



Outdoor Worship

Celebrating God's Gifts of Kindness and Grace

ELW Holy Communion Setting One

November 22, 2020 at 10:00 am

Christ Lutheran Church

Woodcliff Lake, NJ

www.clc4u.com

The Rev. Marc A. Stutzel, Pastor

WELCOME TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP! Today's outdoor experience is new for all of us. Please keep in mind the covenant we are making with each other today:

- Only use your own chair and maintain the six foot distance from other members of the congregation.
- A mask or scarf over nose and mouth is required at all times, except momentarily to receive the sacrament or to lead through an assigned speaking part.
- Materials for worship (bulletin, communion wafer, prayer card) are in the paper bag in which you found this bulletin. Please pick up one of the small cups of wine/grape juice from the table. You may take everything away with you to recycle at home or leave the prayer card, pencil, and candle on the table as you leave.
- Pink cards with your prayer requests will be collected by Pastor Marc during the song after the sermon.
- If you have an offering envelope, please place in the offering plate located where you picked up this bulletin.
- Congregational singing is restricted. During the music offered today, we invite you to meditate on the lyrics printed in your bulletin.
- Communion will be done at your seats. Please keep your wafer and drink sealed until Pastor Marc tells you otherwise.
- The building is closed except for one bathroom. Please be mindful of social distancing while waiting for the restroom. Purell is available.
- For health and safety reasons during this pandemic, the closing of the church building also now includes the church office which will remain locked. Doris, our Parish Administrator, is in the office Tues.-Fri.

“LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!” Our Prayer Chain is available for daily prayer for anyone. Contact the church office with concerns/celebrations.

FEEDING THE COMMUNITY: During November, we invite you to support the Tri-Boro Food Pantry in Park Ridge. Consider picking up some of these items and bringing them to church:

Canned vegetables, six or eight packs of apple sauces,

Canned fruit, feminine hygiene products

The pantry is also accepting free Turkeys you might earn at local grocery stores. For more information, visit www.triborofoodpantry.org.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE, LIKE, CHECK-IN, & TWEET worship today at Christ, but we ask that all phones be on silent or vibrate during worship.

FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: Stewardship Comm. sent out pledge cards, and time/talent forms. We hope you will prayerfully read the materials and return your pledge to support the ministry at CLC. For info. visit our new stewardship page, www.clc4u.com/stewardship.

DO YOU GET OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER? Each Thursday we e-mail a newsletter of the week's calendar/announcements and thoughts from faith leaders all over the world. Sign up at www.clc4u.com or e-mail the church office, clc4u2@verizon.net.

TODAY'S ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Musicians Argine Safari & David Scance

THIS WEEK:

Today, November 22	10:00 am	Last parking lot worship and
	10:00 am	Online worship with communion
	7:00 pm	Interfaith Thanksgiving worship online
Wednesday	8:00 pm	No Chancel Choir rehearsal

LOOKING AHEAD:

Thanksgiving Day & Fri. Nov. 27		Church office closed
Sunday, November 29	9:00 am	Sunday School online
1st Sunday	10:00 am	Online/conference call worship only
of Advent		

[All text in *italics* is spoken by the leader.
Text in **bold** may be spoken by those assembled.]

OPENING & WELCOME [Please stand as you are able.]

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS [Based on work from Seasons Online.]

*In all our weakness and strength,
with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,*
we come to be your people, O God.

*Strong in faith and eager with questions,
speaking our praise and whispering our prayers,*
we come to be your people, O God.

*Filled with saintly determination
yet mindful of our human limitations,*
we come to be your people, O God.

*Made strong in your endless love for us,
we know ourselves to be yours and*
we come to be your people, O God.

May we truly become your people today. Amen.

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us be honest in our confession:
We confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

*Beloved, we are God's children,
and through ✠ Jesus, you are forgiven.*
You are defined not by sin, but by the love Jesus has for you.
*Let us rejoice and live in the promises prepared since the foundation
of the world. Amen.*

GATHERING SONG – “**Lord, Reign in Me**” [You may be seated.]

[Played and sung by Argine Safari and David Scance.]

*Over all the earth, You reign on high,
ev'ry mountain stream, every sunset sky.*

*But my one request, Lord, my only aim
is that You'd reign in me again*

*Over every thought, over every word,
may my life reflect the beauty of my Lord;
'Cause You mean more to me than any earthly thing.
So won't You reign in me again.*

[Chorus]

Lord, reign in me, reign in Your pow'r;

Over all my dreams, in my darkest hour.

You are the Lord of all I am, so won't You reign in me again.

[CCLI Song # 2490706 Brenton Brown © 1998 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire) (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook)) CCLI License # 2576787]

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

A MESSAGE FOR ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN

[By Pastor Marc. Children will stay with their parents.]

A READING FROM Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

[Please stand as you are able.]

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL—MATTHEW 25:31-46

Jesus said to the disciples: ³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

*The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.***

[You may be seated.]

A HOMILY [By Pastor Marc]

MUSICAL OFFERING – “***Crown Him with Many Crowns***”

[ELW 855–Played and sung by Argine Safari and David Scance]

*Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.*

*Crown him the virgin's Son, the God incarnate born, whose arm those
crimson trophies won which now his brow adorn;
fruit of the mystic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
the root whence mercy ever flows, the babe of Bethlehem.*

*Crown him the Lord of love--
behold his hands and side, rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes
at mysteries so bright.*

APOSTLES' CREED [Please stand as you are able.]

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 Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. 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.

OFFERING

Gratitude is one of the powerful images scripture uses to show us what a full and abundant life looks like. And in the words of Rev. Nadia Bolz-Webber, gratitude might also be "God's own anti-depressants." A few months ago, she posted an exercise on her blog about gratitude. She wrote, "In this time of loss and suffering and turmoil, when not one of us is spared of sorrow, this morning I made myself list some things I am genuinely grateful for right now, today, in this very moment." She called it "Give Us This Day Our Daily Gratitude." Her list included: "For the sun rising once again in the East, I give thanks. For cell phone reception, and I-guess-its-better-than-nothing ZOOM calls and reliable internet service, I give thanks. That you, O God are known by many names, I give thanks. That you, O God are present when I feel only your absence I give thanks." I invite you, this week, to commit yourself to the practice of gratitude. When it feels like too much - stop; say a prayer; and if you can, make your own list. Write on a piece of paper or type in your phone the things you are grateful for in that moment. Let gratitude help you see God at work in the world and in your life.

Thank you for being generous with your faith community - through your prayers, service, and the relationships you've built with one another. Thank you for your financial gifts - either online, mailed to the church office, or donated in our offering plate before worship today. We will use it to generously offer the word of God to all people and serve our neighbors in need.

[You may be seated.]

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THE DAY [From the ELCA Worship Blog.]

On this last Sunday of the church year, let us pray to see God's reign in the church, in the world, and with all in need, responding to each petition with the words "In mercy, receive our prayers."

Great God, we praise you for sustaining the church through another year of grace. Continue to shepherd your people with your tender care. Grant an extra measure of the Spirit to our bishops, Elizabeth and Tracie, and all churchwide, synod, and church council leaders. Sustain the social ministries of the body of Christ, and increase ecumenical sharing of opportunities for ministry.

*You are the great and holy God: **In mercy, receive our prayers.***

Sustain the world that you have made, the heights of the hills, the seas and the dry land. Guard the animals during the winter months, and direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all. Be a source of strength and refuge for all weathering severe storms.

You are the great and renewing God:

In mercy, receive our prayers.

Bring peace to every place where conflict rages, that your reign may be honored throughout the world. Be with the people of Armenia, Ethiopia, and Hong Kong. Bless the work of the United Nations and of agencies that promote the wellbeing of all peoples.

You are the great and peacemaking God:

In mercy, receive our prayers.

Bring a peaceful conclusion to the American national elections. Bless all the newly elected officials with a love of concord and a desire for justice. Guide all leaders, including Donald the President; President-elect Joseph; Philip, New Jersey's Governor; and the mayors and council persons of the towns we call home. Turn us away from historic prejudices, and show us your image in each of our neighbors.

You are the great and reconciling God:

In mercy, receive our prayers.

Visit American homes on Thanksgiving Day. When we are separated from loved ones, embrace us with your care. Keep gatherings safe. Even in our reduced celebrations, give us voices to offer thanks to you for your perpetual blessings.

You are the great and generous God:

In mercy, receive our prayers.

We beg you to end the earth's pandemic. Bring healing to the millions who are suffering from the coronavirus – any who are sick, dying, despairing, isolated, unemployed, and all exhausted medical workers. Guide researchers in developing a vaccine and grant wisdom to those who will distribute it.

You are the great and generous God:

In mercy, receive our prayers.

Show your loving power to all who are in need.

*Equip us to feed the hungry,
to provide clean water for the thirsty,
to welcome the stranger,
to clothe the naked,
to care for the sick,
to visit the prisoners.*

We pray especially for . . .

*Camp Koinonia, Dolores Albert, Bob Albert, Sharon Bongard,
Mark Buckley, Jim Christensen, Elizabeth Danko, John Demarais,
Jackson Fehr, Jean Helom/Mesevage, Mae Hulburt, Laura,
Debbie Melnyk, Ruben Moreno, Neil, Pat, Joyce Rudie,
Lorraine Sadlon, Lata Sharma, Alice Sheer, Jason Simet, Stephanie,
Miriam and Earl Valder, Cole VanKoughnet*

You are the great and gracious God:

In mercy, receive our prayers.

We appeal to you, Sovereign God, we who are like both the sheep and the goats, and we ask that in compassion you will hear the prayers of our own hearts.

You are the great and loving God:
In mercy, receive our prayers.

We praise you for all the saints who have died in the faith. At the end of all things, bring us together with all the saints into your kingdom of joy.

You are the great and eternal God:
In mercy, receive our prayers.

THE PEACE

Take a look at those who surround us in this sacred space. Let's send one another a blessing from a distance, wishing that the peace of Christ may be with them.

Let us now think about those who cannot join us in-person today or who are participating in worship online or via conference call. In our hearts, let's send them a blessing and wish that the peace of Christ may be with them.

*Finally, let the blessing we offer each other go out to our families, friends, neighbors and to the entire world. With God's help, our hearts are big enough to extend peace that far. Let us embody the peace of Christ after we leave this place today. **Amen.***

HOLY COMMUNION [Please stand as you are able.]

[You are invited to unwrap/open the communion elements in your worship bag.]

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.

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.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit - let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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, forever and ever. Amen.

You are here, not because you are perfect, but because, through Christ Jesus, you are welcomed and loved.

DISTRIBUTION

[You are invited to consume the communion element you received in your worship bag.]

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

Amen.

BLESSING OF RETAIL WORKERS [You may be seated.]

Paul writes: Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ. [Colossians 3:23-24]

We are pleased, dear God, to honor all who work in retail. They are known by many names including cashiers, stock clerks, customer service managers, sales associates, bridal consultants, delivery drivers, warehouse workers, buyers, and more. Since the start of this pandemic, we've rediscovered how they do more than give us goods in exchange for money. They help us gather together the essential items we need to live and thrive. Workers in retail connect us to the material items that help us live out our call to love God and serve one another.

God, you have blessed your people through all generations and guided them in life and death: Abraham and Sarah; Moses and Miriam; Isaiah and all the prophets; Mary, the mother of our Lord; Peter, James, Mary Magdalena, Phoebe, and all the disciples; and all the saints and witnesses in your church of ages past, in whom your Spirit spoke and moved.

We give you thanks, O God, for those who labor in retail. We ask you to bless the fruits of their work. In times of challenge, bring them wisdom. In times of stress, give them patience. In times of busyness, grant them peace. In times of a pandemic, protect them and keep them safe. Give to each worker a measure of grace so that they can be just, true, generous, and courteous in all their dealings. May you, O loving God, help them serve all people in humbleness and love.

May our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with you, bless you, and may God's face always shine upon you.

Amen.

And may the rest of us, in our encounters with those who work in retail, see the face of Jesus. Grant us grace, generosity, and patience during this stressful and dangerous time. Reminds us that every person is made in the image of the Father, Son Φ , and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

SONG – “King of Heaven”

[Played and sung by Argine Safari and David Scance.]

*Jesus let Your kingdom come here;
Let Your will be done here in us;
Jesus, there is no one greater;
You alone are Savior; show the world Your love.*

Chorus

*King of heaven come down; King of heaven come now;
Let Your glory reign shining like the day,
King of heaven come.
King of heaven rise up;
Who can stand against us.
You are strong to save in Your mighty name,
King of heaven come.*

*We are children of Your mercy, rescued for Your glory
We cry Jesus; set our hearts towards You,
That ev'ry eye would see You lifted high.*

*King of heaven come, King of heaven come,
King of heaven come.
Oh King of heaven come.*

BLESSING

And now - know this:

*Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in
Christ Jesus.*

*God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.*

Amen.

DISMISSAL

*And now, go in peace
and press forward in the heavenly call of God
because Christ has made you his own.*

Thanks be to God.