

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church
13564 St. Andrews Drive
Seal Beach, CA 90740
(562) 598-8697**

**e-mail: redeemer_lutheran@verizon.net
website: www.redeemerlutheransealbeach.com**



**DECEMBER 24, 2023
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

PRELUDE

played by organist

PIANO DUET

Cedric Elmer and Sharon Heck

“Away In a Manger”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

LBW [Green Book] # 34

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* **verses 1 and 4*

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive
Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your
advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death’s dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

GREETING

P Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and
the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

C **God of life, you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We have nurtured conflict and build barriers. We have neglected the needs of our neighbors and ignored the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of new life and life eternal with you. Amen.**

P Hear the good news: We are children of God who pours upon us life-giving promises through the Holy Spirit. In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C **Almighty God, you made this holy day shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence among us, and in the last day may we wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Use this blessing when lighting all four candles.

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our humanity. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles. Restore and forgive us when we fail and give us the faith to choose your goodness.

We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

C Amen.

Congregation sings verses 1 through 4 WOV [Blue Book] # 630

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

CHRISTMAS DIALOG

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

C **Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. We have beheld Christ's glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Scripture Lesson is from Luke chapter 1 verses 26-33, 38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

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." 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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

Scripture Lesson is from Luke chapter 2 verses 1-7

The world's deep night is shattered by the light of God's new day.

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.

Congregation Sings

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above

While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wonder'ing love,

O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth,

And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

Scripture Lesson is from Luke chapter 2 verses 8-20

The glory of God is revealed to poor shepherds, who share the good news with others.

⁸In 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 people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This was 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. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Congregation Sings

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

[verse 2 next page]

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of
righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.

Refrain

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Bishop Murray Finck

“The Handiwork of God”

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

C Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

L I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L ... Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

OFFERTORY

“Joy to the World”

OFFERING PRAYER

P God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we offer. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

C **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD’S PRAYER

LBW [Green Book] Page 71

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Communion Distribution (The Congregation is invited to come forward by the ushers to receive Communion. If you are unable to come to the altar, Communion will be brought to you in the pew. All baptized and believing Christians are invited to the table. Anyone with any questions can speak to the Pastor. The inside circle of glasses contains grape juice.)

COMMUNION HYMN

Congregation Sings

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him born the king of angels:

Refrain

*Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:

Refrain

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

C 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.
Amen.

BLESSING

P God bless you and keep you, + Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Congregation Sings

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

DISMISSAL

P Christ the Savior is born! Let us go in his peace and proclaim his
Good News.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

played by organist

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Worship Coordinator: Jerry Brady (714) 534-2673

Organist: Sharon Heck

Flowers are given by: *Poinsettias.*

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

President: Bishop Murray Finck
Communion Assistant Carmen Leslie
Reader / Prayer Leader: Nancy Anderson
Financial Team: Wendy Alfageme and Doris Weinert

THIS WEEK

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service

Redeemer Finance: November Offering through December 17, 2023

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$8,341.00
Offering	<u>\$10,550.00</u>
Needed to meet expenses	-\$2,209.00

We received a very generous one-time gift from one of our members. We truly appreciate your kindness to the Church.

CHURCH COUNCIL

President Jerry Brady, **Vice-President** Wendy Alfageme, **Secretary** Nancy Anderson, **Treasurer** Phyllis Mackey, **Finance Chair** Kay Pushman

Members at Large: Sandy Langdale, Carmen Leslie, Betty Lucero, Sylvia Makus, Michael Vanvales, and Anne Walshe

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Jean, Kathy, Wendy, Beverly, Dena, Nancy, Evelyn, Shirlene, Jerry, Dondi, Carol, Mickey, Evelyn, Gloria, Christa, Alice, Barbara, Cedric, Lucy, Karen, Kelly, Raymond, Dick, Marilyn, Brian, Carl, Jessica, Carol, Rose, Ken, Sandra, Elaine, Carmen, Barbara, Betty, Nancy, Phyllis, Sylvia, Gil, Flo, Eileen, Erich, Leslie, Linda, Ronnie, Kay, Violet, Linda, Ron, Collette, Lisa, Patty, Barbara, Joan, Dee, Susan, Anita, Norma, Lathy, Juanita, Clarence, Debbie, Joan, Anne, Doris, Linda, Bruce, Alma, Martha, Marianne, Robert, Laura, Jim, Loretta, Ray, Patty, Delrie, Bill, Betty, Lorna, M. Teresa, Joan, Mike, Frankie, Donna, Ernie, Eileen, Darlene, Sharon, Danota, Lynne, Ethan, Kurt, Brinly, McCall, Kathy, Nayleen, Nicole, Donald, Maria, Andy, Owen, Tom, Anastasia, Claire, Fran, Chris, Kyle, Michele, Bill, Wes, Sam, Kolt, Maeve, Brigid, Joanna, Dale, Karla, Sands, Gloria, Tom, Rosalia, and Wendy. Please contact the church to add people to the prayer list.

Please pray for our Bishop David Nagler, (ELCA) and Bishop John Taylor (ECUSA), the victims of the Ukrainian/Russian and Israel/Hamas conflicts, and victims and families of all violence and natural disasters.

Gracious God, none who trust in your Son can be separated from your love. Give to those who live alone peace and contentment in their solitude, hope and fulfillment in their love of you, and joy and companionship in their relations with others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

- ✝ Welcome everyone this morning, and especially to our guests and visitors. A Happy and Blessed Christmas to you all!
- ✝ Thank you to Bishop Murray Finck for Presiding for today's Service. He will continue exploring with the congregation an in-depth understanding of the nativity, infancy, and childhood of Jesus. We are honored that Bishop Finck will be with us for Sundays through the first week in January.
- ✝ There will be a cookie exchange after our Service today.
- ✝ Barbara Long is an avid baker especially at Christmas, and bakes much more than she can use. She has offered to have a Bake Sale Fundraiser on December 31 at our coffee hour. A perfect place to purchase homemade goodies for your New Year's celebrations.
- ✝ We are again trying to plan an acceptance of new members! Bishop Finck has agreed to accept new members for us so please speak to him. We need to plan a date so please pick up a member's form from the entryway and return it as soon as possible.
- ✝ At this time, we are encouraging people to consider wearing a mask again, especially in Church, due to the spike in Covid-19 cases. Initial symptoms are headache and fever. Please consult with your doctor if you are experiencing these or other symptoms. We continue to have masks available in the entryway for your use. We need to join together to keep everyone safe and healthy.
- ✝ Please take a moment and fill out the attendance slip found in the rack in the pews. Please place it in the offertory plate. Thank you!
- ✝ The NEW Flower Chart is available for sign-ups in the entryway. One bouquet is \$15.00. Both are \$30.00. Please include any dedication for your flower request when signing up or include a note beforehand if there is a dedication.
- ✝ Printed copies of our current newsletter are available in the entryway. It is online on our website at: www.redeemerasealbeach.com. It is sent out via email, if we have your email address. If you are not receiving it, please let us know so we can confirm your address.