

**Welcome!**

**Third Sunday  
of Advent**

**Holy Communion**

**Mission Possible and  
Sunday School Students  
Sharing Music**

**December 15, 2019  
9:30 am Worship**



**Christ Lutheran Community of Faith  
Cottonwood, Minnesota**

*A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship.*

*Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love.*

*We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.*

(Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2019)

## **GATHERING**

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

## **Call to Worship**

*In silence this season of Advent,  
we quiet our hearts for worship with the prelude.*

## **Prelude**

Opening Dialogue

P: In a world of shadows,

**C: we seek illumination.**

P: As we wait in night,

**C: we look for sunrise.**

P: Surrounded by fear,

**C: we hold fast to God's promise.**

P: We wait with hope for Christ's return,

**C: for the dawn of peace and justice.**

*Silence follows.*

Lighting the Advent Candles

P: Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,

**C: let us travel on God's holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.**

*(Three candles are lit.)*

**"Now We Await Your Coming, Lord"**

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*The cantor will lead the song and indicate when the congregation will sing the response (four times) printed in **bold**:*

A voice cries out among us, proclaiming you'll be with us.

**Now we await your coming, Lord.**

We need your light among us to show the way you'll lead us,  
So peace may rule our lives again.

**Now we await your coming, Lord.**

We need your light among us.  
**Now we await your coming, Lord.**  
A voice cries out within us.  
**Now we await your coming, Lord.**

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the + triune God in whose presence we wait, the Holy Parent, fulfilling the promise, the Holy Child, waiting to be born in us, the Holy Spirit, illumining the way.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us come before the living God in confession.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,

**C: we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us. Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: Beloved children of the Most High, you are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on all. Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven in the name of the One who is coming and is already here, + Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn – “Hark, the Glad Sound!” - - - - - [239]**

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.

**C: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

Telling of the Story: “The Christmas Pillow”

Songs by Our Sunday School Pre-Schoolers and Mission Possible Students

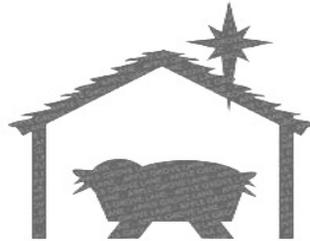
“Ring, Ring, Ring the Bells”

“Twinkle, Twinkle, Christmas Star”

“Away in a Manger”

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

“Oh, What a Special Night”



## WORD

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

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 35:5-10

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## Gospel Acclamation – “Come and Fill Our Hearts”

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (two sharps). The first system contains the first two lines of lyrics. The second system contains the next two lines of lyrics. The melody is primarily eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The bass line consists of block chords, mostly triads and dyads.

### Gospel Reading

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

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

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

Reflection

Pastor Janel Kuester

**Hymn of the Day – “Light Dawns on a Weary World” ----- [726]**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

Prayers of God’s People

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

Sharing of God’s Peace

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

**C: And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of God’s peace with your neighbors.*

*Please be seated.*

**MEAL**

<p><i>God feeds us with the presence of Christ.</i></p>
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Offering

Community Announcements and Opportunities to Offer Ourselves

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Giver of every good thing, we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger.

**C: Amen.**

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.**

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Invitation to Holy Communion

P: Come now with joy to Emmanuel's table. Feast at the banquet of hope and love.

*Please be seated.*

*Anyone who has communed elsewhere is welcome to commune here.  
Those who do not yet commune are invited to come forward for a blessing.  
Grape juice and gluten-free bread are available upon request.*

*Please come forward at the invitation of the ushers to receive communion in a continuous manner; then return to your seats via the side aisles.*

*If you prefer to have communion brought to you at your seat, please let the ushers know.*

### **Communion Distribution**

<b><i>"People, Look East"</i></b>		<b>[248]</b>
<b><i>"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"</i></b>	<b>(stanzas 1-4)</b>	<b>[257]</b>
<b><i>"Prepare the Royal Highway"</i></b>		<b>[264]</b>
<b><i>"Fling Wide the Door"</i></b>		<b>[259]</b>

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

Blessing after Communion

P: Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray.

God of abundance, we give you thanks that in this holy meal you have invited us to feast with you and one another. May the taste of your love remain with us, and may our words and our work in your name invite others into your bountiful grace. Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING**

*God sends us in mission to the world.*

Blessing

P: God, whose covenant calls us to act,  
Christ, whose love leads us by grace,  
The Holy Spirit, whose wisdom points us toward hope,  
+ bless and keep us always.

**C: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn – “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” ----- [249]**

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Blessing for the Advent Journey

*May God, who gathers us in love, lead us in pathways of  
righteousness and justice.*

*May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves,  
lead us in pathways of forgiveness and freedom.*

*May God, who fills us with good things,  
lead us in pathways of equity and abundance.*

*The blessing of the holy Trinity, + one God, be upon us  
and remain with us forever.*

*Amen.*



*A special "thank you" for telling the story of "The Christmas Pillow" and for sharing your singing:  
Caitlyn Tusberg, Jovie Benson,  
Dave Neuman, Chad Gregoire,  
Sunday School and Mission  
Possible students, teachers, and helpers*

**Worship Assistants, Thank You For Serving This Sunday, December 15, 2019 —**

**Ushers:** Captain—Alton Huso, Chad Gregoire, Jon Hoehne, Kris Holm, Marv Kremin, Erik Lundberg, Doug Warnke

**Musician:** Gwen Arneson

**Acolyte:** Yvonne Boehne

**Lector and Assisting Minister:** Anne Isaackson

**PA Operator:** Pete Lavin, Ryan Fromm **Video Camera Op:** Gary Morken, Corey Moseng

**Altar Care:** Barb Crouse, Anne Isaackson **Counting:** Jason Fischer, Corey Moseng

**Communion Servers and Helpers:** Whitney Lundberg, Sydney Pederson, Corey Moseng, Elijah Sterner, Tracy Sterner, Joyce Warnke

*Family and Friends, come gather  
for  
Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Worship at 7:00  
December 24*



An invitation from Pastor Janel (PJ):

If you are **interested in church membership** or know someone interested, please call PJ at the church office 507 423 5100 or her cell phone 651 726 4003. Email is: [pstrjanel@gmail.com](mailto:pstrjanel@gmail.com)

## IT'S THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Part of our Christmas tradition is to give gifts to family members and friends. Please consider extending your generosity in giving to the ELCA World Hunger Program. God calls and empowers us to help our neighbor, both near and far. A gift to World Hunger will help the hungry and food insecure that live all around the world as well as in the United States.

Use the envelope included today to give generously to ELCA World Hunger.



Prayer: Give us a generous spirit, O God, that we might serve our neighbor in need. Amen.

## **NOTICE OF Annual Meeting of Christ Lutheran Church Congregation on Sunday, January 26, 2020, following the 9:30 am worship (backup date is Feb. 2).**

**If you're on a committee, task force, board,** . . . a report of your 2019 happenings, any proposals for 2020, and the 2019 financial transactions are requested by **JANUARY 10** to Rhoda: christlutheran@christcotton.com (email of reports is preferred and not in the PDF format). They will be formatted into our historical Annual Report Book for distribution by Jan. 19.

Because of your generosity in sharing of time and resources, we have been able to reach out with God's never-failing love in countless ways, both inside and beyond our congregation.

We are grateful for your financial gifts which allow us to continue the many ministries that we hold in common inside of God's mission for us here in this faith community.

### **Financial Snapshot**

Giving Year To Date (Jan-Nov): \$ 153,797

Expenses Year To Date (Jan-Nov): \$ 169,259

Shortfall Year to Date: -\$ 15,462

Needed Weekly To Make Budget \$ 3,726

**Last Week's Giving December 8: \$ 4,000**

— **This Week: December 15, 2019** —

**Today, December 15**

**9:00 am** Sunday School for PreK Students  
**9:00** Fellowship/Refreshments  
**9:30** Worship with Holy Communion  
Congregational Reception Follows Worship  
—All are welcome!  
**10:45** (approx.) Worship on Cable 180

**Monday, December 16**

**4:30 pm** Worship on Cable 180  
**5:30** Budget Prep Meeting

**Tuesday, December 17**

**9 am** Prairie Conference Here

**Wednesday, December 18**

**6:30 pm** Choir  
**7:15** Confirmation Caroling

**Thursday, December 19**

**7 pm** Nominating Committee

**Next Sunday, December 22**

**NO** PreK Sunday School    **9:00 am** Fellowship/Refreshments    **9:30 am** Worship  
**10:45 am** (approx.) Worship on Cable 180

Christ Lutheran Church Location: 126 Front Street (corner of Front and North First on the lake)

**mailing address: P.O. Box 166, Cottonwood, Minnesota 56229**

**Office Phone and Voice Mail: 507-423-5100**

**[www.christcottonwood.org](http://www.christcottonwood.org)**

**Find us on Facebook: Christ Lutheran Church Cottonwood MN**

Pastor Janel Kuester—507 423 5100; cell 651 726 4003; [pstrjanel@gmail.com](mailto:pstrjanel@gmail.com)

Pastoral Asst. Gwen Arneson—507 423 5100; cell 612 280 5987; [gwenarneson@yahoo.com](mailto:gwenarneson@yahoo.com)

Organist Gwen Arneson—See Pastoral Assistant above

Administrative Asst. Rhoda Schmidt—507 423 5100; cell 507 829 1426;

[christlutheran@christcotton.com](mailto:christlutheran@christcotton.com)

Accounting Asst. Melanie Olsen—cell 507 530 2064; [melanie.olsen@usbank.com](mailto:melanie.olsen@usbank.com)

Custodians Jon & Jeannette Myrvik—cell 507 828 2401; 828 2407;

[jeannette.myrvik@schwans.com](mailto:jeannette.myrvik@schwans.com)

[jjmyrvik@charter.net](mailto:jjmyrvik@charter.net)

## 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:**

Landyn Berends	Bob Bode	Rodney Carlson	Elaine Elston
Laura Enga (Allie's daughter, eye concern)		Norm Evers	Gordy Geistfeld
Adrian Golberg	Gail Gregoire	Sue Gropel	Carol Grove
Leo Haack	Bruce Hoffman	Marty Javens	Bob Kaeter
Cole Louwagie	Pr. Curt Miller	Jori Ella Morrison	Gretchen Noon
Sonny Olson	Jake Rodriguez	Lucas Schikert	Dave Schwarz
Harvey Suer	Gary Timmerman		

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

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

Shi Aamodt, Arvilla Berg, Darleen Cole, Michele Engholm, Irene Evers, Lavonne Fischer, Marge Gigstad, Janet Gniffke, Adrian Golberg, Virginia Isaackson, Julie Jaeger, Marietta Jarcho, Betty Lovsness, Lila Mauland, Laurie Pickthorn, Donna Neuharth, Bobby Olson, Alnora Pederson, Margaret Rewerts, Marge Seitz

### **Families of our Congregation.**

Jonna Bjernebo  
Char and Bob Bode  
Kyle and Rachel Boe, Carson, Lauren, Brady, Nora

### **Families Mourning Deaths:**

Nancy Thedans, grandmother of Jasmine Hurt  
Janyce Bouza, friend of CLC who was living at Fieldcrest

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

Charles and Anita Jackson, World Mission Prayer League (WMPL)  
Cottonwood Food Pantry (located in south end of Senior Citizens Bldg., open 2nd & 4th Thursdays from 5 pm to 7 pm)