



❄️ CHRISTMAS EVE ❄️
CANDLELIGHT

December 24, 2019 @ 7:00 pm

Church of The Cross

475 West Higgins Road Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

(847) 885-1199

WELCOME ALL

PRELUDE

"Still, Still, Still"

by Bob Burroughs

WORDS OF WELCOME¹

A child is born for us in Bethlehem,
wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger:
**and he will be our Shepherd,
feeding his flock in the strength of the Lord.**

CHORAL INTROIT

"Sing and Be Joyful, the Savior Is Born"

Unknown

*CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Rev. Julie Peterson

The glory of the Lord shines around us. The angels tell the story:
"Do not fear; for see—I bring you good news of great joy!
A child has been born for us, a son given to us!

He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of peace.

Glory to God in the highest heaven! And peace to all on earth!

Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has taken place.
Let us glorify the One who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Come, Let us adore Him! Let us worship God!

*CHRISTMAS CAROL NO. 133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE *Isaiah 9:2-7*

The De La Cruz Family

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.

"You have multiplied ... 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.

...The grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to all.
The long-awaited Christ has come!

**Holy God, we celebrate the birth of our Savior as we
light this candle. Together, we will work together to shine
with the radiant light of Christ into your world! Amen.**

All Sing: tune #41 “O Worship the King, All Glorious Above”

**The Christ candle’s light that shines for us here
Tells out the good news that God has come near!
God came, a poor baby, in one time and place,
To show all creation the wealth of God’s grace.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pat Groenewold

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹

**Almighty God, the heavenly host fills the skies; the shepherds rush
to behold the babe. But we stand still, for these glad tidings have lost all
sense of urgency. The angel chorus rejoices with alleluias, but we hear
words as nothing new. This story is so familiar we forget its power to
transform the world. We forget it heralds a reign of justice. We forget
this story requires something of us.**

**Holy One, you have given us your Son. Give us the gift of faith,
so we might receive the Christ child into our hearts, our lives, our homes,
our world, and live as those who truly do walk in his Light.**

OUR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Julie Peterson

*THE FIRST NOWELL, NO. 147, vs 1-2

*PASSING THE PEACE ~ *Greet one another with the peace of Christ.*

SHARE GOD'S LOVE

*HYMN No. 188, vs1 "Jesus Loves Me" *Children are invited to come forward*

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

*HYMN No. 188, vs2 "Jesus Loves Me" *Children return to their seat*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pat Groenewold

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Mary Did You Know?"

sung by Rachel Meister

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"The Witnesses"

Rev. Julie Peterson

OFFER HOPE ... ALL IN JESUS' NAME

*HYMN No. 134

"Joy to the World"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

"O Holy Night"

soloist: Jeff Peterson

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pat Groenewold

*HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 113 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING²

May the God of silent nights be with you.

May the God of herald angels be with you.

Open your hearts to the One born in the little town of Bethlehem.

May Emmanuel come to abide in our hearts.

Join all believers in singing of our joy this night.

May our voices blend with those of the angels and shepherds.

You crept into chaos so long ago, Star-shaper, so creation might be born... As we gather one with another dressed in your warmth and love, as we join with the voices around us, we lift praises to you this Holy night:

We will not be afraid, for great joy is ours this night;

we will look for the signs of your presence,

grace swaddled in hope, love wrapped around broken hearts.

Glory to you, God in the highest heavens!

May peace fill the lives of all your children!

Leaving your side, God of holiness, your Child came to walk with us...

On this night, when we sing of the babe in the manger, as the shadow of the cross is cast by the stars, we proclaim that mystery called incarnation:

Christ is our light,

and we will join the angels in singing the good news;

Christ is our life,

and we will join the disciples in telling the Story;

Christ is our promise, and we wait for the joy of his return.

Here in the silence and the singing... Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND LIFTING OF THE CUP

COMMUNING TOGETHER

Communion is open to all who are baptized from every Christian faith. Communion is served by Intinction. Please come forward by way of the center aisle, take a piece of bread and dip it in the cup of juice, partake of it, and then return by the side aisles to your seat. A server will bring communion to those less able to come forward. The bread is gluten/dairy free.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace and peace, as you have shared your life with us through the child in the manger and this simple meal together, let us share your life with others. Bless us with the gifts Emmanuel brings—hope, peace, joy, and love—so each gift might flow through us and bless your people everywhere, from far-flung fields to crowded city streets where there is “no room in the inn.” Embolden us to tell your story. Send us out, glorifying and praising God—for to us is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord! Amen.

*CANDLE LIGHT BENEDICTION, NO. 122 “Silent Night, Holy Night!”

*POSTLUDE “What Child is This” By Lloyd Larson

¹Call to Worship 53.1, © 2019 Office of Theology and Worship Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) pg26

²Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies ©2019, reprinted with permission.

Welcome All
Share God's Love
Offer Hope
... all in Jesus' name



Hearing Assistance Devices, large print copies of the bulletin and hymns are available from an usher.

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR...

Linda A (sister of Judy M)
Mary Lou A (friend of Larry & Dawn A)
Connie & Ed (Friends of Karen)
Mildred B
Mary Ann B
Sushma & family
Mary Joe (Jim B's co-worker)
Virgil B (friend of Karen F)
Andree C
Patrick C (Stu & Marie's son-in-law)
Renee C (Laura D's sister-in-law)
Jim C (Mary Ann's son-in-law)
Linda D (Jim & Sue's relative)
Betty F (Chris L's mother)
Shawn F (Karen F's son)
Jack and Donna F (uncle/aunt of Sue L)
Karen F
Adelaide G
Bruce & Linda G (friends of the Rutter's)
Nick G (Rutter's grandson)
Ricky G (Liataud's nephew)
Rita H (Jim & Ann's relative)
Jessica (Charlie / Nancy's niece)
Bob L (Judie T's friend)
Jim L (Groenewold's son-in-law)

Jason and his dad
Family of Ella W (Ann S's mother)
Linda L (Judie T's friend)
Mary Jo (Jim B's co-worker)
Al M (Pastor Julie's cousin)
Glenna M
Judy M
Klee (Michaelis' son)
Kofi M (Grant-Acquah family friend)
Lisa M (Karen's daughter)
Steve M
Noah (nephew of Adelaide's son-in-law)
Jerry N (friend of Judie T)
Jann P (Jeff P's father)
Barbara O (friend of Glenna M)
Susan Q (Ann S's boss)
George R
Ann S
June T (Pastor Julie's aunt)
Larry V (Jim V's father)
April V (Chris V's cousin)
Caregivers
Communities impacted by natural disasters
Those devastated by terrorism
Families of suicide loss
Those who grieve

ARE YOU A VISITOR OR DO YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?

If you are a visitor today please fill out one of our visitor cards.
If you have a prayer request, please fill out the prayer request card.
Please drop your card in the offering plate

POINSETTIAS

Dedicated to the Glory of God by :

- Carole Bauer
- Hank & Glenna Morgan
- Naana Grant-Acquah
- Chris and Mike Lorentz
- Bob & Sandy Lovell

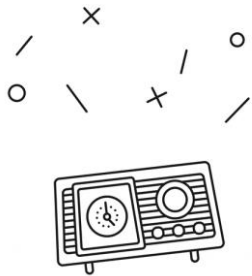
Dedicated in Honor of :

- Our children and grandchildren
 - Larry & Dawn Amos
- Our parents, Ed and Doris Swift
 - Walker Family
- Church of the Cross
 - Sushma, Vinay & Anika
- June Cameron & Lois Baker
 - Marilyn & John Baker
- Pastor Julie – Joan & George Rogers
- My wonderful family - Bob Groenewold
- Our family - Ann & Jim Moorman
- Our family - Stu & Marie Rutter
- My family - Terri Harmening
- Our parents - Chris and Mike Lorentz
- Our family - Naana Grant-Acquah

Dedicated in Memory of :

- Mom & Dad, Marie & Leonard Spencer - Karen Franz
- Parents, Ray & Martha Groenewold - Ken & Pat Groenewold
 - Our parents – Donna & Ron Haffron
- Susan's mother, Ina Lauzon & Jim's mother, Ruth Buchholz - Jim & Susan Buchholz
 - Susan's brother, Justin Lauzon - Jim & Susan Buchholz
 - All my loved ones that have gone to be with the Lord - Mary Ann Buckner
 - Dorothy and Donald Walker – Walker Family
- Auntie Marilyn, Uncle Harold, Raul De La Cruz & Robert Cole - De La Cruz Family
 - Our Grandparents - De La Cruz Family
- Parents, William & Marie Lemke & Crosby & Eleanor Rogers – Joan & George Rogers
- Parents, George & Margaret Truelsen & Frank & Josephine Poznanski - Truelsen
- Amy Elizabeth Peterson, Earl & Betty Nelson & Roger Nelson – Jeff & Julie Peterson
 - My loving husband, Andy McPherson – Lois McPherson
 - John & Hope & Ssgt. Jose R. Novas – Cheryl Novas
 - Our parents & grandparents – Ann & Jim Moorman
- Art & Hazel Dorland & Donald & Evelyn Lesch – Dave & Jane Lesch
 - Our parents - Chris and Mike Lorentz
 - Jean L. Price, Sue's sister-in-law – Jim & Sue Letterer

RADIO PLAY- WHAT THE WISE MEN KNOW



An original, short radio play, *What the Wise Men Know*, will be performed in front of the congregation during the worship service on Sunday, Jan. 5. If you are interested in being an actor or narrator, please see Stu Truelsen for details. No memorization. Rehearsal with script Dec. 29, after worship service and Jan. 5, before worship.

Rehearsal for "What the Wise Men Know" radio play will follow the worship service on Sunday, Dec. 29. All actors and supporting crew please meet in the sanctuary.

The play will be part of the worship service on Jan. 5.

LESSONS & CAROLS

Please sign up...

to be readers for the **Lessons and Carol Service** on 29 December

The sign-up form is available on the Resource Schedule on our website or use the form in the lounge.



JOIN US THIS ADVENT

Fourth Week of Advent

Sunday, December 22nd

Laying on of Hands

Cantata Worship @ 10 am

& Christmas party @ 11 am

Tuesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7 pm



Prince of Peace



Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 30th @ 10 am



January 15 - the Magic Hour by Kristin Hannah

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:

➔ Food Pantry



The Schaumburg Food Pantry provides assistance to those in need within Schaumburg Township. The pantry items needed now are:

Eggs	Caned Yams	Cranberry Sauce
Instant Potatoes	Boxed Pasta	Pasta Sauce

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation and the good work of our deacons, thirty-one Christmas Food Baskets were delivered on Monday, December 16, to Lakeview School in Hoffman Estates.

Through our on-going partnership with Mariano's Store #8506 at Golf & Barrington Roads, and Mike, the Manager, Lindsey, Assistant Manager, and Mindy, we were able to procure the baskets and provide dinner for Lakeview families. The baskets were accepted by Beth Urbach, the Lakeview School principal, Kelly Pietryla, the assistant principal and Priscilla, the School social worker. They expressed their gratitude for the baskets on behalf of the families that would receive them.



Special thanks to Ann Moorman for doing the behind-the-scenes coordination, as well as to Karen Franz, Bob Lovell and Judie Truelsen for helping to transport and deliver the baskets.

Merry Christmas to all!

Judie

CALENDAR

For the week of December 22nd

Tuesday, December 24
7:00 pm Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 25
Office Closed

Thursday, December 26
Office Closed

Sunday, December 29
10:00 am Lessons & Carols
11:00 am Radio Play Rehearsals
11:00 am Coffee Hour & Fellowship

January

31 Tuesday	1 Wednesday	2 Thursday	3 Friday	4 Saturday	5 Sunday
	Office Closed	Office Closed			9:00 am - Sunday School for Adults only 10:00 am - "What the Wise Men Know" 11:00 am - Coffee Hour & Fellowship

Please note that Pastor Julie will be on vacation from December 26th to January 8th

*If you have a pastoral care emergency while Pastor Julie is on Vacation,
please contact any Deacon or Elder.*

Upcoming Deadlines:

- All 2018 financial contributions are due on December 29th.
- Annual Reports from COTC Teams are due to the office by January 10th.

WORSHIP RESOURCE SCHEDULE

Date	December 24	December 29	January 5	January 12
	Christmas Eve Service	Lessons & Carols	Radio Play	Communion
Worship Leader	P Groenewold	K Groenewold		
Disciple on Duty		Jim V		
Usher/Greeter	B Groenewold	Buchholz		
Counter		B Groenewold	Jane Lesch	
Communion Set Up	Dawn Amos			Dawn Amos
Communion Servers	Pastor Julie			Pastor Julie
	P Groenewold			Dawn Amos
	Dawn Amos			
Advent Candle Lighters	De la Cruz			
Coffee Hour		Free will		

Church of the Cross
475 West Higgins Road, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

Office: 847-885-1199

Website: www.churchofthecross.online



The Rev. Julie G. Peterson, Pastor
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Office Manager: Vanessa Brand
 Office phone: 847-885-1199
 Email: office@cotc-pcusa.org

Clerk of Session: Pat Groenewold
 Email: groenewp@aol.com

Choir Director: Marie Rutter

Keyboardist: Youjin Bang

Moderator of Deacons: Sue Letterer
 Email: sletterer@comcast.net

CCLI # 2992287 / SongSelect® #11328105

Session

Elders, Class of 2019

Adelaide Grant-Acquah
 Jane Lesch
 Fritz Michaelis

Elders, Class of 2020

Ken Groenewold
 Mike Lorentz
 Cathy Walker

Elders, Class of 2021

Sue Liautaud
 Stu Rutter
 Cheryl Wilkins

Deacons

Deacons, Class of 2019

Karen Franz
 Chris Lorentz
 Sue Letterer

Deacons, Class of 2020

Laura DeLaCruz
 Naana Grant-Acquah
 Bob Groenewold

Deacons, Class of 2021

Ann Moorman
 Judie Truelsen
 Ann Scheerer

Corporation Officers

Jim Letterer President
 Larry Amos Vice President
 Ken Groenewold Treasurer
 Pat Groenewold Secretary
 Nancy Keppel Member at large
 Sue Liautaud Member at large
 Terry Maulding Member at large