

Christ the Rock Lutheran Church
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Vicar Conifer Berg

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 20, 2020

CHRISTMAS CLOTHES

- 1. Taking off the old way of life**
- 2. Putting on the new reality in Christ**

God's Word for Today

The Christmas message of Jesus sent to earth to save us has changed our reality. As Christians, we seek to put on and live in that new reality which God has called us to in faith, while at the same time throwing off the old sinful way of life.



HYMN

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

Christian Worship #23



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 Oh, come, O Root of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
3 Oh, come, O Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by your
4 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save,
draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
heav'n - ly home. Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re-joice!
And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
And close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, For sins of habit and sins of choice, For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*

Mark 10:47

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 7:8-16

8 “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. **9** I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. **10** And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning

11 and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“ ‘The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you:

12 When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

14 I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.

15 But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me ; your throne will be established forever.’ ”



PSALM OF THE DAY

“What Child is This”

Christian Worship #67

1 What child is this who, laid to rest,
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh;

On Mar - y's lap is sleep - - ing?
Where ox - en now are feed - - ing?
Come, peas - ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet With an - thems sweet
Good Chris - tians, fear; For sin - ners here
The King of kings Sal - va - tion brings;

While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, Whom
Nails, this spear shall pierce him through; The
Raise, raise the song on high; The

shep - herds guard and an - gels sing.
cross he'll bear for me, for you.
vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

Haste, haste to bring him laud,
Hail, hail to the Word Christ made flesh,
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,

The babe, the Son of Mar - y!
The babe, the Son of Mar - y!
The babe, the Son of Mar - y!

SECOND LESSON

Colossians 3:12-17

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **14** And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. **16** Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. **17** And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 1:23

C: Alleluia! The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia!

HYMN OF THE DAY

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Christian Worship #24



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His
2 “I come from heav’n to tell the Lord’s de - cree: A
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head; “To
4 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born In



wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; “All
bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be. Your
me be as it pleas - es God,” she said. “My
Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, And



hail,” said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y, “Most
Son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told, Most
soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name.” Most
Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say, “Most



high - ly fa - vored maid - en.” Glo - ri - a!
high - ly fa - vored maid - en.” Glo - ri - a!
high - ly fa - vored maid - en, Glo - ri - a!
high - ly fa - vored maid - en.” Glo - ri - a!

STAND

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27** to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. **28** The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30** But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. **31** You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

34 “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

35 The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. **36** Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. **37** For no word from God will ever fail.”

38 “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

*Please use the offering plate at the back of the church
or visit ChristTheRockLutheran.com and click on “Online Giving” to give an offering.*

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

O Most High, You have favored us in the incarnation of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of Mary. In everything, let it be to us according to Your Word. Give us faith to believe that nothing is impossible with You, and so to pray boldly in childlike confidence. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M: O Most High, You have revealed in Christ Jesus the mystery kept secret for long ages, now made known to all nations through the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures. According to Your eternal command, give us faithful preachers of Your Gospel to bring about the obedience of faith. Bless Mark Schroeder, our Synod president; Phil Hirsch, our district president; Matt Vogt our mission counselor; and all pastors in Christ. Strengthen Your Holy Church in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M: O Most High, hear our prayers on behalf of our nation, its president, all legislators and judges, and those newly elected to serve. Preserve their lives and guide their actions for the good of our people. Give peace among the nations of the earth, and preserve us from pestilence and famine, war and bloodshed, sedition, rebellion and every evil. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M: O Most High, grant all women with child and all mothers with infant children increasing happiness in their blessings. Look with compassion on the lonely, the depressed and the despairing. Grant healing to the sick, and give peace to the anxious and dying. Comfort all who mourn with the certain hope of the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M: O Most High, we give You thanks for Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Key of David and the scepter of the house of Israel. By His death, He has opened the kingdom of heaven and closed the gates of hell for all who trust in Him. By His resurrection, He has rescued the prisoners who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.



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CLOSING HYMN

“Joy to the World”
Christian Worship #62



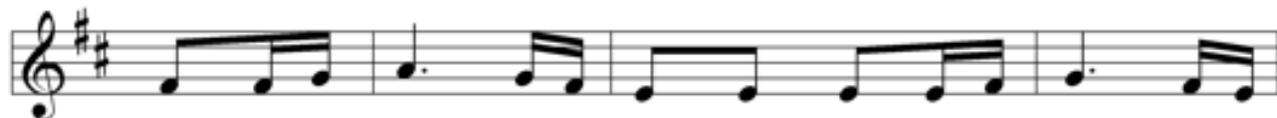
1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And



earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry
 all their songs em - ploy, While fields and
 thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
 makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries



heart pre - pare him room And heav'n and
 floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the
 make his bless - ings flow Far as the
 of his right - eous - ness And won - ders



na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
 sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far
 of his love, And won - ders of his love, And



heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as, far as the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

- **Vicar Conifer Berg**, prayers of thanksgiving for Vicar Berg's service and future as a messenger and teacher of God's word
- **Pastor Nathan Seiltz**, for guidance as he deliberates the call to serve our congregation
- **Vanessa Engh**, thankful for successful surgery, prayers for continued healing
- **Dennis and Jane Bacon**, prayers for comfort and care due to poor health
- **Willie Mitchell**, health and care
- **Herdranne Herrera**, recovering from COVID-19
- **Vinnie and Ben Henry**, Ben had surgery, Vinnie and family are tending to his aftercare
- **Marianne and Daniel**, as they travel to see Caroline and family
- **Marianne and her family** for comfort after the passing of her Uncle David and for Aunt Sue in Tucson, receiving treatment for Covid-19. Also for her cousin Kelly and her husband Greg as they care for their mom and overcome COVID-19 themselves
- **Gwen and Chuck Johnson**, friends of Aaron and Myra. Chuck has Stage 3 lung cancer
- **Dave Branch**, that he would receive surgery soon and that God would bless the operation
- **Delfin Ulibarri**, comfort that God would bless his healing
- **Marianne's** friend Ginny's niece, Kallie and her husband, their 6 year-old son died in August
- **Kay Ulibarri, Luci and Lysa**, God's blessings for comfort and strength as they care for each other and Delfin
- **Maggie Donohue and Armond** her son, prayers for comfort as they mourn the death of his father Scott
- **Ryan**, grandson of Jeff and Mona Blagg, thank God for continued healing progress.
- **Fred Bunselmeyer**, Maggie's father-in-law, health and care at Wellbrook Rehabilitation
- **Christ the Rock**, members and leaders as we transition our ministry
- **Mary and Martin**, mother and brother in-law of Ginger, both have cancer
- **Bea Peshlakai**, care and comfort for her health

God's People Respond to God's Grace

Worship Attendance December 13: 22 Sunday School: 2 Bible Study: 9
Offering December: \$4,869

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Christmas Eve Service - Thursday, 12/24, 7 PM, CtR lay members will conduct the service

No Christmas service - Friday, 12/25

No Bible Study or Sunday School – 12/27

Next Sunday Service - 12/27, 10:30 AM, will be a viewing of the WELS Media Productions movie "My Son, My Savior" a project that Pastor Hartman helped produce.

Sunday, January 3, 2021 – Vacancy Pastor Emeritus John Vogt (and wife Sandy) will serve Christ the Rock from January 3 through February.