

COMFORT

Christmas
PARADOX

CROSS OF CHRIST

BOISE

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

(208) 375-3992 + cocidaho.org

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Second Sunday in Advent

December 5-6, 2020

Welcome to Cross of Christ

Relax. At Cross of Christ, our worship is designed to praise God and enrich faith. We aim to make the service clear and appropriately reverent. For your convenience, the service is printed as well as projected on the screens.

Bring the kids. Our congregation enjoys the worshiping family. In fact, our worship often includes a children's message with little ones in mind (though these are currently on hold for health considerations). That's why children who act up are never viewed as a bother to our worship service. However, parents who want to calm a restless child may do so by walking them in the lobby. Worship screens, speakers and seating areas can be found in the lobby to assist families with their worship.

Don't feel obligated. Our members give offerings to the Lord as an expression of our thanks and praise for his amazing love. Visitors, please know that you are our guests. We're happy you came today to hear about Jesus and his Word. You are not expected to give an offering; it's your choice.

Make yourself at home. After our services, we join together in the lobby for fellowship and conversation. We'd be honored if you would join us!

Restrooms are located to the left and right of the water fountain in the lobby.

Questions? If you'd like to know more about our church or our beliefs, feel free to speak with one of our pastors after the service. You will also find a summary statement of our beliefs on the lobby counter. More information is available online at cocidaho.org.



CROSS OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Opening Song

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

Hymn #23:1-3

Responses

Pastor: Open my lips, Lord.

Congregation: And my mouth will declare your praise.

Hasten, O God, to save me;

Come quickly, Lord, to help me.

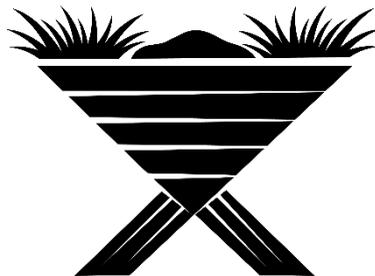
The Lord has come in humility, and he will come again in glory. The Spirit and the Church cry out: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Let us worship him.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, Prince of heaven, by your birth on Christmas, you entered our world of darkness and sin. May the grief, pain, and final glory you experienced ever comfort us with the knowledge of full forgiveness and acceptance before the throne; for there you live and rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



God's Word

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹ Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out."
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever."

⁹ You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;

say to the towns of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd:

He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

God’s Word

Revelation 12:1-6

¹ A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ² She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. ³ Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. ⁴ Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. ⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.” And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. ⁶ The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

Song

“Comfort, Comfort All My People”

Hymn #11:1,2,4

Message from God's Word

Matthew 2:13-18

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ "A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."

Refusing to Be Comforted

Statement of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from

heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church & the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer follows the prayer spoken by the pastor:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Supper

God's Word speaks of the spiritual blessings of this Sacrament (Mt. 26:28) and warns against the spiritual dangers of being unprepared for this holy meal (1 Cor. 11:27-29). Because we deeply care about you and don't want to see anyone's faith harmed, we ask that if you have not studied with us or spoken with our pastors first, that you refrain from joining in the Sacrament today. We are not judging your love for Jesus but rather displaying loving caution for all involved. Please feel free to ask one of our pastors if you have questions. We are eager to listen and share over an open Bible.

Preparing Our Hearts

As we await Jesus' second coming, we remember when he first came to this earth. He left the comfort of heaven to bring comfort to his people through the forgiveness of their sins. Let's acknowledge this together:

Perfectly holy God, I confess my many sins. I have so often broken your laws and failed to live as your child. I am sorry for my sins. With gratitude, I trust in Christ. Grant me comfort and forgiveness because of him.

"Comfort, comfort my people," says your God. He sent his Son to this world to seek and to save the lost. Jesus' perfect life, his suffering and death in your place, and his resurrection from the dead have taken your guilt away forever. Through Jesus, you are God's precious child, at home in his family. Be comforted today by his unconditional love for you.

Amen!

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us, and grant us your peace. Amen.

Communion Distribution

Communion Song

"Fullness of Grace"

Sung by vocalist

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen!

Closing Song

“As Angels Joyed with One Accord”

Hymn #5:1,4,7

Cross of Christ Weekly Newsletter

December 6, 2020

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool (WELS)

Church & Preschool Office - 208.375.3992 - cocidaho.org

Private Communion Available

We want to serve and spiritually nurture our members as best as possible. This includes ensuring access to the Means of Grace. Offering virtual worship is easier; virtual sacraments are more challenging. **If you have been worshipping from home for months and would like to receive Holy Communion, contact the church office** (208-375-3992/secretary@cocidaho.org) to schedule an appointment with a pastor for private communion. Careful masking, sanitizing, and distancing precautions will be observed.

Daily Devotions & Advent Devotions

Two devotion booklets are available to you for free on the ushers' cart by the lobby mailboxes: the December-February Meditations and “The Jesse Tree,” an Advent devotion booklet provided by Martin Luther College (our church body's called worker training school). These daily devotions will provide food for your faith and encouragement for your life as you prepare to celebrate our Savior's birth! Take one or both home today.

Christmas Flowers

To honor Jesus' birth by beautifying the Boise chapel for Christmas, sign up on the lobby bulletin board to purchase flowering plants (\$6.50-\$14.00 each). **Last day to request a plant is this Monday, December 7.** Thank you in advance for making God's house beautiful; after the last service on Christmas Eve or Day, take your plants home to enjoy! Contact Dick or Kay Guthmiller with any questions (208-850-8809).

Grocery Outreach in Boise This Month

Saturday, Dec 19, 10:00 am. Deliver free groceries to members of our community who could use a bit of support and care! We'll meet the Boise campus and go from there.

Contact Pastor Wetzel (kurt.wetzel@cocidaho.org) to volunteer to donate and/or deliver groceries. All ages can participate! It's safe, everybody goes with a partner, instructions are provided, and you might be surprised by the joy you find in giving.

Christmas Cards

A lot of us haven't seen one another in a while, so let's say hi and share some encouragement: Send a Christmas card to your church family this season! Simply mail or deliver your card to the Boise campus. We'll take a picture of every card & message and put it into a shared online photo album that everyone can enjoy.

You Are Welcome for Christmas Worship!

Boise Campus	Christmas Eve 1:00 & 3:00 pm <i>Online by early evening</i>	Christmas Day 10:00 am <i>Online by early afternoon</i>
Nampa (JaK*s Place)	Christmas Eve 4:30 pm	

Second Site Building Purchase Update

Great news! We have received loan approval from Church Extension Fund (CEF) for the Birch Lane building in Nampa. The numbers are not yet finalized but the increase in mortgage payment is expected to fit within the subsidy offered us by the Board for Home Missions (BHM). Based on the loan approval, we have authorized the expense to develop the construction drawings needed to obtain finish construction bids (targeting at least two construction firms). We've now had several meetings with the architectural firm and have made good progress to finalize a floorplan.

The Cross of Christ Church family has shown strong financial support for the project to date. As of December 3, we've grown the building fund to \$129K available with an additional \$41K in outstanding pledges, for a total of \$170K. As you may recall, our minimum goal is to raise \$210K to accommodate both the minimum down payment and the costs to furnish and equip the new Nampa campus. Any gifts above our minimum goal for this mission effort will be added to our down payment and reduce the overall loan amount. Thanks be to God for the response of his people!

You can give directly to the building fund (by check or at cocidaho.org/give) or fill out a pledge form to indicate gifts to come. *The down payment timeframe requires that **all pledges be submitted by December 6 – this Sunday!** – and fulfilled by December 15.*

- In Boise: pledge card available in the lobby near the bulletin boards, place in box in same location.
- In Nampa: pledge card available with the bulletins near the door; place in offering plate.
- Online: tinyurl.com/2020BuildingPledge

***“I am the Vine, you are the branches.
If you remain in me and I in you,
you will bear much fruit!”***

Dec 6-Dec 13	Boise	Nampa
Sunday	8:30am - Early Worship w/Communion 9:45am - Family Bible Study 11:00am - Late Worship w/ Communion	8:45am - Family Bible Study (JaK*s Place) 9:30am - Worship w/Communion (JaK*s Place)
Monday		
Tuesday	6:30pm - New Member Orientation	
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday	12:30pm - Christmas for Kids At-Home Kit Pick-up 6:30pm - Evening Worship w/Communion	10:30am - Second Site Ministry Meeting 12:30pm - Christmas for Kids At- Home Kit Pick-up
Next Sunday	8:30am - Early Worship 11:00am - Late Worship	8:45am - Family Bible Study (JaK*s Place) 9:30am - Worship (JaK*s Place)

People in God’s Word this past week	Boise	Nampa	Total
Sunday Family Bible Study	27	25	52
Cross Connections Class	3	5	8
Thanksgiving Worship Weekend Worship	122 (Sat) 39 + 55 + 67 = 161	37	198

Serving	December 5-December 6		December 12-December 13	
	Nampa	Boise	Nampa	Boise
Music	A. Lange	K. Koepsell	S. Wetzel	Koepsell, Lange, Dodd, Lowry
AV Tech	J. Malnes, S. Tews, G. Light	J. Kennedy, C. Kennedy, M. Hartman, TBA	J. Malnes, S. Tews, G. Light	E. Christianson, A. Becker, TBA
Altar Care	K. Guthmiller, C. Harris	Guthmiller, Struthers	K. Guthmiller, C. Harris	Guthmiller, Struthers
Set-Up	Guthmiller, Harris, Olsoe	n/a	Guthmiller, Harris, Olsoe	n/a
Ushers	J. Harris	G. Bafus, R. Hibbs, J. Berrier B. Turley, R. Seely	n/a	G. Bafus, R. Hibbs, J. Breckon
Sanitizing	D. Tews, J. Light	O'Mallon, Hibbs, TBA	D. Tews, J. Light	DeWall, Hibbs, TBA
Flowers	n/a	Banner	n/a	DeWall
Church Cleaners	n/a	Brown	n/a	Broyles, Carlovsky
Tellers	Harris, Walden, Morford		Turley, Cadwell, Morgan	
Bulletin Folders	Prigges, Tweedy, Foreman		Kimmel, Patrick, Whitlach	

<i>General Fund Offerings Planned FY 20-21</i>	\$708,200
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$299,623
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$257,917
Total Offerings Last Two Weeks (All Funds)	\$37,526