



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
DECEMBER 27, 2020

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC

*We are Disciples of Jesus.
Growing in Faith, Serving our Community and Connecting Others to Christ.*

✝ This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. ✝

This Sunday

There are a full Twelve Days of Christmas that make up Christmastide. Today is the Third Day of Christmas. It's often difficult for us to observe the whole season when much of the culture is finished with its Christmas joy on December 26th and begins to focus solely on New Year's Eve and the next party. Being a Christian anywhere often means being "countercultural" and having to explain yourself to your neighbors. The Church will celebrate Christmas until January 5th and then will have a festival of Epiphany on January 6th, the traditional time that the Wise Men arrive to worship the Baby Jesus. So, keep the joy high as 2020 comes to a close. The world needs all we can share.

Today is also Pastor Mary Anderson's last Sunday with us as our Interim Pastor. She will be returning to her home in Columbia, SC in a few days. Our new pastor, June Wilkins, will be joining our ministry on February 8, 2021. In the meantime, Christ Lutheran will be served in Sunday worship by supply pastors who will be zooming into our services and by our Worship Team.

Gloria in excelsis deo!

✝ GATHERING ✝

Gathering Music *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKM3DwHIQl0>

Welcome + Announcements

Opening Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High*

[Presented by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians.

Look for Tami Kuhlmann who is one of the singers.]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwKRKDLBNFo>

Dialogue

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.
Jesus is the light of the world.
Jesus is the light of our lives.
Sing to God a new song!
A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth,
you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—
a beam of light that shines through Jesus.

Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation.

Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life.

Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world
and in our hearts.

Amen.

✠ WORD AND SONG ✠

The First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.
Thanks be to God.

The First Carol: *I Wonder as I Wander*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQWqkOi175k>

The Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

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.
If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight installed as rulers.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.
Thanks be to God.

The Second Carol: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vc4CexxlX8>

The Third Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

18Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother
Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was
found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19Her husband Joseph, being a

righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." 24When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

The Third Carol: A Presentation of the Christmas Story from Luke

O Come, Let us Adore Him

Christ Lutheran Preschool

<https://youtu.be/4yc39j7ziol>

The Fourth Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

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.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

The Fourth Carol: *What Child is This*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQWKjTvPgiM>

The Fifth Reading: John 1:1-14

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 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.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

The Fifth Carol: *Angels from the Realms of Glory*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4CPa_H0GEk

The Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness. Reveal your power to heal and to save. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Lifegiver, we lift up all celebrating birthdays this week. May your Spirit continue to nurture all celebrating wedding anniversaries, especially Wayne and JoAnn; Paul and Suzanne. Sustain the faith of all celebrating baptismal anniversaries, especially Colleen and Elise Anderson. May these milestones of our living fill us with gratitude for all good gifts, and remind us that you go with us every step of the way. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

As we begin a new year and a new chapter in the life of our congregation, bless us with your wisdom, patience, and your peace that passes all understanding. As we bid farewell to one pastor and prepare to welcome another, we give thanks for the

leaders you have called to serve your church. Continue to strengthen us in our partnerships in the gospel that your grace may be made known to all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Let us depart in peace, O God, according to your word. For all your saints, we give you thanks, especially those we have lost in our congregation and our families this year. Prepare our salvation in the sight of all your witnesses of every time and place. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

While we are in these Zoom meetings, we will provide a time for worshipers to prepare an offering to be mailed in, to go to our website to make a contribution, or take time to pray and consider how God is calling each of us to share our resources with the church and the world.

***Thank You!** for all your offerings and gifts given to CLC and to the wider church this week. Your generosity is the fuel for our ministry in this place.*

***Visitors** in our worship today are encouraged to go to our website <https://clchhi.org/> and send us an email letting us know you were worshipping with us today. If we can support you in any way, please share your need with us.*

If you have not already done so, use this time to finish setting your home table for communion.

Offering Music

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3treoG1Eig>

Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing Song

Celtic Blessing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F50YoGQfbSA&feature=youtu.be>

[This song is performed by Tami and David Kuhlmann as a farewell blessing for Pastor Mary and as a song of encouragement for the congregation as we go forward "CLC Strong" in mission and ministry. The photo is from Tower Beach on Monday night where several CLC families gathered following Advent Vespers.]

Dismissal

Go, tell it on the mountain now and always!
Thanks be to God.

Sending Song

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3807KHGHZO>

✠ ✠

Presiding Minister – Pr. Mary W. Anderson

Lectors: Steve Mork, Mary Jo Etter, John Prange, Ed/Nan Stafford, Peyton DeMaria

Zoom Producer – Doug Felten

Curator of our Music Offerings – Tami Kuhlmann

Altar Guild – Doris Stickel

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