

Session. Join us from 5:30-6:30 pm on Jan 17 as we share a meal and get to know our neighbor(hood)! This month's session will feature those who work in BC schools. Please come as you're able, and RSVP to Isak Tranvik by Jan 16.

•**Bible Study** - The CoG Bible Study will not gather on Jan 2. We'll resume with our regular weekly rhythm on Tues, Jan 9 at 9:30 am onsite and online.

•**Visitation** - If you're interested in receiving a visit from Pastor Ali or a CoG friend, or would be willing to serve as a visitor (who makes either in-person or phone call visits to homebound members), let Rachel in the office know.

•**Want to Know More About COG?** - We're so glad you're worshipping with us! Welcome. If you're interested in learning more about life together at COG, reach out to Pastor Ali ([atranvik@crossofglory.us](mailto:atranvik@crossofglory.us)).



**December 31, 2023**

**Cross of Glory Lutheran Church  
Brooklyn Center, MN**

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

**CAROL**            **O Come, All Ye Faithful**            **#283 vss 1-3**

### **Verse 1**

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye,  
O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him,  
Born the king of angels.

### **Refrain**

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

*\*\* Please stand as you are able \*\**

## GREETING

Leader: Into the forgotten places,

**All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

into the lives of the poor, bringing bread,

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

into the lives of the powerful, bringing warning,

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

into the lives of the weary, bringing rest,

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

into the lives of the wise, bringing restlessness,

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

into the lives of the afraid, bringing good courage,

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

into the lives of the despairing, bringing hope,

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

and into all our lives and longings,

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

### **Verse 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)*

### **Verse 3**

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens  
of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest! *(Refrain)*

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

•**Coffee Hour** - Please join us after worship in the fellowship hall for a time of food and fellowship.

•**2024 Giving Envelopes & 2023 End-of-Year Statements** - 2024 offering envelopes continue to be prepared in alphabetical order. If you've requested envelopes, keep checking back at the welcome desk for yours in the coming days, and feel free to call the office with any questions. Fourth quarter giving statements from 2023 will be available soon at the welcome desk as well.

•**WinterFest** - Mark your calendars for Fri, Jan 26 from 5-7 pm when we'll join together with CAPI to host WinterFest, a neighborhood block party celebration that includes free food, music, covid and flu vaccines, games for kids, a winter clothing distribution, and more! If you're able to lend a hand, let the office know ASAP.

•**Winter Clothing Drive** - We'll be distributing winter clothing (new or gently used coats, hats, scarves, mittens, etc.) to neighbors at WinterFest. Please drop off donations anytime between now and Jan 26 in the box near the welcome desk. Thank you!

•**CoG Kids** - Kids of all ages are invited to join us for Godly Play during a portion of the worship service on first Sundays (so next Sunday 1/7!). Please note that due to winter break, first Wednesday activities have been moved back a week this month. On Wed 1/10, all are welcome to join us for a meal at 5:30 pm, with kids activities and homework help to follow. Confirmation starts at 7 pm for children ages 6th-8th grade. Reach out to Kris Simon or Chellie Sebald with questions.

•**Annual Reports** - All staff and committee chairs are invited to submit annual reports to Rachel by Jan 14. Annual reports will be available to pick up on Sunday, Jan 21, or anytime during the week (M-W 10-2) ahead of the meeting, scheduled for Sunday, Jan 28 after worship.

•**Neighborhood Listening Session** - As we work to discern what God's call to life together looks like at CoG, we're gathering with neighbors from the BC community once a month for a Listening

## MUSIC CREDITS

The Order of Service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship which is commended for use in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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## WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

**Pastor:** Rev. Ali Tranvik

**Guest Organist:** Allan Mahnke

**Vocal Leader:** Ruth Brateng

**Director of Choirs:** Keith J. Williams

**Worship & Tech Director:** Mark Trease

**Greeters:** Brenda Edstrom, Angela Dahl

**Reader:** Mike McClanahan

**Ushers:** Cheryl Anderson, Don Halverson, Dan Aulwes, Josh Day

**Fellowship:** Marcy Hartlage, Cheryl Anderson

**Technical Team:** Ryan Bailey, Dawn Bailey & Bill Bailey

**Ministers:** The people of Cross of Glory



Please join us in lifting up these brothers and sisters in prayer:

*Mavis Wold*

*Norma Gilbertson*

*Audrey Swanberg*

*Jeannie Kuzmich*

*Eric Thompson & family*

*Dick Mero*

*Martha Krueger*

*Sherry Mattfield*

*Dolores Narey*

*Loved ones of Richard Kosek*

*Loved ones of Debbie Sjoquist*

*Julie Aulwes*

*To be added or removed from the weekly prayer list, please contact the church office ([office@crossofglory.us](mailto:office@crossofglory.us)) or call 763-533-8602.*

*You are welcome to stop at our community prayer wall just outside the sanctuary to place a written prayer in the wall. Further instructions are at the prayer wall.*

The angels proclaimed, the shepherds heard, a mother bore a child,  
God's love is born.

**God's love is born for you and for me. Amen!**

## CAROL

## Love Has Come

**#292 vss 1-3**

### Verse 1

Love has come

—a light in the darkness!

Love shines forth  
in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven  
has come to proclaim it;

Hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love!

Born unto you, a Savior!

Love! Love!

Glory to God on high.

### Verse 2

Love is born!

Come, share in the wonder.

Love is God now asleep in the hay.

See the glow

in the eyes of his mother;

what is the name

her heart is saying?

Love! Love!

Love is the name she whispers;

Love! Love!

Jesus, Immanuel.

### Verse 3

Love has come

And never will leave us!

Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us.

Love is the peace

our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love!

Love is the gift of Christmas.

Love! Love!

Praise to you, God on high!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together...

**God of love and life, you have come to us in the birth of Jesus, moving into the neighborhood, moving into our hearts. Renew us and your whole creation. Be born in us anew – casting out sin, injustice, and despair. In the name of Emmanuel, God with us, we pray. Amen.**

*\*\* Please be seated \*\**

**CAROL      Good Christian Friends, Rejoice      #288 vss 1 and 3**

**Verse 1**

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
And he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

**Verse 3**

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice:  
Now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
To gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Isaiah 62:1-12**

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.  
You shall no more be termed Forsaken,  
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;  
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,  
and your land Married;  
for the Lord delights in you,  
and your land shall be married.  
For as a young man marries a young woman,  
so shall your builder marry you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,  
so shall your God rejoice over you.  
Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,  
I have posted sentinels;  
all day and all night  
they shall never be silent.  
You who remind the Lord,  
take no rest,

**CAROL      Joy To the World      #267 vss 1, 2, 4**

**Verse 1**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n  
and nature sing.

Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

**Verse 4**

He rules the world  
with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders,  
wonders of his love.

**Verse 2**

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods,  
Rocks, hills, and plains

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is born!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

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**Connect with Us**

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763-533-8602

Office Hours: Mon-Wed 10-2

Visit our website: <http://crossofglory.us>

Email us: [office@crossofglory.us](mailto:office@crossofglory.us)

Follow us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/crossofglorymn>

#### **Verse 4**

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in thee!

Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast  
our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

### **RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CAROLS**

Leader: Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,

**All: Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.**

Mothering God, you give us birth,  
**in the bright morning of this world.**

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n to earth come down.

**Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.**

Be near us, Lord Jesus, we ask you to stay  
**close by us forever, and love us we pray.**

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray,  
**cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.**

**Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

And now, let us pray the prayer that 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.**

### **BLESSING**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the compassion of Joseph, the curiosity of the shepherds, the joy of the angels, and the everlasting peace of Jesus who is Savior, † Christ, and Lord.

**Amen.**

*\*\* Please stand as you are able \*\**

and give him no rest  
until he establishes Jerusalem  
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The Lord has sworn by his right hand  
and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain  
to be food for your enemies,  
and foreigners shall not drink the wine  
for which you have laboured;  
but those who garner it shall eat it  
and praise the Lord,  
and those who gather it shall drink it  
in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,  
prepare the way for the people;  
build up, build up the highway,  
clear it of stones,  
lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The Lord has proclaimed  
to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,  
'See, your salvation comes;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.'  
They shall be called, 'The Holy People,  
The Redeemed of the Lord';  
and you shall be called, 'Sought Out,  
A City Not Forsaken.'

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### **POEM**

#### **"How the Light Comes"**

**Jan Richardson**

I cannot tell you  
how the light comes.  
What I know  
is that it is more ancient

than imagining.  
That it travels  
across an astounding expanse  
to reach us.

That it loves  
searching out  
what is hidden  
what is lost  
what is forgotten  
or in peril  
or in pain.  
That it has a fondness  
for the body  
for finding its way  
toward flesh  
for tracing the edges  
of form  
for shining forth  
through the eye,  
the hand,  
the heart.  
I cannot tell you  
how the light comes,  
but that it does.  
That it will.  
That it works its way

into the deepest dark  
that enfolds you,  
though it may seem  
long ages in coming  
or arrive in a shape  
you did not foresee.  
And so  
may we this day  
turn ourselves toward it.  
May we lift our faces  
to let it find us.  
May we bend our bodies  
to follow the arc it makes.  
May we open  
and open more  
and open still  
to the blessed light  
that comes.

**CAROL**                      **Once in Royal David's City**                      **#269 vss 1-3**

**Verse 1**  
Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little child.

And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and meek and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

**Verse 3**  
And our eyes at last shall see him,  
Through his own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.

**Verse 2**  
He came down to earth  
from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,

**POEM**

**O Emmanuel**

**Malcom Guite**

O come, O come, and be our God-with-us  
O long-sought With-ness for a world without,  
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.  
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name  
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,  
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,  
Be folded with us into time and place,  
Unfold for us the mystery of grace  
And make a womb of all this wounded world.  
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,  
O tiny hope within our hopelessness  
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,  
To touch a dying world with new-made hands  
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

**OFFERING**

*The Spirit moves through the offering we joyfully share. We invite you to leave an offering in the plates or scan the QR code here to make a secure, online gift. Thank you!*



**CAROL**                      **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**                      **#631**

**Verse 1**  
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.

**Verse 2**  
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.

the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**MUSIC**

**Rejoice, Rejoice Believers**

**#244**

**Verse 1**

Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing,  
and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising  
and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
at midnight comes the cry.

Around the throne of glory  
the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him  
their diadems of gold.

**Verse 4**

Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for,  
o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption  
that sets your people free!

**Verse 3**

The saints, who here in patience  
their cross and sufferings bore,  
shall live and reign forever  
when sorrow is no more.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Luke 2:15-20**

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.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Psalms 97**

The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice;  
let the many coastlands be glad!  
Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;  
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.  
Fire goes before him,  
and consumes his adversaries on every side.  
His lightnings light up the world;  
the earth sees and trembles.  
The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,  
before the Lord of all the earth.  
The heavens proclaim his righteousness;  
and all the peoples behold his glory.  
All worshippers of images are put to shame,  
those who make their boast in worthless idols;  
all gods bow down before him.  
Zion hears and is glad,  
and the towns of Judah rejoice,  
because of your judgements, O God.  
For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth;  
you are exalted far above all gods.  
The Lord loves those who hate evil;  
he guards the lives of his faithful;  
he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.  
Light dawns for the righteous,  
and joy for the upright in heart.  
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,  
and give thanks to his holy name!

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**POEM**

**If You Want**

**St. John of the Cross**

If you want, the Virgin will come walking down the road  
pregnant with the Holy and say,  
"I need shelter for the night."

Please take me inside your heart, my time is so close.”  
 Then, under the roof of your soul,  
 you will witness the sublime intimacy,  
 the divine, the Christ, taking birth forever,  
 as she grasps your hand for help,  
 for each of us is the midwife of God, each of us.  
 Yes, there, under the dome of your being,  
 does creation come into existence eternally,  
 through your womb, dear pilgrim,  
 the sacred womb of your soul,  
 as God grasps our arms for help:  
 for each of us is God’s beloved servant never far.  
 If you want, the virgin will come walking down the street,  
 pregnant with Light, and sing!

**CAROL                      Angels We Have Heard On High                      #289 vss 1-3**

<b>Verse 1</b> Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains, And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.	strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song? ( <i>Refrain</i> )
<b>Refrain</b> Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.	<b>Verse 3</b> Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. ( <i>Refrain</i> )
<b>Verse 2</b> Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous	

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Luke 2:1-7**

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

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**MUSIC                      O Little Town of Bethlehem                      #279**

<b>Verse 1</b> 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.	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!
<b>Verse 2</b> For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above while mortals sleep, the angels keep	<b>Verse 4</b> 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!

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Luke 2:8-14**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with