

**First Sunday in Advent  
November 28, 2021**

**9:30 a.m. Worship**

**Christ Lutheran Church  
Cottonwood, Minnesota**



**Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We are grateful to God you are here.**  
We pray that you will feel the Spirit and welcome of this faith community,  
and we look forward to seeing you again!

*Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ. (adapted from Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2020)*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.  
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.*

Prelude

Call to Worship

Words of Welcome

Pastor: This is the day that the Lord has made,

**All: let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Community Announcements

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

Confession and Forgiveness based on Psalm 25

P: To you, Lord, we lift up our souls; our God, we put our trust in you.

**All: You have brought us, O Lord, to this day, a day of new beginnings, a day when we enter into the Season of Advent and a time of waiting - waiting for the coming of the Savior.**

P: Show us your ways, O Lord, and teach us your paths.

**All: Inspire us, Lord God, in these busy and hectic days ahead, to turn to you and center our thoughts and desires on you.**

P: Lead us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation.

**All: As we begin all the preparations and planning which surrounds Christmas, help us even more to prepare our hearts to receive the truth of your salvation.**

P: O Lord, your compassion and love are everlasting. Remember us according to your boundless love and for the sake of your goodness and mercy.

**All: In this Advent season, cause us to be still so that we might recognize more clearly what you have offered to us - the coming of a Savior.**

P: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

*(Silence for a time of self-reflection)*

P: We acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins - those known to us that burden our hearts and those unknown to us but seen by you.

**All: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake. For your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great. Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress.**

P: Hear this Good News: In the advent of Christ, the dawn breaks upon us with light and healing. Through Jesus Christ †, God forgives all of your sins, that you might live in peace and in the fullness of life.

**All: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

*The Lighting of the Advent Wreath*

P: In the beginning, God created the heavens and earth.

**All: Now the earth was formless and empty, the darkness covered the face of the deep.**

P: And God said, "Let there be light, and there was light."

**All: God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.**

P: God called the light "day," and the darkness was called "night."

**All: And there was evening and morning, the first day.**

P: As we begin this journey of Advent, O Lord, point us to the light.

**All: Come into the empty darkness of our lives with your creative light.**

P: For your light is good,

**All: and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

P: We wait for the coming of Christ, the light of the world.

**All: Come Lord Jesus, come.**

*The first candle is lit representing Hope.*

**Hymn**                      **"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" Stanza 1 ELW# 240**



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune  
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Used with permission. One License #A-722486

P: The true light, which enlightens everyone is coming into the world.  
**All: Come Lord Jesus, come.**

P: The light shines in the darkness and will not overcome it.  
**All: Come Lord Jesus, come.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ

**All: and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

First Reading                      Jeremiah 33:14-16

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

L: Word of God, Word of Life

**All: Thanks be to God**

Second Reading              1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L: Word of God, Word of Life

**All: Thanks be to God**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

Gospel Acclamation

“Christ Be Our Light”

Refrain Only ELW# 715

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gath - ered to - day.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics 'Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the'. The second staff continues with 'dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your'. The third staff concludes with 'church gath - ered to - day.' The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final double bar line at the end of the third staff.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Used with permission. One License #A-722486

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

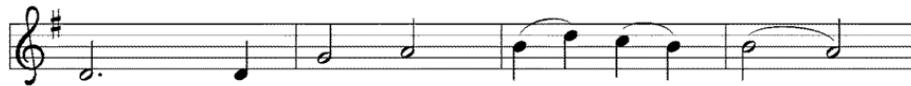
Hymn of the Day

*“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”*

ELW# 435



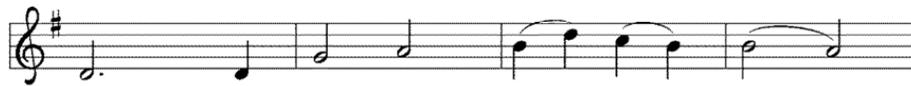
1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
 2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,  
 3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for our sal - va - tion slain;  
 comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;  
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
 all the saints this world re - ject - ed  
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



join to sing the glad re - frain:  
 thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:  
 claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!  
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.  
 Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

Public Domain

## THANKSGIVING

We respond in gratitude for God's never-failing love and mercy.

### Offering

*The ushers will pass the plate at this time. If you would prefer, the offering plate will be at the back of the sanctuary following worship. Your offering may be sent through the mail, dropped off, at the church office or via the website.  
Thank you for your generosity.*

### Offertory Hymn of Thankfulness "Have You Thanked the Lord?"

ELW# 829

*Refrain*

Have you thanked the Lord? Have you praised God's name?  
 Don't you know that no to-mor-row is quite the same?  
 Have you thanked the Lord? Have you knelt in prayer,  
 and re-joyced that, rain or sun-shine, our God is there?  
 1 Hal - le - lu - jah! Thank the Lord for sun, sand, and sea,  
 2 Hal - le - lu - jah! Par - a - dise we taste where we are;  
 3 Hal - le - lu - jah! Joy and peace the Sav - ior will bring.  
 ev - 'ry star at night that shines for you and me.  
 sum-mer breez - es, win - ter warmth are nev - er far.  
 Grace a - maz - ing! So we lift our voice and sing,  
 Bless - ings so man - y come our way:  
 God's love is ev - er on dis - play:  
 grate - ful when clouds are bright or gray:  
*Refrain*  
 have you thanked the Lord to - day?  
 have you thanked the Lord to - day?  
 have you thanked the Lord to - day?

Text: Bill LaMotta, 1919-1980  
 Music: LAMOTTA, Bill LaMotta  
 Text and music © Bill LaMotta, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Used with permission. One License #A-722486

Offertory Prayer

L: Let us pray: God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way of all your people. Prepare the way before us as meet you in those around us, through Jesus Christ, our pathway and our peace.

**All: Amen.**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

Profession of Faith - The Apostles' Creed

**All: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

Prayers of God's People

*The congregation will respond to the prayer petitions with, "hear our prayer."*

Lord's Prayer

**All: 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.**

Sharing of God's Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Please share a verbal peace with one another.*

*Please be seated.*

**SENDING**

*God sends us in mission to the world*

Sending Blessing

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**All: Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Christ, Be Our Light”

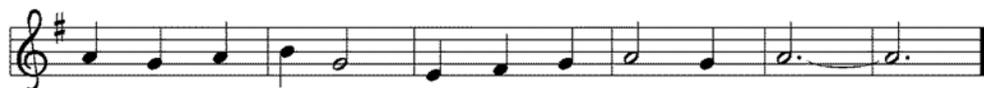
ELW# 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Used with permission. One License #A-722486

Sending Words

L: Go in peace. Christ is near.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude



**Advent Devotional Booklets**  
**Now Available at the Back of the Sanctuary**

Devotional books are now available during the season of Advent, which begins today, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Please help yourself to the booklet that appeals to your needs as you deepen your prayer and meditation time during this holy time set aside as preparations for what is to come at Christmas.

**Worship Assistants, Thank You For Serving This Sunday, November 28, 2021**

**Musician:** Krishana Dempcy      **Assisting Minister:** Linda Magnuson

**PA Operators:** Chad Gregoire, Jon Myrvik

**Video Camera Operators:** Larry Isaackson, Sid Olson

**Ushers:** Captain—Shawn Myers, Josh Anderson, Ryan Fromm, Derek Golberg, Scott Hanson,  
Greg Lund, Gary Morken, Will Myers

**Altar Care:** Lois Kolhei, Darla Morken

**Count Offering:** Lee Huso, Linda VanUden-Wilson      **Acolyte:** Mallory Pederson

**Worship Options**

In person worship: Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

On Church YouTube Channel – links are posted on both the church Facebook Page and on our website.

On the Local Cable Channel 180: Sundays at 10:45 a.m. & Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

Bulletins are emailed and are posted at our website: [christcottonwood.org](http://christcottonwood.org).

**QR Code for Online Giving**



**Thank You** --The ministry to which God has called us is continuing in differing ways. We are grateful for your ongoing financial offerings that can be mailed to the church (P.O. Box 166, Cottonwood, MN 56229) or given online with the following link:

<https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1600>





### **“The Bethlehem Experience” Live Nativity**

Mark your calendars with the Mission Possible and Preschool Sunday School upcoming Live Nativity event on **Saturday, December 18, from 4:30-5:30 p.m.** Refreshments served.

The Christian Education Committee is looking for helpers for costumes and set decorating. They are also looking for kerosene heaters to help make the event more comfortable. Please contact the church office if you should have a heater to share - 507.423.5100.



### **Share of Live Nativity Songs in Worship**

On **Sunday, December 19**, the students will share some of their Live Nativity songs in worship. Refreshments served afterwards.



### **Christmas Eve Worship Opportunities**

Tucked into the midst of your Christmas gatherings, make plans to attend our very special Candlelight Christmas Eve worship with Holy Communion at either **5:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 24.** There is no need to reserve seating this year.

At the heart of all that we celebrate, we remember and hold close the story of Jesus’ birth and the joy of those who hear the Good News! There will be a place waiting for you that evening!

## Prayer Requests

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:6-7 to, “*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*” Your prayers are a gift to those requesting them, and encouragement for one another as we experience challenges, sorrows, or thanksgivings of any kind.

### **Health Concerns, as well as Others In Our Hearts and On Our Minds:**

Kelly Arnold	Sandra Arnold	Brad Bossuyt
Grant Johnson	Bob Kaeter	Teri Kemmer
Lloyd Powell		

All those dealing with illness, addictions, depression, cancer, unemployment, under-employment, and any challenges in their lives.

### **Independent Living/Assisted Living/Care Center Residents/Homebound:**

Darleen Cole, Michele Engholm, Elaine Elston, Irene Evers, Janet Gniffke, Julie Jaeger, Betty Lovsness, Lila Mauland, Laurie Pickthorn, Donna Neuharth, Bobby Olson, Alnora Pederson, Margaret Rewerts

### **Families of our Congregation:** *Sid Olson*

*Scott and Natalie Pederson,  
Sydney / Mallory / Aubrey  
Steve Pederson*

### **Workers in Other Countries, Missionaries, and Local Congregation Missions.**

*Cottonwood Area Giving Tree  
Robin's Nest Children's Home, Jamaica  
Kikatiti Secondary School, Tanzania  
World Mission Prayer League (WMPL)*

<b>Facebook -</b>	Christ Lutheran Church Cottonwood MN
<b>Website -</b>	<a href="http://www.christcottonwood.org">www.christcottonwood.org</a>
<b>Mailing -</b>	P.O. Box 166; Cottonwood, MN 56229
<b>Office Phone -</b>	507.423.5100
<b>Pastor Janel Kuester -</b>	Cell: 651.726.4003; <a href="mailto:pstrjanel@gmail.com">pstrjanel@gmail.com</a>

### **We Are Hiring \*\* Office Administrator Position**

If you or you know of someone who is interested in this part-time position, please see the summary below and the posted position description on the church website ([www.christcottonwood.org](http://www.christcottonwood.org)).

Questions can be directed to President Carolyn Olson or Pastor Janel Kuester.

#### **Position Description Summary**

Christ Lutheran's Office Administrator performs support services for the life of the congregation, committees, and worship. Specific responsibilities vary seasonally throughout the church year and depending on needs; coordinates tasks with the Pastor. This position is a part-time (approximately 20 hours/week).

**The offering envelopes for 2022 are now available to pick up at church from the bench by the sanctuary doors.**

## **ONLINE *giving* Four Options—**

1. Go to our home page at [www.christcottonwood.org](http://www.christcottonwood.org) and click on "Online Giving" to set up either a one-time giving or set up your weekly or monthly giving.
2. Use your bank's online bill pay to set up payments and direct them to be mailed to Christ Lutheran Church, P. O. Box 166, Cottonwood MN 56229
3. Ask one of our staff about automatic transfer
4. Scan the QR Code

