



Online Worship
August 1, 2021 at 10 am
10th Sunday After Pentecost

Christ Lutheran Church . Woodcliff Lake, NJ

www.clc4u.com

201-391-4224

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

*Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.
Amen.*

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

*Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our
sin.
[A moment of silence.]*

*God, our provider,
**help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share.
We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live. We turn to our own
understanding rather than trusting in you. We take
offense at your teachings and your ways.
Turn us again to you.***

***Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of
eternal life and feed us for life in the world.
Amen.***

*Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are
fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is
always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into
abundant life. Amen.
Amen.*

SONG - A Mighty Fortress

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

*A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's
rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.*

*No strength of ours can match
his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to
fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.*

[song continues next column ->]

*Though hordes of devils fill the
land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we
stand;
they cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray. O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you
place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and
this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.***

A MESSAGE FOR ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN

[By Pastor Marc.]

A reading from 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD, and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him." Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down

Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. Thus says the LORD: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.”

David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

*The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

A reading from Ephesians 4:1-16

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it is said, “When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.” (When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the

heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Gospel According to John 6:24-25

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him,

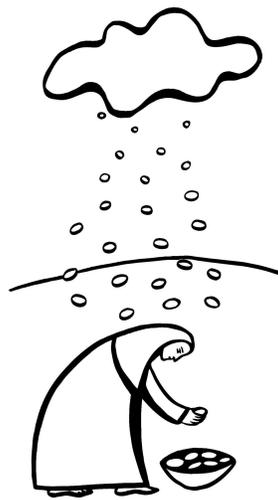
“What must we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON - Practice.

[By Pastor Marc.]



An ongoing list of ways to nurture our creative spirit.

- 1) Expect God (and yourself) to be creative.*
- 2) Practice doodling, daydreaming, and dreaming for a few minutes everyday.*
- 3) Look for the holy moments God gives you. These are moments that make you feel intensely alive. You might need to practice being still, patient, and listening to notice these gifts God is giving you.*
- 4) Embrace the freedom creativity brings.*
- 5) Start a creativity journal. Keep track of your creativity and the creativity you see around you.*
- 6) Feed anticipation and cultivate excitement. At the start of your day, focus on one thing you're looking forward to. It might not take place but you can set the tone for your creative vision.*
- 7) Practice emptying. Learn how to vent (and be vented to) well*
- 8) Learn to rest. Rest your mind and your body. Make the time to do this and make time for others to rest as well.*
- 9) We wrap up our practices this week with a reminder to practice creativity! You were made in the image of a God who creates so let's keep our eyes open to what God is already doing.*

SONG - Come to Us

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

*Scattered and broken,
Bent in our way,
We are Your people
gathered to praise You.
A vineyard uprooted,
Narrow in sight.
Come, Lord of glory!
Come, Lord of light!*

*Come to us, O Lord of glory
and shine in our hearts.
Come to us, O Lord of glory
and make us anew.
Lord, we wait for You.
Lord, we wait for You.
Lord, we wait for You.
Come, Lord of glory.*

*Come to us, O Lord of glory
and shine in our hearts.
Come to us, O Lord of glory
and make us anew.
Lord, we wait for You.
Lord, we wait for You.
Lord, we wait for You.
Come, Lord of glory.*

*Come to us, O Lord of glory
and shine in our hearts.
Come to us, O Lord of glory
and make us anew.
Lord, we wait for You.
Lord, we wait for You.
Lord, we wait for You.
Come, Lord of glory.*

*Come, Lord, our dayspring,
Come from on high,
As we Your people
Gathered to praise You.
Unworthy to taste from
Your heavenly vine,
But Your word will heal us.
Come, light divine.*

[continue next column ->]

APOSTLES' CREED

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

[Based on work by Katherine Hawker.]

When God's creative spirit dreamed up the gift of faith, God knew we would need each other to make that gift grow. The church is more than a building or a place; the church are the people who can pray and care for one another. You are Christ Lutheran Church and your gifts make the gospel real in this place. Let us pray for these generous gifts with words by Katherine Hawker.

May the offerings mailed to the church or deposited only be used as seeds, planted faithfully and nurtured lovingly so that God's way may be realized anew in this world. Grant us the humility we need to plant and then tend your precious garden.

Amen.

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THE DAY

[modified from work published by the ELCA Worship blog]

*Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. When you hear the words “Hear us, O God,” please respond with, “**Your mercy is great.**”*

You call your church to be the body of Christ. Awaken all the baptized to the gifts you provide for carrying out the work of ministry. Bless our bishop Elizabeth and Tracie, the NJ Synod Council, and all members of our own church council. Where the church is divided, knit us together and restore the unity of the faith.

*Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

You command the clouds above and cause the wind to blow in the heavens. Watch over deserts and wilderness places. Regenerate rainforests, defend species at risk of extinction, and strengthen the work of conservation organizations.

*Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

You summon leaders to respond to the needs of your people. Instill those who govern, especially Joseph, the President; Philip, NJ's Governor; Carlos, the Mayor of Woodcliff Lake; the leaders of the towns we call home, and all candidates running for election with patience when confronted with grievances and perseverance in seeking what promotes the well-being of the community.

*Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

You draw near to those who cry out for help. Feed those who are hungry, reassure those who are despairing, and accompany those who are imprisoned. Protect us from all variants of the coronavirus. Offer hope to those who know only fear. Rain down the true bread from heaven that gives life to the world. Receive our prayers for: Camp Koinonia, Dolores Albert, Anthony, Sue Bachstetter, Sharon Bongard, Mark Buckley, Jim Christensen, Jackson Fehr, Ken Frank, Matthew, Jean Helom, Dylan Henry, Mary Jo Hild, Mae Hulburt, Kenny Kapuspa, Jerry, Ruben Moreno, Faye Rekosik, Charles Roach, Neil, Lorraine Sadlon, Lata Sharma, Alice Sheer, Miriam and Earl Valder, Suse Wikman, and all those we name in this moment of silence.

[a moment of silence]

*Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

You receive all who come seeking a sign of grace. Make this congregation a place of hospitality for those accustomed to rejection. To those who have felt excluded here or elsewhere, prepare us to welcome them in the name of Christ.

*Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

You provide food that endures for eternal life. Sustain us each day with the bread of life until we are gathered with all the saints and feast together at your heavenly banquet.

*Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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, via conference call or in-person. 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 worship 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. Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. 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
To my plank filled eye,*

[song continues in next column ->]

*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.*

*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 angels sing
That He is heavenly.*

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

BLESSING

[by Rev. Jan L. Richardson for The Painted Prayerbook.]

May God, who comes to us in the things of this world, bless your eyes and be in your seeing.

May Christ, who looks upon you with deepest love, bless your eyes and widen your gaze.

May the Spirit, who perceives what is and what may yet be, bless your eyes and sharpen your vision.

May the Sacred Three + bless your eyes and cause you to see.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

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.

COVID VACCINATIONS Need help getting a vaccine appointment? Contact Kate Stutzel at kate.stutzel@gmail.com or contact the church office.

TRI-BORO FOOD PANTRY - hunger never takes a vacation! This Pantry in Park Ridge regularly serves 90-120 families a week by providing five bags of groceries, paper products, laundry detergent, and more. We're always collecting food to donate to them. During your next shopping trip, the pantry could use canned vegetables, boxed cereals, apple sauce (multi-packs), pasta, pasta sauce. Feel free to leave your donation in the yellow box next to where you picked up your bulletin today.

THE GENESIS GARDEN now meets on Wednesday nights at 6 pm! This will better support the work of the Tri-Boro Food Pantry who will be receiving our bounty. This is an outdoor activity that all ages can participate in. Send a note to Tom Kearns to get on the garden specific email list: tkearnsnj@gmail.com.

MIDWEEK WORSHIP WEDNESDAYS AT 7 PM is starting a new series this week! We'll spend time discussing and sharing about the oldest extant Christian church that is partially housed at Yale University. Watch on Facebook or Youtube!

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, August 1	10:00 am Worship (Online & Indoors)
Tuesday, August 3	7:00 pm Worship Committee
Wednesday, August 4	6:00 pm Genesis Garden 7:00 pm Midweek Worship (Online)
Sunday, August 8	10:00 am Worship (Online & Indoors)