

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN
507-896-3102

First Sunday of Advent Worship Service
November 27, 2022

The people
walking in
darkness have
seen a great
light;...



Isaiah 9:2

Cross of Christ Mission Statement: As a fellowship of believers, it is our mission to joyfully proclaim the gospel of Christ in word and deed; inviting people to worship together, nurturing them in the Christian faith, loving one another and serving a world in need.

Sunday, November 27, 2022, First Sunday of Advent w/Contemporary Worship Service

Prelude

Announcements

Gathering Song: ELW 266 “*All Earth Is Hopeful*” vs 1,2&4

1 All earth is hopeful, the
Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's
creative task:
this, the labor of people who
struggle to see
how God's truth and justice
set ev'rybody free.

2 People of Israel, you heard
the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear
Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with
us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to
children of this earth.

4 We first saw Jesus a baby in
a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today
has come to live
in our world; he his present,
in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever
sets us free.

Accents in Advent/Lighting of the Advent Candle

Call To Worship:

P: Jesus walked among His people among people living in darkness.

C: **The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.**

P: Jesus saw a hidden light in Peter – in Andrew – in James - and they saw the light in Him.

C: **The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who walked in the shadow of death on them God's light has shone.**

P: Jesus sees that light in us and says, "Come, follow me!"

ALL TOGETHER: **We are people who have seen the light on us God's light has shone; we have accepted the light of Christ and in accepting have been given the right to be called children of God.**

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

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Special Music–ELW# 779 vs1,2&4 “*Amazing Grace*”

Bells, Piano & Congregation

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

P: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 84:1-7

¹I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

²**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.**

⁷Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

⁸**For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good."

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁶At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: “Thy Word”

[Chorus]

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.

1) When I feel afraid,
And think I’ve lost my way.
Still, you’re there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear
As long as you are near;
Please be near me to the end.
[Chorus]

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Jeff Forbes

Hymn of the Day: ELW #253 “He Came Down”

1 He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.
2 He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
hallelujah forevermore.

3 He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.
4 He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.

Apostle's Creed

**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 power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, 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,
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 Intercession:

Congregation Response after each "Lord in your mercy."

"Hear Our Prayer" ELW #178

The 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, for ever and ever. Amen**

Benediction

ELW p. 146

Sending Song: ELW #267 "Joy to the World" vs 1,2&4

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is
come!

Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him
room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and
nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior
reigns!

Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks,
hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding
joy.

4 He rules the world with
truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his
righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his
love.

Dismissal
Go in peace. Serve the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We welcome you in Jesus' name to this Service of Worship. We pray that you will be blessed through the hearing of God's Word and our fellowship as people of faith. If you have any questions, please ask our ushers, and please sign our Guest Book in the narthex. If you are a visitor, please introduce yourself to our Interim Pastor as you leave the service. We are happy to have you with us today as we worship together!

Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed

It is that time of year to get your jingle on! Please sign up to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Root River Market this season. You can either use Sign Up Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DADA628A4FACE9-salvation>

or contact Lisa Skifton at 507-429-3820 or lisa.skifton@gmail.com All proceeds stay in Houston County.

Prayer Requests; Family of Junior VanGundy; Family of Bonnie Kinstler; Terri Peterson (Karyn Olson's daughter); Kathryn Brisson (Susan Ferries's sister); Tom Westby (Steve's brother); the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Ushers Needed: Have you ever wanted to serve as an usher at church? We are looking for families or friend groups to serve as ushers for our services. Two or more people from a family or group can sign up for one or a group of Sundays. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact the church office at cofc@acegroup.cc or 896-3102 or Jim Edwards at 896-2386 to volunteer to usher. Those students in confirmation or going into confirmation next year could use ushering as a service event for their confirmation requirements.

Care & Share

Tis the Season

We will not have tags for the Christmas tree again this year. However, we are now accepting monetary donations to purchase gift cards for this year's Houston County Care & Share program. Deadline to donate is November 30 and they can be sent to PO Box 402, Caledonia MN 55921.

This will be our 35th year of Care & Share and our last year. Some of our reasons for disbanding are times have changed since Covid, lack of new and interested committee members willing to commit to the program, hard to find a location to sort and package items, confidentiality issues and we feel we may have outgrown our usefulness and that there are other programs available for families in need.

We very much appreciate your support over the years to Care & Share!!!

It has been a rewarding experience for our committee members and the volunteers.

Happy Holidays and God's Blessings,
Houston County Care & Share Committee
Jill Hahn, Member



Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement

To give electronically, please search "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement" create account or download app.

Contact the church office with any questions.

Pastor Jeff Forbes-Interim

revforbes@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.crossofchristhouston.org>

Church Number: 507-896-3102

Church Office Email: cofc@acegroup.cc

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

AT CROSS OF CHRIST THIS WEEK: 11/27/22-12/04/22

TODAY: 9:30 In person First Advent Worship at Cross of Christ w/FB Live

NO Sunday School

10:30 Coffee Hour

MONDAY: 10:00a.m. Visitation for Bonnie Kinstler with

11:00a.m. Funeral

TUESDAY:

WEDNESDAY: 9:00 Quiet Prayer Time

5:30 Bell Choir Practice

6:30 Confirmation & Club 56

THURSDAY:

FRIDAY: 2-5:00p.m. visitation for Junior Van Gundy

5:00p.m. Funeral

SATURDAY:

SUNDAY: 8:30 Choir practice

9:30 In Person Second Advent 2 w/Holy

Communion Worship/ FB Live

10:30 Sunday School Program Practice

Cookie Walk (following Service)

Looking Ahead.....

December 5 Ruths Circle Potluck at Cof C (6:00p.m.)

December 7 Prayer Time, Prayer Group, Bell Choir, Confirmation & Club 56, **Sunday School Christmas Program Practice**

December 10 Manor Dinner
December 11 Noisy Offering Service
December 14 Prayer Time, Prayer Group, Bell Choir, Confirmation & Club 56
December 14 **Sunday School Christmas Program Practice**

Area Events:

December 3 Holidazzle

Upcoming WELCA events:

December 5 WELCA Officers Mtg. for allocation of funds
December 9 WELCA meeting, Installation of Officers—2:00p.m.

Time And Talent Online Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8K9LK87>

Schedule -Coffee hour Hosts-10:30 AM

December 4 Cookie Walk
December 11 Denise Rostad

Keep in prayer our military personnel from the Houston Area:

Shawn Feller – U. S. Air Force	Zach Stackhouse – U.S. Army Reserves
Jessica Gaustad-Ahlburg – U.S. Air Force	Jeffery VanGundy – National Guards
Tom & Heather Hegland-U.S. Air Force	Lauren Johnson – U.S. Air Force
Mike Swenson – U.S. Marines	Quentin Johnson – U.S. Marines
John Erickson – U.S. Air Force	Peter Jergenson – U.S. Air Force
Hope Stremcha – U.S. Army	Joey Snyder – U.S. Air Force
Joshua Vix – U.S. Army Reserves	Chris Meyer – U.S. Air Force
Sam Montgomery – U.S. Air Force	Andy Woxland – U.S. Navy
Jacob Rogich – U.S. Marines	Nick Skree – National Guard
Nicole Rogich – U.S. Marines	Victor Henk – U.S. Navy
Jason Hill – U.S. Marines	James Hill – U.S. Air Force
Alex Townsend – U.S. Air Force	Roy Kerrigan – Air National Guard
Gretchen Hill – U.S. Air Force	

Addresses of our military personnel are needed: If you know the address of one of the above military personnel, please call Sharon Knudsen (896-2020) and give her the address. We would like to send greetings to each of our military personnel from the area.