

# *Joy to the World*

**8 PM**



**CROSS & CROWN**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Come & See*

## WELCOME

Welcome to worship! We are so glad that you've chosen to worship here! Cross & Crown is a community of Christ-followers from all walks of life. We hope that you will feel a warm welcome from the congregation and will worship with us again!

## ADDITIONAL SUNDAY INFORMATION

Sunday school classes are offered for adults located in the Multipurpose space. Our adult class, Books of Faith, meets in room 206.

Communion is offered each week. Everyone is invited to the Lord's Table!

Our church has something for everyone, and not just on Sundays. During the week, we have activities such as Bible studies and small groups. On Wednesday evenings we share a fellowship dinner at 6 pm. We hope you'll come try it out! See the back of the bulletin for more details about how to sign up.

Now that you know a little about us, help us get to know you better by completing the Connection Card handed to you by one of our greeters when you entered. You can hand it to one of the pastors or drop it in the offering plate.

## PARENTS

We love the sound of kids in our service! Here are some ideas to keep them engaged.

**Relax!** It's ok to let kids be kids!

**Sit close:** Consider sitting up front where it's easier for kids to see and hear.

**Explain:** Kids are curious! Explain what's happening in the service.

**Participate:** Sing hymns loudly, pray, respond, etc. Children learn by following your lead.

**Activities:** If you would like a bag of quiet activities for your little ones, ask an usher and they will provide one for you.

**Wander:** It's ok to move around. Sometimes it's easier to let fidgety kids move a bit.

**Need to Leave?** No problem, but please come back! Sometimes kids just need a break. There are speakers in the narthex & lounge so you can hear. The narthex is a great place to get the wiggles out, and the lounge is nice if you need privacy.

**Ask:** Questions or just need help? Just ask one of our ushers.

**Childcare:** The nursery is down the hall in the Multipurpose Space for infants to age 4 and is available during both worship services. If you need assistance, an usher can help you. C&C Kids is offered to kids pre-K through 3rd grade. Kids depart the sanctuary during the Passing of the Peace and return to worship before communion.

# Gathering

## Prelude

In the Bleak Midwinter      Handbell Choir

Holst, arr. McChesney

*(Please stand)*

## Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty Savior,  
Prince of Peace.

C: **Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Reconciling God,

C: **we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C: **Amen.**

## Opening Hymn

283    O Come All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

## The Greeting

P: Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

# *The Word*

## **The First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders,  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Great will be his authority,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm Tone



### Psalm 96

<sup>1</sup> Sing to the Lord | a new song;  
sing to the Lord, | all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the Lord;  
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.

<sup>3</sup> Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations  
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

<sup>4</sup> For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised,  
more to be feared | than all gods.

<sup>5</sup> As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;  
but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup> Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.

<sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.

<sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the | holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;  
tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.

<sup>10</sup> Tell it out among the nations: "The | Lord is king!

The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the  
peo- | ples with equity."

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

<sup>12</sup> Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O Lord,  
for you come to | judge the earth.

<sup>13</sup> You will judge the | world with righteousness  
and the peoples | with your truth.

*(Please stand)*

## **The Gospel Processional**

Hymn 289 Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

Stanza 1: Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Luke 2:1-20**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

<sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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 in the guest room.

<sup>8</sup>Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, <sup>19</sup>and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn 289 Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

Stanza 3: Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*(Please be seated)*

**Homily**

**Pastor Matt Simpkins**

**Hymn**

270 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

**Prayers of the People**

L: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*(A brief silence.)*

L: Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling. We pray especially for those on our congregation's Prayer List. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*(We invite you to speak aloud the names of those for whom you are praying.)*

L: Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**



# *We Receive God's Gifts*

## Offertory

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Willcocks

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly, For his bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging Angels singing, Nowells ringing, Tidings bringing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new; Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow, Christ the Babe was born for you! Christ the Babe was born for you.

*(Please stand)*

## Offertory Hymn

300 The First Noel, Stanza 1

The First Nowell

## Offertory Prayer

**L:** Let us pray. God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

**C:** Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** We lift them to the Lord.

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

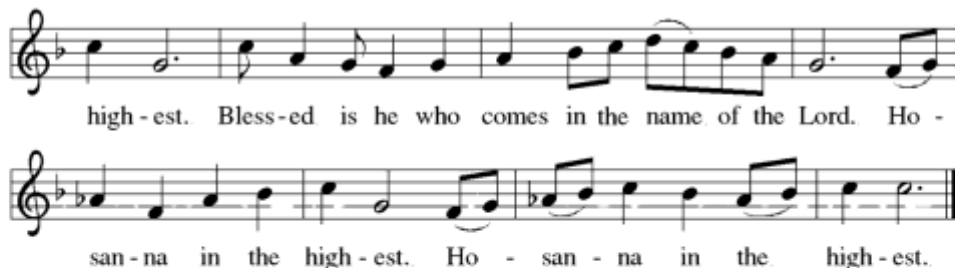
**C:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Holy, Holy, Holy

Two staves of musical notation in G-clef, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the".

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the





### Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed ...  
Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

### 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 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.

## Communion

### Come to the Table— Everyone's Invited!

*Holy Communion is a celebration of Christ's love, shared through His body and blood. If you're hungry for His presence, this meal is for you! We commune by taking a piece of bread and dipping it into wine or grape juice. Need grape juice or gluten-free options? No problem—the assistant will gladly help you out. Kids are welcome, too! Just let the assistant know if your child will be receiving Communion or would prefer a special blessing. We're so glad you're here—let's share this joyful moment together!*

### Lamb of God





## Distribution of Holy Communion

### Communion Hymns

279 O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

282 It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Carol

*(Please stand)*

### The Blessing

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's grace.

**C:** Amen.

### Prayer after Communion

**L:** Let us pray together,

**C:** Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.

## Candle Lighting Instructions

### 281 Silent Night, Holy Night

### Stille Nacht

Stanza 1: Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Stanza 2: Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia! Christ, the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Stanza 3: Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*The candles are extinguished.*

*(Please place the candles in the receptacles provided in the Narthex as you leave.)*

## *Sending*

### **Benediction**

P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C: **Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn**

267 Joy to the World

Antioch

### **Dismissal**

L: Glory to God in the highest! And peace to God's people on earth! Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

Joy to the World

Phillips



# Christmas POINSETTIAS

## GIVEN BY:

*Russ & Darragh Bailey  
Becky Carter*

*Sharon Davis  
Morgan Deppe*

*Tom & Janis Dorsey  
Dennis & Annette Downey  
Kim & Emily Ferguson  
John Hejka  
Barbara Greene  
Vaughn & Deanna Herlong  
George Jankowski & Klaus Tittel  
Barbara Maillet*

*Diane Maggigi  
Sue Papacharalambous  
Mary Phelps*

## IN MEMORY OF:

*Shirley Bailey, George & Pat Moffat  
Madison Carter, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Wike,  
Susan Wike Kruzait*

*Kelly Davis, Dutch & Polly Cover, Mark Cover  
My grandparents: Robert & Virginia Radcliff  
Howard & Barbara Deppe*

*Our parents  
Opa, Grandpa Jim, Grandma Carol  
Mike Realon & Inge Wilm  
My in-laws: Richard & Virginia Stead  
Bob & Dorothy Alexander  
Craig Herlong  
Cornelia (Lia) Tittel, Sonja Tittel  
My beloved husband, Gary  
My parents, Bill & Minnie Ampf  
My dear brother, John Ampf  
Gail Marshall, Frank Phelps  
Harry Papacharalambous, Sally Patton  
Frank Phelps*







# Christmas POINSETTIAS

## GIVEN BY:

*Larry Stratemeyer & Michael Lehtinen*

*Bill & Heidi Rhyne*

*Rutkowski Family  
Jeff & Lori Taylor*

*Cathy Thompson  
Tiller Family  
Joe & Criss Ueman  
Reneau & Laura Van Landingham*

*Michael & Brittany Wellborn  
Margaret White & Chris Frisnia*

## IN MEMORY OF:

*Herb & Jean Stratemeyer  
Ed & Elsie Lehtinen  
Mark & Leigh Ann Duda, Mary Smith  
The Rev. William Rhyne, Sr.  
The Rev. & Mrs. John Johnson  
Mrs. Edith Moore  
Ellis Baldwin, brother-in-law & uncle  
Our grandparents, Asa McCain,  
Alane McCain*

*My family  
Papa Forest, we miss you every day!  
Our son, Ian and grandson, Austin  
Reneau Van Landingham, Sr.,  
Sue Schwartz,  
Natalee Van Landingham,  
Marcy Jacomet  
John Robert  
Chris' grandmother, Anne Steele*





# Christmas POINSETTIAS

## GIVEN BY:

*Todd & Catherine Atwood  
Russ & Darragh Bailey*

*Jim & Sharron Burns*

*Dennis & Annette Downey  
Hugh & Susan Kluttz  
Diane Maggigi*

*Bill & Heidi Rhyne  
Reneau & Laura Van Landingham*

*Michael & Brittany Wellborn  
Suzy Wlezniaak & Dorothy Carty  
Julie Wright*

## IN HONOR OF & TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

*To the glory of God  
John Bailey, & our children: David & Michael  
Erin & Ian*

*Our grandchildren: Sarah, Geoff, James &  
Jackson*

*Christopher, Megan & Riley  
So that peace and kindness return to this country  
Our God is patient, merciful & filled with grace  
In honor of Steve Marshall*

*Mrs. Susan Rhyne  
Anne, Brandon, Oliver, David, Jordan, Bryan,  
Christian, Grayson & Matt  
Cross & Crown Staff*

*Sloane Elizabeth & Declan John  
To the glory of God  
My husband, George O. Wright, Jr.  
My parents, Mr. & Mrs. Leon Martin*





# Merry Christmas

## Serving in Worship Today- 4 pm Service

---

Assisting Minister:	Felicia Eybl
Acolyte:	Copeland Simpkins
Communion Assistants:	Terry McClure, Hugh Kluttz
Usher:	Jeff Bratschie,
Communion Set-up:	Jennifer LaMere
Greeters:	Brittany Wellborn
Nursery Assistant:	John Hejka

## Serving in Worship Today- 8 pm Service

---

Assisting Minister:	Bill Rhyne
Acolyte:	
Communion Assistants:	Jill Jurgensen, Susan Arcuri
Usher:	Brian Deppe, David Cox
Communion Set-up:	Kim Kirk
Greeters:	Jeff & Alicia Konieczynski

You can give to C&C by scanning  
the QR code below.

**SCAN TO GIVE**



[www.crossandcrown.org](http://www.crossandcrown.org)  
704-847-5967



## Our Staff

---

Melody Simpkins  
Matt Simpkins  
Larry Stratemeyer  
LeAnne Bates  
Laura Van Landingham  
Dan Goldstein  
Terry McClure  
Jessica Carter

Co-Pastor  
Co-Pastor  
Dir. of Music Ministries  
Church Administrator  
Ministry Program Coordinator  
Technical Director  
Hospitality Coordinator  
Custodian

[pastormelody@crossandcrown.org](mailto:pastormelody@crossandcrown.org)  
[pastormatt@crossandcrown.org](mailto:pastormatt@crossandcrown.org)  
[music@crossandcrown.org](mailto:music@crossandcrown.org)  
[office@crossandcrown.org](mailto:office@crossandcrown.org)  
[ministries@crossandcrown.org](mailto:ministries@crossandcrown.org)  
[tech@crossandcrown.org](mailto:tech@crossandcrown.org)

## Copyright:

All Creation Sing (Joy to the World), words Isaac Watts and Steve Fee, music George Frederick Handel and Steve Fee Ó 2008 sixsteps Music, worshiptogether.com songs CCLI Song # 5305393 Holy Communion, Setting Two Ó 2004, 2006 Marty Haugen, admin. Augsburg Fortress One License A-730808