



**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385
(219) 462-6660 • clcvalpo.org



**Comfort and Joy
Advent Worship Service
7:00 p.m.**

Evening Prayer in Advent

Our Advent worship relies on scripture, stillness, and song – we hear and rest in God’s promises, and we sing. Songs have a way of finding us in the dark, giving words to our prayer, and helping the words of God’s promise move from our heads to our hearts.

GATHERING

November 19

This season of Advent touches many of our emotions.

Sometimes we are terrified and overwhelmed with fear.

“Do not be afraid. Your prayer has been heard.”

Joy and gladness will come to us.

The Holy Spirit will fill our hearts.

And we will all share tidings of comfort and joy.

December 3

This season of Advent touches many of our emotions.

Sometimes we are confused, unsure of what is happening in our lives.

“Do not be afraid. The child is from the Holy Spirit.”

God is with us.

The child shall be called Emmanuel.

And we will all share tidings of comfort and joy.

December 10

This season of Advent touches many of our emotions.

Sometimes we doubt and fail to trust God.

“Do not be afraid. You have found favor with God.”

Nothing is impossible with God.

Let it be with us according to your word.

And we will all share tidings of comfort and joy.

December 17

This season of Advent touches many of our emotions.

Sometimes we are curious about what the future holds.

“Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of great joy.”

Let us go to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place.

Let us make known what has been told to us about this child.

And we will all share tidings of comfort and joy.

SONG

Lumière de Dieu Come, Light of God

The musical score is written for two voices, Treble and Bass, in a 2/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first system covers the first two lines of the song, and the second system covers the next two lines. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Lu - miè - re de Dieu, in - on - de la ter - re, vi -
Come light, light of God, give light to cre - a - tion, en -

si - te nos coeurs, et de - meure a - vec nous.
light - en our hearts, and re - main with your world.

Text and music: Communauté de Grandchamp, Switzerland
Text and music © Communauté de Grandchamp

THANKSGIVING FOR DARKNESS AND LIGHT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created light and darkness, day, and night,
and you set the sun, moon, and stars in the sky to govern night and day.
In a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day you led your people into freedom.
Lead us in the darkness and the light by the presence of Christ, your Word.
May your Spirit be a safe cover of darkness,
like the darkness of rich soil sprouting seeds, or the womb that cradles new hope.
May the Incarnate One be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;
For you are merciful, and you love your whole creation,
And with all your creatures we give you glory,
through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE ADVENT WREATH IS LIT

*We hear a line from our scripture readings and share in the day's prayer;
all join in singing as the wreath is lit.*

SONG *Christ, Mighty Savior*



- 1 Christ, might - y Sav - ior, Light of all cre - a - tion, you make the
- 2 Now comes the day's end as the sun is set - ting, mir - ror of
- 3 There - fore we come now eve - ning rites to of - fer, joy - ful - ly
- 4 Give heed, we pray you, to our sup - pli - ca - tion, that you may
- 5 Though bod - ies slum - ber, hearts shall keep their vig - il, for - ev - er



day - time ra - dant with the sun - light and to the night give
day - break, pledge of res - ur - rec - tion; while in the heav - ens
chant - ing ho - ly hymns to praise you, with all cre - a - tion
grant us par - don for of - fens - es, strength for our weak hearts,
rest - ing in the peace of Je - sus, in light or dark - ness



glit - ter - ing a - dorn - ment, stars in the heav - ens.
choirs of stars ap - pear - ing hal - low the night - fall.
join - ing hearts and voic - es, sing - ing your glo - ry.
rest for ach - ing bod - ies, sooth - ing the wea - ry.
wor - ship - ing our Sav - ior now and for - ev - er.

Text: Mozarabic, 10th cent.; tr. Alan McDougall, 1895–1964; para. Anne LeCroy, b. 1930

Music: Richard W. Dirksen, 1921–2003

Text © 1982 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company
Music © 1984 Washington National Cathedral Music Program

INNISFREE FARM

11 11 11 5

Alternate tune: CHRISTE SANCTORUM

GREETING AND PRAYER

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

November 19

O God who brings comfort and joy, when fear overwhelms us and we cannot see a way out,
speak to our fear. Calm our troubled hearts and provide peace in our fearful world. In Jesus’
name we pray.

Amen.

December 3

O God who brings comfort and joy, when the world baffles us with conflicting messages
and puzzling events, speak to our confusion. Comfort us with the knowledge that you are
with us in times of clarity and times of confusion. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

December 10

O God who brings comfort and joy, when our faith waivers and we question your word,
speak to our doubt. Comfort us with your promises and renew our trust in you. In Jesus’
name we pray.

Amen.

December 17

O God who brings comfort and joy, when we wait with anticipation of what will come,
speak to our curiosity. Comfort us with your surprises and give us hearts that are thankful
for all that you provide. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

SONG *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

Canon

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of B-flat major (two flats), and 6/8 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and contains two circled section markers, (A) and (B). The second staff contains two circled section markers, (C) and (D). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord, and

all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -

FIRST READINGS

The reading is followed by silence.

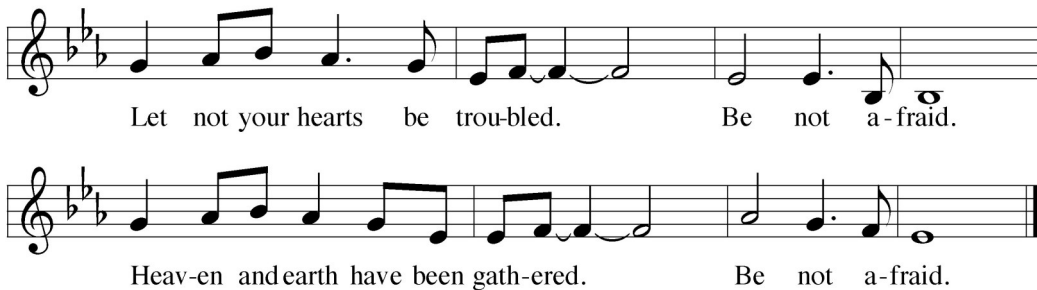
November 19: Isaiah 2:1-5

December 3: Isaiah 11:1-10

December 10: Jeremiah 33:14-16

December 17: Zephaniah 3:14-20

SONG *Let Not Your Hearts*



Text and music: Rolf Vegdahl, based on John 14:27

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GOSPEL

The reading is followed by silence

November 19: Luke 1:5-20

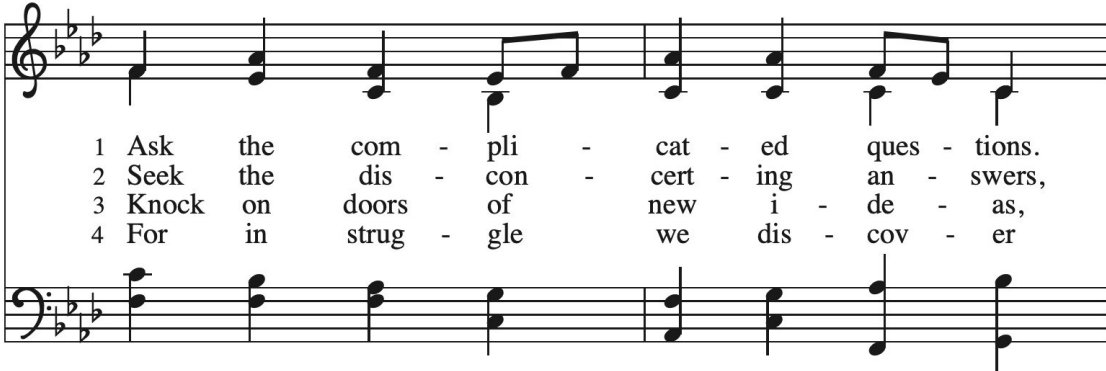
December 3: Matthew 1:18-25

December 10: Luke 1:26-38

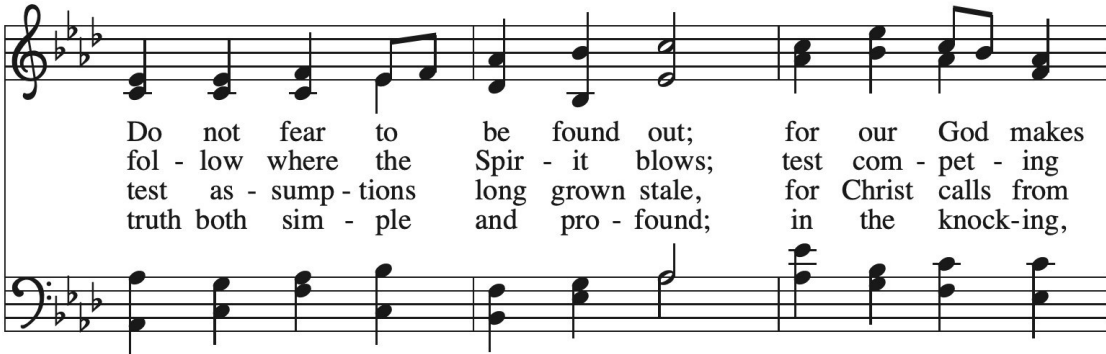
December 17: Luke 2:8-20

SONG

Ask the Complicated Questions



1 Ask the com - pli - cat - ed ques - tions.
 2 Seek the dis - con - cert - ing an - swers,
 3 Knock on doors of new i - de - as,
 4 For in strug - gle we dis - cov - er



Do not fear to be found out; for our God makes
 fol - low where the Spir - it blows; test com - pet - ing
 test as - sump - tions long grown stale, for Christ calls from
 truth both sim - ple and pro - found; in the knock - ing,



strong our weak - ness, forg - ing faith in fires of doubt.
 truths for wis - dom, for in ten - sion new life grows.
 shores of won - der, dar - ing us to try and fail.
 ask - ing, seek - ing, we are o - pened, an - swered, found.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. hymnal version

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Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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PRAYERS

During these weeks of waiting and expecting, where people live in fear of the unknown,
we pray for peace.

silence

Where people are confused about your will for their lives or for the world,
we pray for clarity.

silence

Where people doubt your presence and your word,
we pray for trust.

silence

Where people are curious, and await the future with hopeful anticipation,
we pray for wonder.

silence

Most of all, when the world longs for you,
we pray you help us respond with glad tidings of comfort and joy.

silence

We pray all this in the name of Jesus, our long-expected Savior.

Amen.

Our prayers continue as we sing, and come forward to light a candle. The flicker of the flames reminds us of how brief our time is, and the growing brightness reminds us that God's endless mercy breaks into even the deepest shadows in our world.

SONG *For God, My Soul Waits in Silence*



The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and contemplative, with many rests. The lyrics are written below the notes.

For God, my soul waits in si - lence, for

God, my soul waits in si-lence. For God, my on-ly strength, for

God, my on - ly hope, for God, my soul waits in si - lence.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, based on Psalm 62

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SONG

Within Our Darkest Night

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the
Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés, al - lu - me le

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a -
feu qui ne s'é-teint ja - mais, ne s'é-teint ja -

way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the
mais. Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés, al - lu - me le

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way.
feu qui ne s'é-teint ja - mais, ne s'é-teint ja - mais.
Last time

Text: Taizé Community, 1991
 Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, ho - ly be your name.

Your King - dom come. Your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins

as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.

**Optional*
Keep us from temp - ta - tion, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.

For the King - dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry are yours,

now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Silence

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

Amen.

BLESSING

The peace of God accompany your waiting,
the light of ✠ Christ warm your hearts,
and the joy of the Spirit fill you with hope.

Amen.

SONG

Don't Be Afraid

Don't be a - fraid. My love is stron - ger, my love is stron - ger than your

fear. Don't be a-fraid. My love is stron - ger and

I have prom - ised, prom-ised to be al - ways near.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949, and Graham Maule, 1958–2019

Music: DON'T BE AFRAID, John L. Bell

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All depart in silence, or remain in prayer.

Comfort and Joy

The holiday season can stir deep emotions within each of us. Many children greet the advent of Christmas with joy and excitement, whereas those who have lost loved ones during the past year may find great sadness in the very same event. Thankfully, our God meets us wherever we are, both physically and emotionally. This Advent we'll give voice to the complex situations and emotions with which we greet the coming Messiah, reflecting on the reactions of those who first received the news of Jesus' birth (Zechariah, Joseph, Mary, and the shepherds). We are no strangers to fear, confusion, doubt, and curiosity - and in the midst of it all, the coming of Jesus promises comfort and joy for all of us.



Pastors: Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr.
Rev. Erica Gibson-Even

Director of Music Ministries: Brian Bartusch

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