



Online Worship
January 10, 2021 at 10 am
Epiphany

Christ Lutheran Church . Woodcliff Lake, NJ
www.clc4u.com

All text in *italics* is spoken by the leader.
Text in **bold** is your invitation to join in. Please speak those words as you
are able.

OPENING & WELCOME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

[based on work by Julia Seymour.]

Blessing and honor to God, Foundation of the Cosmos, Welcome to the Marginalized, Wisdom of the Ages, Revealing love to creation, now and forever.

*We speak the truth, in our hearts and with our words:
That we have not lived in the illumination of love or the hope of reconciliation.*

We have participated in actions that wound.

We have ignored work that would bring healing.

We have soothed ourselves and nursed our own desires instead of turning to you.

In humility and in the hope of a different tomorrow, beginning now,

We turn to you in repentance and seek your mercy, forgiveness, and restoration.

Beloved of God, receive and trust this pardon: † Your sins are forgiven.

Even now, Divine Love is at work in you to restore your brokenness and to bring you back to confidence and faith in Jesus Christ, your Savior and Lord, who has never left you.

Go and live grounded in the Holy Spirit, the true source of life.

Amen.

SONG - Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (ELW 631)

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

<i>Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.</i>	<i>Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.</i>
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*Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving
Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.*

[continue next column ->]

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and

for your service, 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]

A READING FROM ISAIAH 60:1-6

[Read by Noel U.]

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed

his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON - A Magi Life

[By Pastor Marc]

SONG - Amazing Grace (ELW 631)

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

<i>Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.</i>	<i>Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.</i>
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*'Twas grace that taught my
heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace
appear
the hour I first believed!*

[song continues in next column ->]

OFFERING

[based on work by Rev. Dr. Barb Hedges-Goettl.]

Jesus taught that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also. We are called to gather in His name and to bring with us all that we have and all that we are. We are not meant to hide anything from God because God already knows who and what we are. The treasure we bring to God will always be met by the true gifts of God - of peace, grace, love, faith, and hope - that are the true treasures that will not fade, decay, or disappoint. God has given you many gifts so that you can be a source of blessing for the entire world. May God continue to share with us the treasure of heaven so that we may boldly share it with others.

CLC is grateful for your generosity so that we can be generous to others with our ministry. If you would like to support this ministry you can do so on our website or by writing a check and dropping it in the mail to us, and we will use it to generously offer the word of God to all people and serve our neighbors in need.

*As a sign of our generosity, we will join with the wider church to recite prayers prepared each week by our denomination's worship team. When you hear the words, "O God...in your mercy" please respond with **"hear our prayer."***

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THE DAY

[modified from work published by the ELCA Worship blog]

For all the baptized, including our Bishops Elizabeth and Tracie and all chaplains, that even in hardship we grow deeper into the mystery of God, we pray:

*O God, shining with grace, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

For believers in all the world's religions, that God welcome also their devotion, we pray:

*O God, greater than the church, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

For the earth, that each season provide sustenance for plants and animals, we pray:

*O God, preserver of creation, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*For scientists, that they probe what is both beyond and within
what we see, we pray:*

*O God, keeper of all knowledge, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*For the leaders of nations, including Donald, the President;
Joseph, the President-Elect; Philip, NJ's Governor; Carlos, the
mayor of Woodcliff Lake; and all elected leaders in the towns we
call home. Amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your
love is steadfast and your strength never fails. In this time of
danger and trouble, be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense.
Disrupt the work of those who would use violence and sedition to
inflict their will on others. And grant these leaders humility and
a clear sense of their calling and responsibility to strive for
justice and peace. We pray:*

*O God, monarch of all peoples, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*For the Congress of the United States - especially Cory and
Robert, NJ's Senators and Josh, NJ's 5th District Representative
- as they seek a way forward after the assault on the US Capital.
We are grateful they are safe but we mourn the loss of life and
injuries - especially among the first responders. Keep all
legislators safe and grant them the wisdom for the tasks that*

your love of truth, repentance, and reconciliation require. We pray:

*O God, guidance for government, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

For all persons who have means, that they assist those who have little, we pray:

*O God, great in generosity, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

For victims of injustice and prejudice, that their cries be heeded, we pray:

*O God, compassionate savior, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

For children, that they be protected from harm, we pray:

*O God, loving parent, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

For all who are suffering from the coronavirus, that they come to health and wholeness, we pray:

*O God, giver of life, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*For those who have asked for our prayers - especially:
Camp Koinonia, Dolores Albert, Ellen Altanasio, Anthony,
Sharon Bongard, Mark Buckley, Jim Christensen, Elizabeth
Danko, John Demarais, Dorothy Dohrmann, Jackson Fehr,
Frank Gluckler, Jean Helom/Mesevage, Mae Hulburt, Laura,
Debbie Melnyk, Ruben Moreno, Neil, Pat, Edie Post, Joyce
Rudie, Lorraine Sadlon, Jillian Scalpati, Lata Sharma, Alice
Sheer, Jason Simet, Stephanie, Miriam and Earl Valder, Cole
VanKoughnet, Pat and Dave Witkowski and for those we name
in this moment of silence:*

[a moment of silence]

For them and those we too often forget, we pray:

*O God, refuge of the downhearted, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*For each of us, that as if with a star God guide us throughout the
journey of life. We will now have an extended period of silence
inviting you to share your prayers with those around you or to
post them online.*

[a moment of silence]

*O God, light of holiness, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*In thanksgiving for all who have died in the faith, that at our end
we join them in life with God:*

*O God, goal of our days, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

That God will receive these prayers, for the sake of the divine infant before whom we kneel, we pray, now and forever.

Amen.

THE PEACE

I invite you to take a look at everyone who surrounds you in your sacred space. If you are currently by yourself, know that the entire church is, through Jesus, always with you. Send a blessing to those physically closest to you or send a text/type out a DM/or make a plan to call someone you care about - and wish that the peace of Christ may be with them.

Let us now think about all who are worshipping with us online or via conference call. In our hearts, let's send to your entire faith community 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

[We invited you to gather a bit of bread (or similar item), drink (wine or grape juice). The elements used during communion remind us of a substantial meal we would eat during a celebration.]

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.

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit across phone lines, social media, and the internet - 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.

This is the body of Christ, given for you.

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

[After consuming the elements.]

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

Amen.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.



SONG - Starry Night

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

*From the birds that sing
in the tallest trees,
To the human life of you and
me;*

*From the desert sands
To the place we stand,
He is God of all,
He is ev'rything. (Whoa.)*

*I'm giving my life to the only
one*

*Who makes the moon reflect
the sun.*

*Ev'ry starry night,
That was His design.*

*I'm giving my life to the only
Son*

*Who was and is and yet to
come.*

*Let the praises ring
Cause He is ev'rything.*

*From the autumn leaves
That will ride the breeze,
To the faith it takes
To pray and see;
From the painted sky*

[song continues in next column ->]

*To my plank filled eye,
He is God of all,
He is ev'rything. (Whoa.)*

*I'm giving my life to the only
Son*

*Who was and is and yet to
come.*

*Let the praises ring
Cause He is ev'rything.*

*I'm giving my life to the only
one*

*Who makes the moon reflect
the sun.*

*I'm giving my life to the only
Son*

*Who makes the moon reflect
the sun.*

*Ev'ry starry night,
That was His design.*

*I'm giving my life to the only
Son*

*Who was and is and yet to
come.*

*Let the angels sing
That He is heavenly.*

[song continues on next page ->]

*I'm giving my life to the only
one
Who makes the moon reflect
the sun.
Ev'ry starry night,
That was His design.
Let the praises ring
Cause He is ev'rything.*

BLESSING

[by Rev. Leila M. Ortiz, Bishop of The Metropolitan Washington D.C Synod]

May God give you grace never to sell yourself short; grace to risk something big for something good; grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but Love. The Blessing of God Almighty, + Father Son and Holy Spirit be with us now and remain with us this day and always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

And now, go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: As of December 13, 40 pledges with financial gifts totaling over \$158,000 were submitted. Thank you! If you have yet to turn in your pledge of time and resources, please do so when you are able. You can mail your pledge card to the church, drop it off, or email to our stewardship coordinators. For info. visit our new stewardship page, www.clc4u.com/stewardship.

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 We will be having our annual meeting on February 7 after morning worship. This year, it will be an online/conference call affair. More information will follow soon.

THE MESSENGER: A NEW ISSUE IS COMING SOON Our printed Newsletter will be heading to your mailboxes soon. If you need to update your address, please contact the church office.

DO YOU GET OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER? It is sent out every Thursday. Please contact Pastor Marc to sign-up!

TODAY'S ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Musicians

Argine Safari & David Scance

THIS WEEK:

Sunday, January 10	10:00 am Online Worship
	6:30 pm Confirmation Class
Monday, January 11	7:30 pm Worship Committee
Wednesday, January 13	8:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, January 14	8:00 pm Finance Committee
Sunday, January 17	9:00 am Sunday School (online)
	10:00 am Online Worship