

Mount Cross Lutheran Church

102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010

805.482.3847 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!

Name of Jesus

Lessons & Carols

January 1, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

As we gather, we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem's manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

PRELUDE - Guy Ervin III

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - The Rev. Kate Lewis

GATHERING SONG - "Love Has Come" - ELW 292 - Verses 1 and 3

As able, the assembly stands.



- 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.

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 Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

(Silence for reflection)

God of love, Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

C **Forgive our lack of faith and trust.**

P Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

C **Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

P The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

C **Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

P With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear." In † Jesus, who is Savior and Christ, your sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy!

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Creator God, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT - Jessica Easter

CHILDREN'S SONG - "Spirit Song" (Wimber) - Refrain Only

Refrain

Je - sus, O Je - sus,
come and fill Your lambs. _____
Je - sus, O Je - sus,
come and fill Your lambs.

Words and music: John Wimber. © 1979, Mercy Publishing.
Admin. by Maranatha! Music. All rights reserved.

LESSON 1 - Isaiah 9:2-7 – God promises a king (read by Lyndsay Montour)

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

CAROL - "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" - ELW 272 - Verses 1 & 2

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

LESSON 2 - Micah 5:2-5a - The king will come from Bethlehem (read by Herb Holler)

²But 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. ³Therefore 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.

⁴And 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; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

CAROL - "I Wonder as I Wander" - WOV 642 - Verses 1-3



1. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how
2. When Mar - y birthed Je - sus, all in a cow's stall, came
3. If Je - sus had want - ed for an - y wee thing, a



Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for
wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all, and
star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or



poor ord' - n'ry peo - ple like you and like I. I
high from the heav - ens a star's light did fall; the
all of God's an - gels in heav'n for to sing, he



won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.
prom - ise of the a - ges it then did re - call.
sure - ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.

Text and tune: Appalachian carol/folk tune (I WONDER, 12 11 11 12),
collected and adapted by John Jacob Niles, © 1934 (renewed) by G. Schirmer, Inc.

LESSON 3 - Luke 1:26-38 – *The annunciation to Mary* (read by Rev. Kate Lewis)

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.



CAROL - "Unexpected and Mysterious" (Lindholm/RAQUEL) - Verses 1 & 2



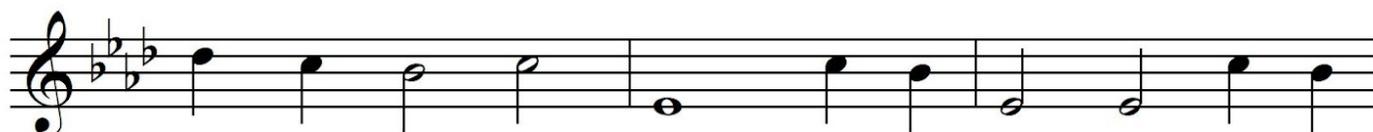
1. Un-ex - spect - ed and mys - te - rious is the
2. In a mo - men-tar - y meet - ing of e -
3. We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a -



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



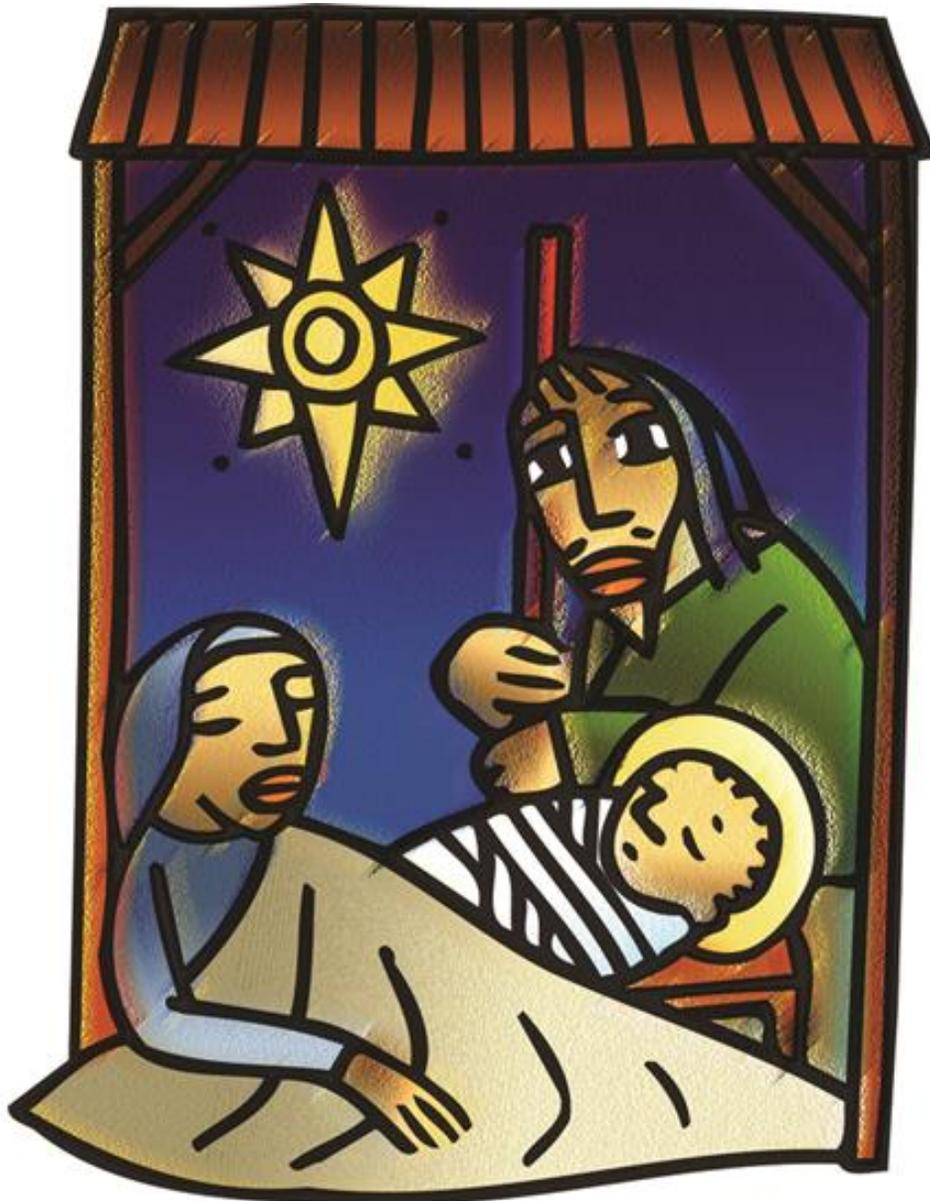
sole us as a moth - er tends her own.
wom - an who would rec - og - nize her boy.
won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, © 2002, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Music: RAQUEL, Skinner Chávez-Melo. © 1985 Estate of Skinner Chávez-Melo.

LESSON 4 - Luke 2:1-7 - The birth of Jesus (read by Lyndsay Montour)

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



CAROL - "Holy Child within the Manger" - WOV 638 - Verses 1 & 2

The image shows a musical score for a carol. It consists of six staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has three lines of lyrics. The second staff has three lines. The third staff has three lines. The fourth staff has three lines. The fifth staff has three lines. The sixth staff has three lines. The music is written in a simple, melodic style.

1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -
2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your
3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us

go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry
love for us was shown, when the im - age of your
ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry

stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.
glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.
stran - ger how you come to us to - day.

As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and
In our lives and in our liv - ing give us

out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -
strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -

spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.
giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text and music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

LESSON 5 - Luke 2:8-16 – The shepherds go to see the Savior (read by Herb Holler)

²In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

CAROL - “Silent Night, Holy Night” - ELW 281 - Verses 1 & 2

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

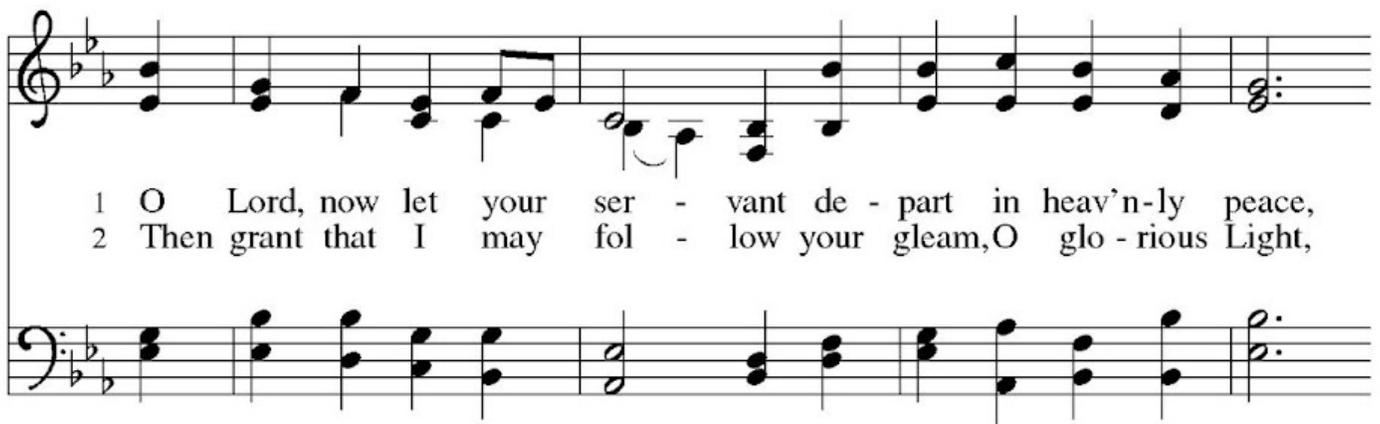
LESSON 6 - Luke 2:22, 25-36 – Jesus receives his name (read by Rev. Kate Lewis)

²²After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage.

CAROL - “O Lord, Now Let Your Servant” - ELW 313



The image shows a musical score for a carol. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,

for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;

a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
till rap - tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin - ing shore,

the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886–1981, alt.
 Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version
 Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

LESSON 7 - Matthew 2:1-11 – *The magi follow the star* (read by Lyndsay Montour)

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL - “The First Noel” - ELW 300 - Verses 3-5

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.

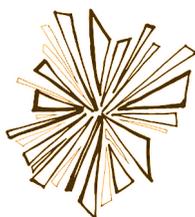
Text: English traditional
Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

LESSON 8 - John 1:6-14, 16 – *The mystery of the incarnation* (read by Herb Holler)

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

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

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.



CAROL - "He Came Down" - ELW 253

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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LESSON 9 - Hebrews 1:1-4 - God has spoken by his Son (read by Rev. Kate Lewis)

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but 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. ³He 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, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

JESUS

CAROL - "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" - ELW 288 - Verses 2 & 3

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!



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.

Holy God, you have given the church the holy name of Jesus, and in Christ we are your beloved children. Unite us in mission through the power of the Holy Spirit. Make us worthy of the name we bear, the name in which we pray. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Renewing God, restore your glory to the earth. Awaken humanity to our kinship with all living things that depend on your provision. Teach us to care for the earth and safeguard its treasures for those who come after us. Bring relief to areas affected by storms, extreme weather, or other natural disasters. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Peacemaking God, reconcile the nations, especially Ukraine, Russia, the Holy Land, Iran, and Afghanistan. Lead those in conflict into negotiation, especially in areas of religious or ethnic strife. End acts of aggression and violence carried out in your name. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A Delivering God, rescue our siblings in any danger, especially in communities where disaster and disease threaten. Move those in authority to respond with speed and compassion. We pray for the safety of first responders, health care workers, and all who serve and protect us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, raise up any who are bowed down with illness or sorrow. Deepen our care and concern for one another. We lift to you all who are undergoing transition in relationships, occupation, living situation, or health condition, especially those on our prayer list ...

PRAYER CONCERNS from MOUNT CROSS

We pray for Tom Andino (friend of Carol Browning), **Mark Caceres** (brother of Becky Gilbertson), **Mike Caceres** (nephew of Becky Gilbertson), **Crista** (niece of Karen Cherry), **Vicky Edell, 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 & 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 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.**

OFFERTORY - "In the Bleak Midwinter" - ELW 294

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

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 Glory to God in the highest!
Come to the table of peace.

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.¹

¹ Adapted by Pastor Julie from a prayer written by the Anglican Diocese of Niagara.

COMMUNION SONGS - "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" - ELW 276



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.
Music: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol



"Everyday God" (Farrell)



- | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|------|-------------|
| 1. Earth's cre - a - tor, | Ev - 'ry - day | God, | Lov - ing |
| 2. In your pres - ence | Ev - 'ry - day | God, | We are |
| 3. Life of all lives, | Ev - 'ry - day | God, | Love of |
| 4. In our rest - ing, | Ev - 'ry - day | God, | In our |
| 5. In our dream - ing, | Ev - 'ry - day | God, | In our |
| 6. God of laugh - ter, | Ev - 'ry - day | God, | God of |
| 7. Way of free - dom, | Ev - 'ry - day | God, | Star of |
| 8. Word of glad - ness, | Ev - 'ry - day | God, | Word of |
| 9. Gen - tle fa - ther, | Ev - 'ry - day | God, | Faith - ful |
| 10. Our be - gin - ning, | Ev - 'ry - day | God, | Our un - |
| 11. Al - le - lu - ia, | Ev - 'ry - day | God, | Now and |



- | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|------------------------|---|
| 1. Mak - er, | O | Je - sus, | You who shaped us, | O |
| 2. gath - ered. | O | Je - sus, | You have called us | O |
| 3. all loves, | O | Je - sus, | Hope of all hopes, | O |
| 4. ris - ing, | O | Je - sus, | In our hop - ing, | O |
| 5. dar - ing, | O | Je - sus, | In our search - ing, | O |
| 6. sor - row, | O | Je - sus, | Home and shel - ter, | O |
| 7. morn - ing, | O | Je - sus, | Time-less heal - er, | O |
| 8. mer - cy, | O | Je - sus, | Word of friend - ship, | O |
| 9. broth - er, | O | Je - sus, | Ten - der sis - ter, | O |
| 10. fold - ing, | O | Je - sus, | Our en - dur - ing, | O |
| 11. al - ways, | O | Je - sus, | Al - le - lu - ia, | O |



- | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|---------|-------|-------------|
| 1. Spir - it, | Re - cre - ate | us, | Come, | be with us. |
| 2. Spir - it, | To re - store | us. | Come, | be with us. |
| 3. Spir - it, | Light of all | lights, | Come, | be with us. |
| 4. Spir - it, | In our wait - ing, | | Come, | be with us. |
| 5. Spir - it, | In our shar - ing, | | Come, | be with us. |
| 6. Spir - it, | Strong and pa - tient, | | Come, | be with us. |
| 7. Spir - it, | Flame e - ter - nal, | | Come, | be with us. |
| 8. Spir - it, | Word of chal - lenge, | | Come, | be with us. |
| 9. Spir - it, | Lov - ing moth - er, | | Come, | be with us. |
| 10. Spir - it, | Jour - ney's end - ing, | | Come, | be with us. |
| 11. Spir - it, | Through all a - ges, | | Come, | be with us. |

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.**



As able, the assembly stands for the Blessing.

BLESSING

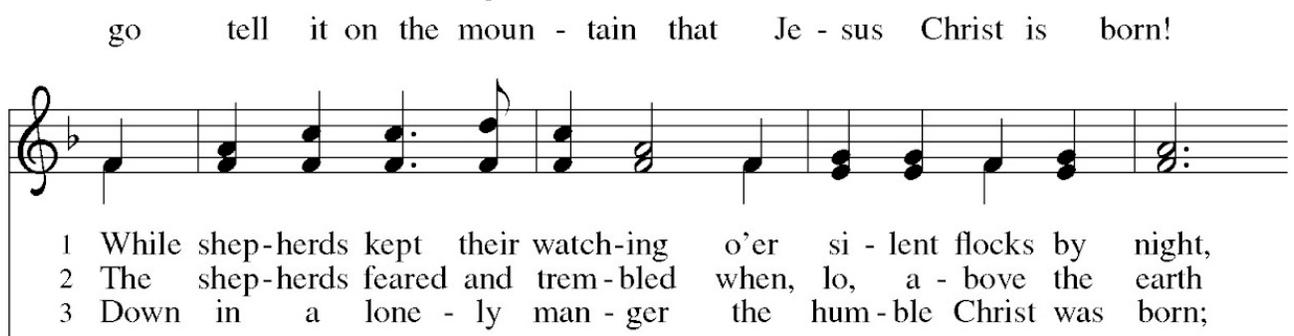
- P May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG - "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" - ELW 290 - Verses 1 & 3

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

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 the Rev. Kate Lewis for leading us in worship today!

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE License #A-706290 and CCLI License #2022482. Images from sundaysandseasons.com used with permission from Augsburg Fortress.

If you haven't already done so today, let us know you're watching us online - fill out our connection card: <https://bit.ly/MCLCConnect>.
Join us for **Fellowship in the Pavilion** after worship each Sunday!

The Week at a Glance

The Child Development Center is closed until January 4.

TODAY, January 1, 2023

Happy New Year!

Worship, 9:30 a.m.

All are welcome for our 9:30 a.m. worship!
(No Drive-through Communion today.)

Monday, January 2, 2023

New Year's Holiday

Observed/Church Office Closed

Monday Meditation, 3:00 p.m.

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

Men's Al-Anon, 7:15 p.m.

A Men's Al-Anon group meets in the Parish Life Center at 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, January 3

Peace & Justice Team, 7:00 p.m.

The Peace & Justice Team meets at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.
The Zoom link is bit.ly/MCPeaceandJustice.

4H, 7:00 p.m.

4H meets in the Parish Life Center at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 4

NO Programs this week;
Rehearsals resume this week.

Bell Choir, 6:15 p.m.

The Bell Choir rehearses in the sanctuary loft from 6:15-7:15 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

The choir meets in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. this week to rehearse music for Sundays and learn anthems and special music.

Thursday, January 5

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

The Men's Bible Study meets at Marie Callender's (185 E. Daily Drive, Camarillo). A \$15 donation covers breakfast and a tip, No RSVP necessary. Contact Randy Churchill (hchurchill@verizon.net) with any questions.

Executive Committee, 7:00 p.m.

The Executive Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Property Committee, 7:00 p.m.

The Property Committee meets at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, January 6

Senior Adult Ministry Committee, 2:00 p.m.

The Senior Adult Ministry Committee meets at 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Life Center.

Budget & Finance, 3:00p.m.

The Budget & Finance Committee meets at 3:00 p.m. in the pastor's office.

Epiphany Worship and Dessert Potluck, 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome for a contemplative worship service, reflecting on the Feast of the Epiphany and this New Year. Bring a favorite dessert to share following the service.

Saturday, January 7

Al-Anon, 10:00 a.m.

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

Christmas Takedown, 10:00 a.m.

Come to the sanctuary and help with taking down the Christmas decorations. Many hands make light work!

Pastor Julie is away until January 4; Deacon Cecelia is away but returns January 2; Joe is away until January 3. For immediate 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.

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 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).

Reconciling in Christ:

This information is offered by the Peace & Justice Team in a spirit of goodwill for information purposes. We invite everyone to be a part of these ongoing conversations.



Each Sunday we confess our sins, asking the Lord to: "Show us Your ways; Teach us Your paths; and lead us in justice and truth."

At the March leadership retreat, we listened to a team of speakers from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Thousand Oaks tell us about their experience in becoming a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation. Since 1974, "Reconciling Works, Lutherans for Full Participation" has advocated for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of (LGBTQIA+) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church, congregations, and community.

At our April 19 meeting, The Mount Cross Church Council approved an ad hoc committee to gather more information regarding RIC. The team became comprised of 8 volunteers: Jessica Easter, Kevin O'Farrell, Becky Gilbertson, Jim Dinges, Lyndsay Montour, Henry Moraga, Becky Riley, and Bill Stoll.

For those who are interested, we have placed RIC educational material in the narthex and kiosk. Please feel free to avail yourself of this information.

For those who are interested, we have placed RIC educational material in the narthex and kiosk. We will also be hosting a Temple Talk on January 8. We hope to see you there.

Altar Flowers

To request flowers for our worship: <https://bit.ly/AltarFlowers2023>. 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.

Amazon Smile

If you haven't already done so, 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!

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 **next Sunday, 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).

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) by January 18.

Epiphany Worship - January 6

This Friday, January 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., come for a contemplative worship service, followed by a potluck dessert reception under the Epiphany stars in the pavilion. Bring a favorite dessert to share. All are welcome!

CLUE Housing Justice Event - January 8, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Ventura County Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE) is hosting an event next **Sunday, January 8, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.** at Bethel AME Church (855 South F St., Oxnard, 93030) to discuss “No place to call home. Ventura County’s housing crisis and what we can do about it.” Also available on Facebook Live. See the flyers on the kiosk for registration and other information.

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.

Remaining Christmas Events and Activities

- ★ This Friday, January 6, 7:00 p.m. - Epiphany Star Service followed by a Dessert Potluck.

- ★ This Saturday, January 7, 10:00 a.m. - Undecorating Christmas - Come and help us put away the tree, wreaths, and other Christmas decorations.

Blood Drive - January 22, 2023

Mount Cross is hosting a blood drive on January 22 (8:00 a.m.-Noon) with Vitalant Blood Services. To sign up to donate blood, please visit <https://bit.ly/BloodDriveJan22SignUps> and find a time that works for you.



Mount Cross Generosity Campaign

Please contact Financial Secretary Joan Brundage at 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 Is Now Accepting Venmo!

If you would like to give to Mount Cross via our Venmo account, our handle is @MountCross-LutheranChurch, or you can scan the QR code below. Thank you!

