGE SOUND INTERNS

Bradley Buckingham, Gabe Hoffman, Justin Thai

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 Kathleen Stevens
 in memory of Leon Stevens and in memory of Ervin & Hannah Rinne.*

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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 searching for a vaccine, and for the families grieving the loss of each victim.

We pray also for Angelica (friend of the Marroquin family), **Elizabeth A, Roger Allmandinger** (brother-in-law of Jim & Susan Prosser), **Sharon Benner** (sister of Karen Gramacki), **Mike Carpenter, Terry Cline** (relative of Jim & Karen Gramacki), **Rob Conant** (boyfriend of Mary Goodenough's daughter), **Howard Corey, Barbara D'Addario, Sonja Demeter, Tom Demeter** (uncle of Allison Johnson), **Bob Edell, Steve Engh** (friend of Gayle & Cy Johnson), **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), **Mike Turek** (friend of the Henrys), **Dominic Valenzano** (father of Herb and Jo Holler), **Bill Voigt** (father of Heather Edwards).

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 6, 2020

Camp Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Worship

We welcome Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences (LRCC) staff today! You can support them financially after worship.

Fair Trade Sale, after Worship

After worship, purchase Fair Trade foods and Alternative Christmas Gifts during Drive-through Communion.

Youth Group, 6:00 p.m.

High School Youth gather with Joe Zimmerly, email joe@mountcross.com for info.

Monday, December 7, 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 (#).

Learning Committee, 7:00 p.m.

The Learning Committee meets the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom and extends an invitation to anyone in the congregation with a desire to serve the youth and our ministries to join us. Contact Tracy Blois, Learning Committee Chair, (619) 277-2059 or tracy.allyson@gmail.com, or Joe Zimmerly, (805) 482-3847 or joe@mountcross.com.

Pastor Julie will be away for a Continuing Education Advent Retreat on December 8-10 but Vicar Amanda (amanda@mountcross.com) is available if there are pastoral needs.

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

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

The Women's Bible Study meets today, at 9:00 a.m. at **Valle Lindo Park**, 889 Aileen St, Camarillo, CA 93010, weather permitting, for an Advent mini-retreat. Please wear a mask and bring a chair.

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 (#).

Wednesday, December 9, 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., outside in the pavilion. 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 on-site. Email Joe (joe@mountcross.com) if you have any questions.

Thursday, December 10, 2020

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 (#).

Anti-Racism Check-In, 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Julie and Jacquanna Davis host a monthly "Anti-Racism Check-In" on Zoom to discuss ways to address the racism we encounter in our own hearts and community. The Zoom link is <http://bit.ly/MCAntiRacism>. The meeting ID is 871 0569 3251 and the passcode is 141223. See you there!

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 you can 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 the first three weekends of December 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!

Learning Committee

Looking for ways to serve? The Mount Cross Lutheran Church Learning Committee develops, plans and supports the youth of our congregation through learning, community service, activities and events to help them grow in their Christian faith. The Mount Cross Learning committee meets once a month on the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom and extends an invitation to anyone in the congregation with a desire to serve the youth and our ministries to join us. Contact Tracy Blois, Learning Committee Chair by phone: 619-277-2059 or email: tracy.allyson@gmail.com or Joe Zimmerly, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries by phone: (805) 482-3847 or email: joe@mountcross.com.

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 has arranged the following opportunities for 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 6** – 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the church patio
- **Monday – Friday, December 7-11**, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the church office
- **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