



2nd Sunday of Christmas

January 2, 2022 @ 10:00 am

Church of The Cross

475 West Higgins Road Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

(847) 885-1199

WELCOME ALL

PRELUDE

“He Shall Feed His Flock” *by G.F. Handel*

Robert & Maria

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Rev. Julie Peterson

Praise God! Praise the Lord, all creation!

**Stars glittering with grace, humpback whales singing of hope:
all praise our God!**

Praise God! Praise the Lord, all you people!

**12-year-olds, and 80 plus, the wise and those learning to walk:
all praise our God!**

Praise God! Praise the Lord, in every moment, in every place!

Wherever we find ourselves: we praise our God!

OPENING HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GTG #113

CALL TO CONFESSION

Ken G.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You set your holy path before us, Holy God, yet we continue to travel to and fro into sin. You invite us to grow and become strong in your wisdom, but we turn to the wisdom of the world and soil our hearts with false teachings. Believing we are wiser than you, we pierce other’s lives with harsh words, instead of your grace. Offering us the warm sweater knitted from your love, we would rather slip our lives into the sleeves of bitterness and anger. Challenging us to carry one another’s burdens, we complain about how uncomfortable and heavy they are.

Forgive us, Searching God, purify us with your wisdom gifts of compassion, humility, patience, and hope. Gift us with the courage to speak about the child to all who are looking for the redemption of love. Guide us into the home of your heart, so we may live as sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

OUR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Julie Peterson

RESPONSE OF JOY

“Jesus Loves Me”

SHARE GOD’S LOVE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Ken G.

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

Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:21-40

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Returning Home”

Rev. Julie Peterson

OFFER HOPE ...IN JESUS' NAME

PASSING THE PEACE

“Dona Nobis Pacem”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19, 9.27

Ken G.

The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD

CHORAL OFFERTORY

“Minuet Noel”

Dave, Jane, Judie, Marie

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Ken G.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

“We Come as Guests Invited”

GTG #504

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE²

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING^{1/2}

May the Babe who grew up, be with you.

And also with you.

Followers of the Child, lift your hearts to God.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us join with all creation in praising God!

Our glad songs echo through the mountains and valleys, the rivers and trees.

Let us lift our hearts to the One who comes again and again into our hearts and lives.

... Never fully comprehending, we accept what you offer not fully knowing how to respond, like children who don't understand the value of the gift. Too often, we cast your promises aside for the worthless distractions of this world. Yet, your promises remain.

Holy, holy, holy are you, Lord of wonder and glory.

All creation praises you with song. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who came to astonish us. Hosanna in the highest.

God, ever-present in our times of waiting—you created time to allow us to more fully experience joy, but also to prepare us for the challenges of life. In your Incarnation, you walked with us in both, leading us towards joy. In your Spirit, you are with us still.

**Christ was born, so we might see hope in the flesh;
Christ lived, so we might hear grace spoken aloud;
Christ died, so we might feel breaking of God's heart;
Christ is risen, so we might know God's promises are true;
Christ will come again, so we might be blessed as God's children.**

Holy Spirit present with us in this moment ... Immanuel, God with us—we remember the fragile way you entered this world. How you trusted us with your humanness, showed what it means to love. Show us how to trust you in all your Glory.

**Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God,
with the Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, now and forever. Amen,**

COMMUNING TOGETHER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION²

**“Lord, now you are dismissing your servants in peace, according to your word; for our eyes have seen you salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light of revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”
This is indeed good news of great joy for all people. Let the truth of your incarnate and eternal love for us guide our hearts and minds in the year to come. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

GTG #87

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Jesu Bambino”

Robert & Maria

¹Shuman, Thom. *Bearers of Grace and Justice* (p. 30). Unknown. Kindle Edition.


²*adapted from Michelle Henrichs, Come to the Table: Communion Liturgies of invitation to Celebrate and Experience the Love of God.* © 2020 Michelle Henrichs, life in the Labyrinth LLC. Scripture quote from Luke 2:29-32, NRSV *adapted*





Prayer REQUESTS

- Linda A** (sister of Judy M)
Steve A (father-in-law of Glenna's daughter)
Connie & Ed (friends of Karen)
Beth B (Stu R's sister)
Kevin B (Joe L's co-worker/friend)
Mildred B
Mary Ann B
Susan B
Andree C
Connie (Karen F's friend)
Chuck C (Laura D's brother)
Patrick C (Stu/Marie's son-in-law)
Renee C (Laura's sister-in-law)
Jim C (Mary Ann's son-in-law)
Tom C (Ann M's brother-in-law)
Sabina C (Adelaide's sister-in-law)
Erica D.
Betty D (Marie R's cousin)
Cecily (Laura D)
Linda D (Jim/ Sue's relative)
Betty F (Chris L's mother)
Abby F (Chris/Mike's granddaughter)
Donna F (Jim/Sue's aunt)
Karen F
Geri & (Son/wife) **Brian/Kim** (Adelaide's neighbor)
Adelaide G
Bruce & Linda G (friends of Stu/Marie)
- Nick G** (Stu/Marie's grandson)
Rita H (Jim/Ann's relative)
Jack H (friend of Mike/ Chris L)
James & Sandra (friends of John/Cheryl)
Jessica (Charlie/Nancy's niece)
Pam L
Phyllis L
Luca (Ann S's grandson)
Crisann M (friend of Mike/Chris L)
Judy M
Kofi M (Adelaide's family friend)
Lisa M (Karen's daughter)
Steve M
Matt / family & an employee
(friends of Cheryl and John)
George R
Tom R (Sue Li.'s brother)
Ann & Geoff S
Larry V (Jim V's father)
Carter W (Dave W's grandson)
Caregivers
People devastated by terrorism
Our world and all affected by COVID-19
Those who grieve
 - **Virgil Abloh** (Adelaide's nephew)

The image shows the words "Thank you" spelled out in coffee beans on a light brown surface. To the right of the beans is a white ceramic cup filled with black coffee, topped with a thin layer of foam. The background is a solid light brown color.

Thank
you

**...to the people
who have hosted coffee hour in October, November & December!**

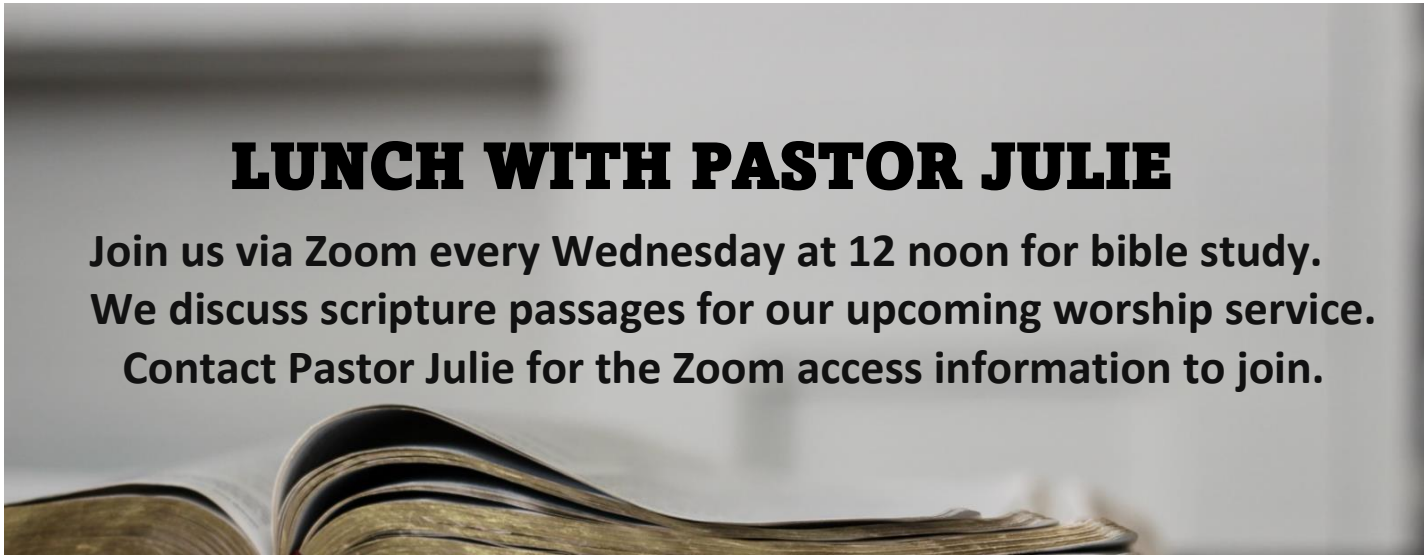
Karen Franz
Cathy Walker
Judie Truelsen

Chris Lorentz
Fay Michaelis
Ann Moorman

Sue Liautaud
Sue Letterer
Jane Lesch

LUNCH WITH PASTOR JULIE

Join us via Zoom every Wednesday at 12 noon for bible study.
We discuss scripture passages for our upcoming worship service.
Contact Pastor Julie for the Zoom access information to join.

The background of the lower section is a blurred image of an open Bible with its pages turned, resting on a dark surface.

January 5	Luke 3:15-22; Isaiah 43:1-7
January 12	John 2:1-11; Isaiah 62:1-5
January 19	Luke 4:14-21; Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 8-10

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The group meets via Zoom on Sundays at 12 noon.
We are currently studying “Peace, Justice, Joy, and
Salvation: An Adult Advent Study” by Cynthia Campbell.

Everyone is invited to join the study!
Contact Ken G. for the Zoom login details.

**Our next meeting will be
on January 2nd, 2022.**



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our current study is on the book
” ISAIAH Trusting God in Troubled
Times” by Howard Peskett.

We meet via Zoom.

We encourage new attendees
so, if interested, please contact
Ken G. or Stu R. for access details.

Our next meeting is at 7 pm on January 5th, 2022



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
 Cell phone ~224-828-9761
 Email ~ pastor@cotc-pcusa.org
 Clerk of Session ~ Pat Groenewold

Office Manager ~ Vanessa Brand
 Office phone ~ 847-885-1199
 Email ~ office@cotc-pcusa.org
 Choir Director ~ Marie Rutter
 Organist ~ Dr. Robert Kania

Session

Clerk ~ Pat Groenewold

Elders, Class of 2022

Jane Lesch
 Stu Truelsen
 Jim Vakoc

Elders, Class of 2023

James Buchholz
 Laura De La Cruz
 Cathy Walker

Elders, Class of 2024

Ken Groenewold, Treasurer
 Charlie Keppel
 Sue Liautaud

Deacons

Deacons, Class of 2022

Chris Lorentz
 Lois McPherson
 Glenna Morgan

Deacons, Class of 2023

Naana Grant-Acquah
 Fay Michaelis

Deacons, Class of 2024

Nancy Keppel
 Sue Letterer
 Jeff Peterson

Corporation Officers

Jim Letterer	President
Jim Vakoc	Vice President
Ken Groenewold	Treasurer
Pat Groenewold	Secretary
Terry Maulding	Member at large
Hank Morgan	Member at large