# Christ Lutheran Church &
# The Bridge Campus Ministry
## December 24, 2024 – The Nativity of Our Lord

***Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life***

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**Introduction to the day**

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

**Welcome**

**Prelude When the Lord of Love Was Born CLC Choir Christian Yoder, Director**

**Christmas Dialog and Greeting**
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
**We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**
For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
**In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

**Entrance Hymn: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283)**

1. 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!*
2. 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*
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
   Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
   Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

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

**Time with Children**

**First Reading**
Isaiah 9:2-7

2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.
3 You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.
[4]For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
[5]For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
[6]For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
[7]His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279)**

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.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
   While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
   O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
   And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
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;
   Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

**Second Reading**
Titus 2:11-14

[11]For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, [12]training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, [13]while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. [14]He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

**Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (ELW 270)**

1. 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!”
   Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”
2. 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.
   Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

**Third Reading**
Luke 2:1-7

[1]In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. [2]This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. [3]All went to their own towns to be registered. [4]Joseph 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. [5]He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. [6]While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. [7]And 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.

**Hymn: Away in a Manger (ELW 277)**

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
   The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
   The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
   The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
   But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
   I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
   And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

**Fourth Reading**
Luke 2:8-12

[8]In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. [9]Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. [10]But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: [11]to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. [12]This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

# CHILD OF THE POOR/WHAT CHILD IS THIS

What Child Is This by William C. Dix, 1827–1898
Child Of The Poor by Scott Soper

GREENSLEEVES, 8 7 8 7 with refrain
16th Century English Melody
Child Of The Poor by Scott Soper

*Child Of The Poor*

VERSES 1 & 2: Cantor/Choir

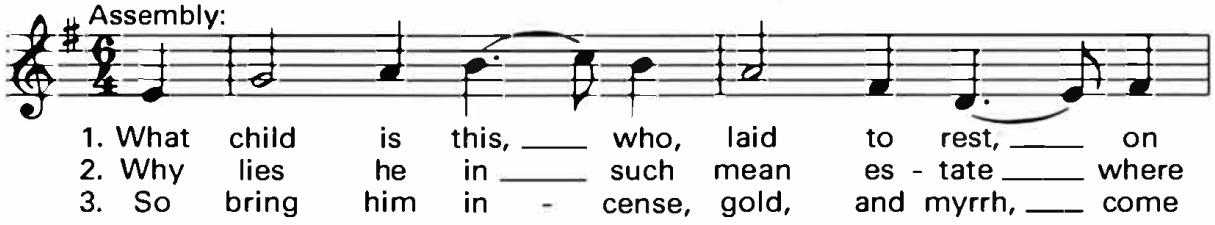
1. Helpless and hungry, lowly, afraid,
wrapped in the chill of mid-winter;
comes now among us, born into poverty's embrace,
new life for the world.

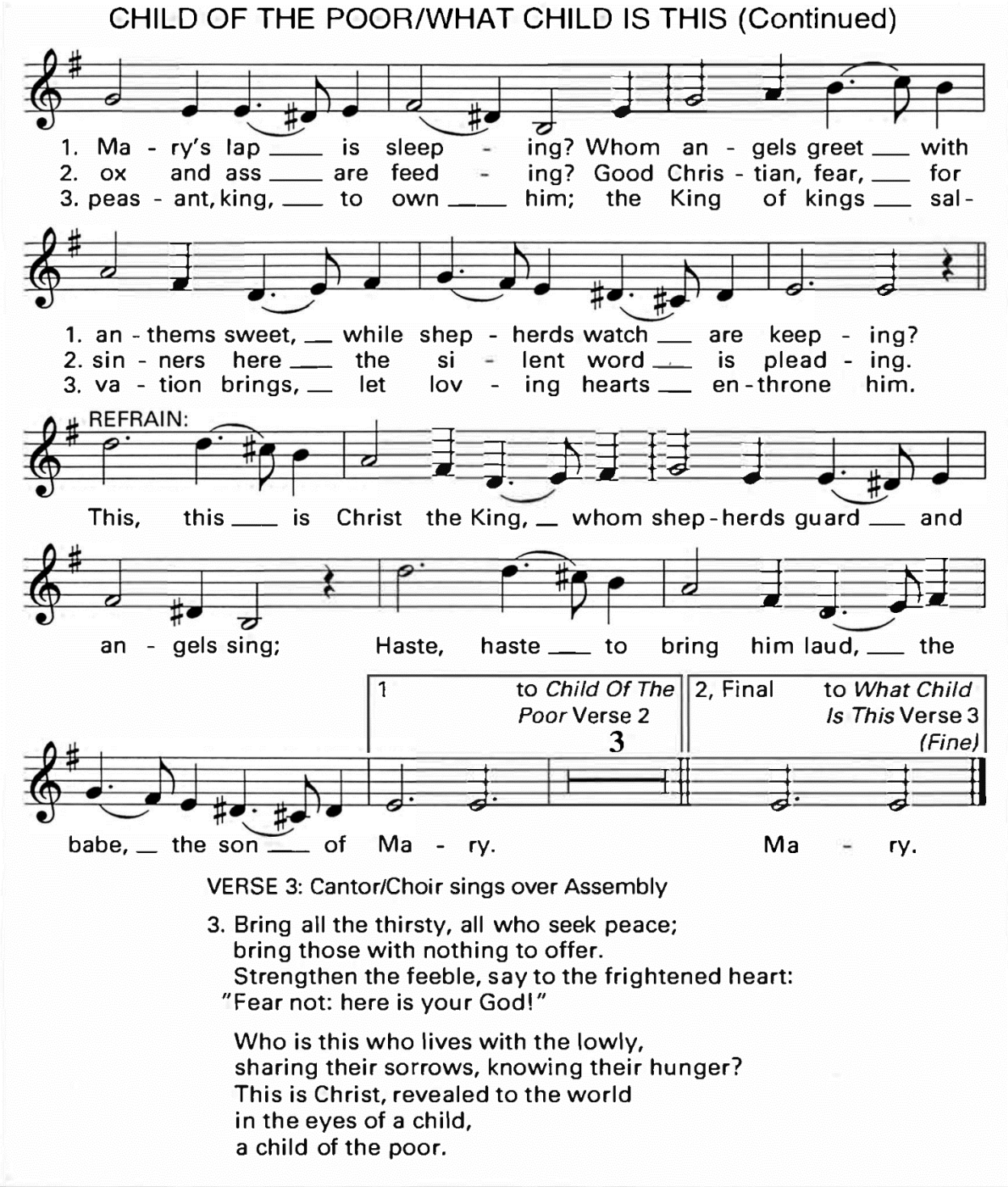
Who is this who lives with the lowly,
sharing their sorrows, knowing their hunger?
This is Christ, revealed to the world
in the eyes of a child,
a child of the poor. **(to *What Child Is This* Verse 1)**

2. Who is the stranger here in our midst,
looking for shelter among us?
Who is the outcast? Who do we see amid the poor,
the children of God?

Who is this who lives with the lowly,
sharing their sorrows, knowing their hunger?
This is Christ, revealed to the world
in the eyes of a child,
a child of the poor. **(to *What Child Is This* Verse 2)**

*What Child Is This*




Text and music to Child Of The Poor © 1993, OCP, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

VERSE 3: Cantor/Choir sings over Assembly

3. Bring all the thirsty, all who seek peace;
bring those with nothing to offer.
Strengthen the feeble, say to the frightened heart:
"Fear not: here is your God!"

Who is this who lives with the lowly,
sharing their sorrows, knowing their hunger?
This is Christ, revealed to the world
in the eyes of a child,
a child of the poor.

**Fifth Reading**
Luke 2:8-13-20

[13]And 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!"
[15]When 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." [16]So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. [17]When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; [18]and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. [19]But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. [20]The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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| **Anthem** | **When Christmas Morn is Dawning** | CLC Choir |
| **Sermon** | | |
| **Anthem** | **From Heaven Above to Earth I Come** | CLC Choir |

**The Prayers**
Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds, that we may find the one for whom we have waited.

Let us pray for the Church around the world as it celebrates the birth of Christ. Bless all those who are entrusted with Christian ministry that your Word might be proclaimed with truth and courage everywhere.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Bestow your wisdom on all who govern, that in honoring the earth and its diverse races, cultures, and religions, we may all celebrate this holy night. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Grant reconciliation to those surrounded with war, conflict and violence, that they may live in the peace of this holy night. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who are cold, hungry, or alone this night. Embrace with your tender care all who wander alone or have no place to lay their head, that they may experience the hope of this holy night. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who are anxious, depressed, or ill. Draw near to those who find this season a source of pain or grief, and we pray especially for those we remember now, either in our hearts or aloud…... Let them feel the comfort of this holy night…… Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for parents, families, and newborn infants. Strengthen families in the bonds of love and commitment, that they may delight in the joy of this holy night. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for ourselves and for the blessings of Christmas. Open our hearts to your presence, that we may be transformed by the new birth of this holy night. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us give thanks for all the faithful departed. Give us grace to follow their example in lives of faith and commitment, that we may we join with the hosts of heaven in singing the praises of this holy night. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of him who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN**

**Peace**
The peace of Christ be with you always.
**And also with you.**

**Offering – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.**
Giving is easy online through our website at https://www.clcathens.org/give
There you will also find instructions for how you can text to give or by downloading our church app!

***The offering for tonight's service will, together with the offerings from Advent evening prayer, be put into the emergancy fund which is used to help those who contact the church with a need. The church receives calls weekly from folks in need of temporary shelter, food, and fuel. Thank you for your generosity.***

**Offertory Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming CLC Choir Christian Yoder, Director**

**Offertory Prayer**
Blessed are you,
**God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Receive our offerings, and nourish us at your table, that your Word may take flesh in our lives; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**Great Thanksgiving**
The Lord be with you.
**And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts.
**We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ.
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*(sung to the tune of: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing")*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heav'n and earth adored. O how blest is he who comes in the holy name of God. Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies; With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Eucharistic Prayer**
Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
**Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**
**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.**
**Save us from the time of trial**
**and deliver us from evil.**
**For the kingdom, the power,**
**and the glory are yours,**
**now and forever. Amen.**

**Invitation to Communion**
Come to Christ's banquet.
Feast on God's gift of grace.
**Thanks be to God!**

**Communion**
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Post Communion Prayer**
Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

**Service of Light**

*The minister lights a candle which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. During the hymn, as the minister processes the lit candle around the sanctuary, pass the light on to spread the light of Christ throughout the sanctuary and through you, into the whole world. (Always keep the lit candle upright.)*

**Hymn of Light: Silent Night, Holy Night! (ELW 281)**

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.
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!
3. 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.

**Proclamation of the Birth of Christ**

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth
and then formed man and woman in his own image;
long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;
twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother— now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

**Blessing**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*The lights are extinguished.*

**Departure Hymn: Joy to the World (ELW 267)**

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
   Let ev'ry heart prepare him room 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…
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
   He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found…
4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
   The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love…

**Dismissal**
Go in peace to worship the newborn King!
**Thanks be to God!**

***SERVING TODAY:*** *Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Pianist: Patricia Cambridge; Choir Accompanist: Donnalee Yoder; Asst/Lector: Jane Unger; Live Stream: Marilyn Shealy; Time with Children: Pastor Chad; Ushers: Rod Sauer, Sue Ellen Miller; Greeter: TBD; Acolyte: Meena; Tray Server: Susan Urano*