

Light of the World is born!
We call Him Jesus



January 4, 2025

Worship Leader: Rev. John Helt

Music Director: Terryl Dietert

Musician: Sue Cribb

Guitar/Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba

Video: Richard Tremarello

Liturgist: Chuck Terlinden

Welcome to Christ Church! We are so glad you are here this morning! Whether you are a "first-timer," a regular, or somewhere in between, it is a joy to have you here with us this day. May you be blessed by God's Word in worship today! If you are a **first-time visitor**, please fill out a visitor card and put it in the offering plate, and then make your way to the Chapel (in the back) after worship where we have a small gift for you.

**Please stand as you are able*

Reflections: *In Christian tradition, Christmas is a season of twelve days that ends on January 5, "twelfth night." The next day, January 6th is Epiphany, when Western Christendom celebrates the revealing of Christ to the Gentile world in Matthew's story about the visitation of the Magi. (January 6th is the Eastern Orthodox Christmas.) Epiphany with its star is also a celebration of Jesus as the Light of the World. The Sundays after Epiphany end with the Transfiguration of our Lord on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent.*

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *O little Town of Bethlehem/It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* - Wm Stickles

*Call to Worship

Isaiah said: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Nations shall come to your light

And rulers to the brightness of your rising.

Jesus said: I am the light of the world,

Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness

But will have the light of life.

*Hymn

Arise, Your Light Has Come

Hymn #231

Prayer

Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls, who brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising: Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations, their leaders and would-be kings; through the one who is the true light, King of kings, and bright morning star. We pray and gather in the name of this Lord Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Gloria

(sung twice)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest.

Glory to God, glory to God, Alleluia! Alleluia!

*The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSVUE)

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 in 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.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (NRSVUE)

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
May he judge your people with righteousness
and your poor with justice.
May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.
May he live while the sun endures
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSVUE)

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 in the east 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 in the east, 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

"Home By Another Way"

Rev. John Helt

*Affirmation of Faith (United Church of Canada)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,**

who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,**

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

*Hymn

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Hymn #233

Prayers of the People

(see Weekly Newsletter for details)

For those experiencing trials or ongoing health concerns: *Kathy B, Gloria H, Judy B, Jerry G, Bonnie & Jeff J, Nicole, Bart, Tom, Laurel, Bill, Blair, Joe, Kozy, Stacy, Susie*

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

The blessings we receive—in wisdom, in years, and in favor—are meant to be shared. When we use these gifts to sustain the ministry of the church and respond to the needs of the community, we personify the good news in the world! Let us give with boldness and boundless trust in the provision of the Creator of all.

SCAN TO DONATE



Offertory

The First Noel - Wm Stickles

*Response

**O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Jesus, Bright Morning Star, in your light we see light. Jesus, Light of the World, lighten our darkness, shine all around us, by day and by night, and lead us in the ways of truth, compassion and justice. Bless these gifts, that your church might better see the needs of the world around us. In the name and Spirit of Christ. Amen.

*Hymn *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/Jesus, the Light of the World* (see next page)

*Benediction

*Response

**We will follow the light, beautiful light,
come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright,
Shine all around us, by day and by night,
Jesus, the Light of the world.**

Postlude

Hark The Herald Angels Sing - Wm Stickles

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

(Jesus, the Light of the World)

John 8:12; 9:5

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.; adapt. George D. Elderkin; alt.

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 2 Joy - ful, all you saints a - rise, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 3 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 4 Hail the Bear-er of God's peace! Je-sus, the light of the world;

Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Join the tri - umph of the skies, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Word, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Hail the Sun of righ - teous-ness! Je-sus, the light of the world.

Refrain

We will fol - low the light, beau - ti - ful light, come where the

dew-drops of mer - cy are bright, Shine all a - round us by

day and by night, Je - sus, the light of the world.

The original version of Charles Wesley's hymn has received various alterations throughout the years. This adaptation by George Elderkin utilizes a repeated ascription, "Jesus, the light of the world," and a refrain to create a rousing carol of praise.

Tune: ELDERKIN 7.7.7.7, with refrain
 George D. Elderkin
 Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993

THIS WEEK at CHRIST CHURCH

Today

BVCC Donations

Wednesday, Jan 7

Hunger Task Force, 9am-noon

Choir, 7pm

NEXT SUNDAY

Taking Down the Greens after church

Counters: Debbie Hansen, Mark Pfeifer

Greeters: Sara Rogers, Madeline Norton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hunger Task Force

We'll be working at Hunger Task Force (5000 W. Electric Ave.) on Wednesday, **January 7** from 9am to noon assembling food boxes for seniors. This is a fun and fast-paced opportunity to do some real good for our seniors. Please sign up on the Lenox Street bulletin board. Any questions, see *Andy Oren*.

Taking Down the Greens

Please come help us take down the greens after the worship service on **January 11**. We appreciate your helpful hands!

Divine Intervention

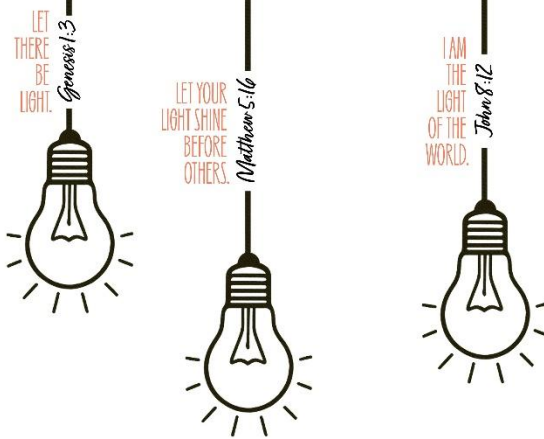
Please sign up to help with food items and/or serving our January meal on **Jan 15**. There are typically 25 guests and volunteers for each meal. The theme for this meal is: Beef Stew with rolls, biscuits, salad, dessert, milk. The donation sheet is on the Lenox Street Bulletin Board. Food items must be dropped off at Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church, 125 W. Saveland Avenue by 6pm. See *Jim or Randene* for more information.

End-of-the-Year Stewardship-Campaign

I have good news....we did it! We met our goal of \$11,000 by December 31st! We only had 2½ short weeks and we did it. We pulled together and made it happen. We are a generous church, a church who works together for a common goal and for the common good of all. Thank you for your generosity and for all you do for our church family.

With sincerest thanks, *Pam Kothrade, Stewardship Chair*

LIGHT



Monthly Activity	November	YTD
Contributions	\$11,820	\$97,501
Other Income	\$299	\$80,484
Total Income	\$12,119	\$177,985
Expenses	\$30,845	\$199,435
Budgeted Amount	\$14,867	\$163,533

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Instagram: instagram.com/christ_church_uccmke/

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If you should need pastoral support, please contact

Rev. Sandy Graham at 414-943-6321 or RevDrGraham@gmail.com

or **Rev. John Helt** at 262-622-3165 or JohnCliffordHelt@gmail.com

