

Find Your Missing Peace

Christmas Eve 2023

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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Christmas Eve • December 24, 2023

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 worshipping family. In fact, our worship often includes a children's message with little ones in mind. That's why children who act up are never viewed as a bother to the worship service. However, parents who want to calm a restless child may do so by walking them in the lobby. Video & audio of the worship service are available in the lobby to assist families with their worship. A private parents' room is located in the alcove to your left as you exit the chapel.

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 coffee 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. More information is also available online at cocidaho.org.



CROSS OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Opening Carol

“O Holy Night”
On screens, stanzas 1-3

Welcome

Carol

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”
Hymn #55:1-4

The Meaning of Christmas

with “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
Hymn #61:1-3

Pastor: We come on this holy day to worship the Son of God who came to earth, born of a virgin on Christmas. This event changes everything! God became man to set us free from sin and all that is wrong. We celebrate the birth of this child who came to rescue us. He is God. He is the Savior. He is Christ, the Lord.

Congregation: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

(♫) **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 th’ angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

The effects of sin and death rob us of our peace. So God himself entered this chaotic world to fix that. He came with great power to fill the missing piece of our lives with a peace that completes us. By the perfect life, death, and resurrection of Jesus – Immanuel, God with us – we are forgiven, accepted, made holy, and given an eternal place in God’s family.

That’s why we worship on Christmas. “Glory to God!” the angels sang, because on Christmas, God did something astounding. Heaven and earth were reunited as God came down. Hope for the hopeless. Joy for the joyless. Burdens lifted. Sins forgiven. True peace arrived that first Christmas, for you! For me. For all of us.

Almighty God, shape our lives with this good news. Grant us your Spirit to understand that this “helpless” sleeping baby is also Christ the King – born to die in our place to save us.

**(♫) Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see,
Hail th’ incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

God of all hope and peace, without you we are incomplete, and nothing in this world fits that empty piece. But when you sent your Son, Jesus, you also gave your promise that “whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) And so through Jesus we can approach every part of our lives having been made whole now and forever.

Here and now, may the words of Scripture we hear remind us again that the old story is ever so new.

Turn our thoughts toward Bethlehem and to the Christ-Child.

May the carols we sing reveal to us again the mystery of his birth.

Fill us with hope and peace this Christmas, as we see the gift you gave us lying in a manger.

And hold us in your loving care until the day we see you in the glory you are preparing for us in heaven. In Jesus' name, grant us all a merry Christmas.

Amen!

(♫) Hail, the heav'nly 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.

Hark! The herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hark! The herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King!”

Baptism

Makenna Ann Burke

11:00 am

God's Word

Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

¹³Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

Carol

“What Child Is This”

Hymn #67:1-3

God's Word

Titus 3:4-7

⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Carol

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Hymn #63:1-3

Message from God's Word

Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

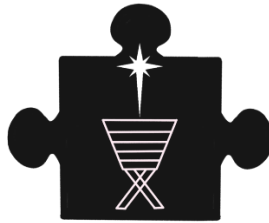
¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning

what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Find Your Missing Peace



Candle Lighting

Our Pastor will light the ushers' candles from the Christ Candle. The ushers will then light the candles of the worshipers on the aisles. Please pass your light to the person next to you.

*PLEASE NOTE: **Do not tip lit candles. Tip your UNLIT candle** to take the light from your neighbor's lit candle. **Parents and adults, please assist children.** We will all return our candles to the boxes in the lobby when we exit after the service. Thank you!*

Song during Candle Lighting

“All Is Well”

Solo, on screens

Prayers for Christmas Eve

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.

Christmas Blessing

May God the Father guide and protect you with his faithful love.

May Jesus, the Savior born on Christmas, fill your heart with peace and joy.

May the Holy Spirit dwell within to comfort and to guide you all your days.

May the almighty God watch over you and all those you love this day, and may he give you a merry Christmas!

Amen!

Closing Carol

“Silent Night”

Hymn #60:1-3

Silent Prayer

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for filling my life with your presence and completing my life with all the gifts that come from you: peace, hope, joy, and so much more.

Ignite the fire of faith in my heart that I may trust in you and find a real reason to celebrate today and always. Amen.

**Our Mission:
Impacting Lives for Eternity**

Offerings

*If you would like to give an offering to support gospel ministry
at and through Cross of Christ, offering plates are available in the lobby.
You can also give your gift online at cocidaho.org/give.*

Join us again!

Christmas Day @ 10:30 am

Sundays @ 8:30 & 11:00 am

Cross Connections

Religion and spirituality can sometimes seem like concepts that leave us confused without feeling any closer to God. But knowing God and finding peace in life don't have to be hard.

Cross Connections is a 10-week course where we lay out the message of Jesus and the Bible in a simple, easy-to-follow format to give you everything you need to connect to God, purpose and community. After attending Cross Connections, you will have certainty about your relationship with God and the good news found at the cross of Christ.

The next session begins the last week of January. Sign up today!

Tuesdays @ 6:30 PM

Here on our Boise campus

Begins January 23

Thursdays @ 6:30 PM

On our Nampa campus, 6134 Birch Lane

Begins January 25

Register online: cocidaho.org/connect/cross-connections

Questions: greg.hein@cocidaho.org / 208-375-3992