

# CHURCH OF THE CROSS



Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2018

## *Our Vision*

Connecting people to Christ and one another  
through a community rooted in history  
and relevant for today

## *Our Mission*

To establish a welcoming community where people  
Encounter Christ  
Are Changed by Christ  
Introduce Christ to others

## *Our Values*

The eternal relevance of scripture.  
The transforming nature of worship.  
The power of connectedness.  
The necessity of dependence on God.  
The witness of generosity and hospitality.  
The blessing of children.  
The priority of a balanced life.

Welcome to Church of the Cross. We are glad you can join us this evening for our worship service.

Children are welcome to remain in the service with their parents for this evening's Christmas Eve Service. Nursery care is available upstairs for children under three, and for three-year olds as space allows. Please pick all children up from the nursery for communion after the Homily, during the song *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*. If you wish, activity bags are available for children in the gathering room outside of the sanctuary.

We do celebrate communion in our services, and we invite all those who have been baptized and are committed to following Christ to join us, regardless of denomination. There are directions explaining how we partake of communion in the bulletin at that point in the service. If you are not receiving communion you can still come forward and receive a blessing, or remain seated and enjoy the music.

You are all invited to join us for our regular Sunday worship services (9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.). Each service includes worship music and singing, scripture readings, a sermon, prayers, and Communion. Regular children's programming and nursery care is available during both Sunday worship services. **Please note, though, that Sunday, December 30, there will only be one service at 10 AM and children will worship with their families. This service will be followed by a**

Scriptures from Luke and Isaiah are from ESV.  
Scriptures from John are CSV.

## Opening Prayer

### John 1:1-5

#### Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

##### Verse 1

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

##### Verse 2

Joy to those who long to see thee,  
Day-spring from on high, appear;  
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,  
Of Thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing  
News, glad tidings of a birth;  
"Go to Him, your praises bringing;  
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

##### Verse 3

Come to earth to taste our sadness,  
He whose glories knew no end;  
By His life He brings us gladness,  
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number,  
Born within a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder,  
Christ was born the Lord of all.

##### Verse 4

Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone.  
By thine all-sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley  
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#### Luke 1:26-38 & Isaiah 42:1

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

*Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;*

*I have put my Spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.*

And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,<sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."<sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.<sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God."<sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

## John 1:9

### It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

#### *Verse 1*

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
From heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.

#### *Verse 2*

Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains,  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

#### *Verse 3*

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophet seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Shall come the time foretold  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world send back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

Words: Edmund Sears, 19th C  
Music: Richard Storrs Willis, 19th C

## Luke 2:1-7 & Isaiah 62:11b

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

*Behold, your salvation comes;  
behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.*

<sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## John 1:14 & 16

### O Little Town of Bethlehem

#### Verse 1

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

#### Verse 2

For Christ is born of Mary  
And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the King  
And peace to all on earth

#### Verse 3

O holy child of Bethlehem  
Descend to us we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in  
Be born in us today  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell  
O come to us abide with us  
Our Lord Emmanuel

Music: R. Vaughn Williams, 1906  
Text: Phillips Brooks, 1867

## Luke 2:8-20 & Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

*The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.*

<sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

*For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.*

<sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## John 1:18

# Hark! the Herald-Angels Sing

## Verse 1

Hark the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful, all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With th'angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem

## Chorus

Hark the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

## Verse 2

Christ by highest heav'n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail th'incarnate Deity  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell  
Jesus our Emmanuel

## Verse 3

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 us from the earth  
Born to give us second birth

Charles Wesley / Felix Mendelssohn  
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*Celebrant:* For unto us a child is born.

*People:* **To us a son is given.**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you

*People:* **And also with you**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray:

*Celebrant:* O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

## Homily

Rev. Peter Berg



# The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Traditional Basque Carol, Arr. Edgar Pettman

*Children should be picked up from the nursery during this time.*

## The Holy Communion

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:* It is right, our duty and our joy...

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



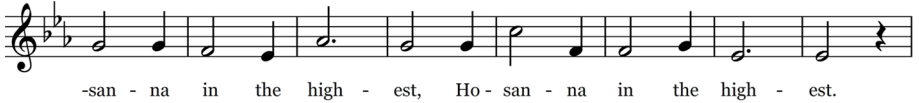
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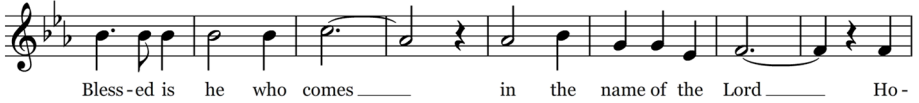
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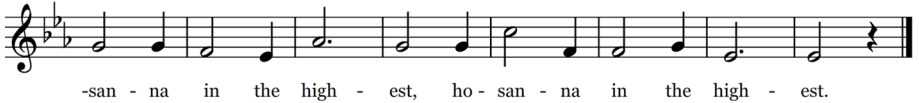
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Schubert

*Celebrant:* Holy and gracious Father...

...Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant:* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Father...

...By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

*Celebrant and People:* AMEN.

*Celebrant:* And now, as our savior Christ has taught us we are bold to pray together,

*Celebrant and People:*

**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**

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;

*People:* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*You will be dismissed by row to receive communion. As you come forward you will first be given a piece of bread, which you may eat upon receiving. Gluten-free wafers are available for those with diet restrictions. If you would prefer a wafer, please let the person serving bread know.*

*After eating the bread, you may receive either from the larger chalice, which has wine in it; or from the tray of smaller cups which are filled with grape juice.*

## What Child Is This

### *Verse 1*

What Child is this who laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping  
This this is Christ the King  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste haste to bring Him laud  
The Babe the Son of Mary

### *Verse 2*

Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding  
Good Christian fear for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading  
This this is Christ the King  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste haste to bring Him laud  
The Babe the Son of Mary

### *Verse 3*

So bring Him incense gold and myrrh  
Come peasant king to own Him  
The King of kings salvation brings  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him  
This this is Christ the King  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste haste to bring Him laud  
The Babe the Son of Mary

William Chatterton Dix  
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## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

### *Verse 1*

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As seers of old have  
It came a flower bright  
Amid the cold of winter  
When half-spent was the night

### *Verse 2*

Isaiah 'twas foretold it  
The rose I have in mind  
With Mary we behold it  
The virgin mother kind  
To show God's love aright  
She bore to us a Savior  
When half-spent was the night

### *Verse 3*

This flow'r whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air  
Dispels with glorious splendor  
The darkness ev'rywhere  
True man, yet very God  
From sin and death He saves us  
And lightens ev'ry load

### *Verse 4*

O Savior child of Mary  
Who felt our human woe  
O Savior King of glory  
Who dost our weakness know  
Bring us at last we pray  
To the bright courts of heaven  
And to Thy endless day

Text and music: traditional German carol,  
tr. by Baker, Spaeth and Mattes

## The First Noel

### Verse 1

The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;  
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

### Chorus

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel.

### Verse 2

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.

### Verse 3

And by the light of that same star  
three Wise Men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.

### Verse 4

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
Who made Heaven and earth of naught,  
And with His blood mankind hath bought.

Traditional English Carol

### *Candles*

*When lighting your candle, please tip the candle towards the flame and hold your lit candle upright when passing the flame to others. Please be sure to supervise young children with candles.*

## O Come All Ye Faithful

### Verse 1

O come all ye faithful  
Joyful and triumphant  
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold Him  
Born the King of angels

### Chorus

O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord

*Verse 2*

Sing choirs of angels  
Sing in exultation  
O sing all ye citizens of heav'n above  
Glory to God  
All glory in the highest

*Verse 3*

Yea, Lord we greet Thee  
Born this happy morning  
Jesus to thee be all glory given  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing

*Verse 4*

True God from True God  
Light from Light eternal  
Born from a virgin a mortal he comes;  
Only begotten  
Son of the Father

C. Frederick Oakeley / John Francis Wade  
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## Silent Night

*Verse 1*

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

*Verse 2*

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

*Verse 3*

Silent night holy night  
Son of God love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus Lord at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

*Verse 4*

Silent night holy night  
Wondrous star lend thy light  
With the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King  
Christ the Saviour is born  
Christ the Saviour is born

Words: Josph Mohr 19th C  
T. John F Young 19th C  
Music: Franz Gruber 19th C

## Prayer for Peace

2 PM: *French, Russian, Spanish, Danish, English*

4 PM: *French, Hebrew, Spanish, Latin, Chinese, English*

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no strength is known but the strength of love, send out your Spirit so all people may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace: Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Celebrant:* May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of all his gifts; and the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always. *Amen.*

*Please extinguish your candle,  
and wait for the wax to harden before laying it down.*

## Joy to the World

### *Verse 1*

Joy to the world the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

### *Verse 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

### *Verse 3*

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as far as the curse is found

### *Verse 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 and wonders of His love

Isaac Watts / George Frederic Handel  
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*Deacon:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

Let the just rejoice,  
for their Justifier is born.  
Let the sick and infirm rejoice,  
For their Savior is born.  
Let the captives rejoice,  
For their Redeemer is born.  
Let slaves rejoice,  
for their Master is born.  
Let free men rejoice,  
For their Liberator is born.  
Let All Christians rejoice,  
For Jesus Christ is born.

St. Augustine of Hippo

## Staff

Christian Ruch - Rector  
christian@ofthecross.org

Peter Berg - Priest, Pastor of Youth and Adult Ministries  
peter@ofthecross.org

Annie Birtcil - Office Manager  
annie@ofthecross.org

Andrea Lang - Pastor of Children's & Family Ministry  
andrea@ofthecross.org

Justin Moline - Pastor of Connecting  
justin@ofthecross.org

Andene O'Neil - Pastor of Worship Ministry  
andene@ofthecross.org

Cheryl Witham - Deacon, Pastor of Formation  
cheryl@ofthecross.org

## Vestry

Elizabeth Carlson  
carlsonfamily4@gmail.com

Kara Eggers  
karaeggery@yahoo.com

Sam Hamer  
SHamer@carlsoncaspers.com

Matt Huston  
mhust6@gmail.com

Jamie Kaihoi  
jamiekaihoi@gmail.com

Justin Tennison  
justin@pulsemovement.com

## Church of the Cross

201 9th Ave. North  
Hopkins, MN 55343  
952-933-3686  
www.ofthecross.org