



# **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**December 1, 2019 @ 10:00 am**

## **Church of The Cross**

*475 West Higgins Road Hoffman Estates, IL 60169*

*(847) 885-1199*

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

"You Are My Hiding Place"

By Mark Hayes

WORDS OF WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

Rev. Julie Peterson

Come all who seek truth—let us go up to the Lord's house,  
**that we might learn holy ways and follow right paths.**

Come—all nations, all peoples—stream through open gates,  
**that we might gather in the hallways of justice, the courts of peace.**

Come—children of the God—let us walk in the light of the Lord!  
**With hope in our hearts, let us worship God.**

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 107

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

## THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader—Laura De La Cruz

**Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit  
prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word.  
May this Advent wreath open our hearts to the Light of God's  
eternal love. Shine, God, through these glowing candles and  
empower us to shine your Light into the world as a reflection of the  
splendor of Christ, who is Lord, forever and ever. Amen.**

## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

**Wonderful Counselor – Isaiah 2:3**

John & Cheryl Wilkins

As we light the first candle; as we wait expectantly for the reign of God to come, we seek God's wisdom in our lives that we may participate in God's transformative work in this world and in God's reign to come.

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

**The candle of hope we light in this hour  
Proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.  
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,  
When Christ in his glory will make all things new.**

*All Pray:*

**O God of Wisdom, Wonderful Counselor, shine Your  
light in us, that we may be a light unto the world. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>

**Almighty God, you set before us the way of goodness and beckon us to follow you, but we disregard your teachings and disobey your word. You call people of every land to dwell in harmony, but we sow division and harvest discord. You command us to craft tools that sustain life, but we cling to weapons that damage and destroy.**

**Forgive us, Lord. Your creation yearns for wholeness; your people long for justice and peace. Keep us every watchful and awaken us to your ways as we wait in hope for the light of the world.**

OUR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS      Romans 13:11-12      Rev. Julie Peterson

\*RESPONSE OF JOY, NO. 107, v4

**Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night.  
Though dark the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light;  
be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;  
may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.**

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

\*HYMN No. 188, vs 1      “Jesus Loves Me”  
*We invite young children to come forward during the song*

**PLACING OF THE CRÈCHE**      Reader—Sue Letterer

\*HYMN No. 188, vs 2      “Jesus Loves Me”  
*Children return to their seat*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION      Jim Letterer

SCRIPTURE READING      Isaiah 2:1-5  
This is the word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTIONS      Rev. Julie Peterson

## SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-5

**Holy One, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of your living Word. His Light rescued us from the darkness of sin by turning the cross from a symbol of death to a tree of life and light. May this evergreen tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, so we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. We ask this Jesus' name, Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING – Pastor Julie

Matthew 24:36-44

This is the word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTIONS

Rev. Julie Peterson

**THE HOLLY AND THE IVY**

Reader—Marie Rutter

## HYMN “The Holy and the Ivy”

**The holly and the ivy, When they are both full grown,  
Of all trees that are in the wood, The holly bears the crown:  
O, the rising of the sun, And the running of the deer  
The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir.**

**The holly bears a blossom, As white as lily flow'r,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, To be our dear Saviour:  
O, the rising of the sun, And the running of the deer  
The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir.**

**The holly bears a berry, As red as any blood,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, To do poor sinners good:  
O, the rising of the sun, And the running of the deer  
The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir.**

**THE LORD'S SUPPER**

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING<sup>2</sup>

May the God of Advent be with you.

**And also with you.**

People of Hope, lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

How can we thank you, O God? ... With saints, with angels, and with the whole creation, we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and is and is to come. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!**

We thank you, Holy God ... With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you, sharing this holy meal.

**We remember Christ's dying.**

**We remember Christ's rising.**

**We pray, Come, Lord Jesus!**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us ... now and forever. Amen.

## 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<sup>2</sup>

**Gracious and abundant God, even as we wait for the fulfillment of your creation, you meet us in Christ at this table, in this meal. We thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and quenching our thirst with the cup of salvation. Send us out into the world by the power of your Holy Spirit to share your life and salvation with all those we meet. Amen.**

\*HYMN NO. 97 “Watchman, Tell us of the Night”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD

OFFERTORY “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” By Christopher Phillips

\*DOXOLOGY

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Jim Letterer

**THE WREATHS**

Reader—Stu Rutter

**God of welcome, bless these wreaths and the doors upon which they hang. When our doors are opened in greeting, may these wreaths welcome friends and strangers in warm hospitality as we gather in love and service to our Lord. When we leave through these doors, may these wreaths be our reminder that Christ walks with us through life, gifting us with his eternal guidance. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 384 “Soon and Very Soon”

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE “Interlude” By Mark Hayes

<sup>1</sup>Call to Worship 53.1, © 2019 Office of Theology and Worship Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
pg 14

<sup>2</sup> Reprinted by permission from the Book of Common Worship, © 2018 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved.

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...

**Anthony** (Pam L's grandson's friend)

**Linda A** (sister of Judy M)

**Mary Lou A** (friend of Larry & Dawn A)

**Connie & Ed** (Friends of Karen)

**Mildred B**

**Mary Ann B**

**Virgil B** (friend of Karen F)

**Andree C**

**Patrick C** (Stu & Marie's son-in-law)

**Renee C** (Laura D's sister-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** (Liautaud's nephew)

**Jeff H** (former COTC member)

**Rita H** (Jim & Ann's relative)

**Terry H**

**Jessica** (Charlie / Nancy's niece)

**Bob L** (Judie T's friend)

**Jim L** (Groenewold's son-in-law)

**Linda L** (Judie T's friend)

**Glenna M**

**Judy M**

**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 & Mickey P** (Jeff P's parents)

**Barbara O** (friend of Glenna M)

**Susan Q** (Ann S's boss)

**Joan & George R**

**Ann S**

**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**

- **Jose N** (Cheryl N's husband)

- **Mary Jo** (Jim B's co-worker)

## 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.*

## TODAY'S TABLE FLOWERS :

From the Keppels in celebration of Trevor's 9<sup>th</sup> birthday!

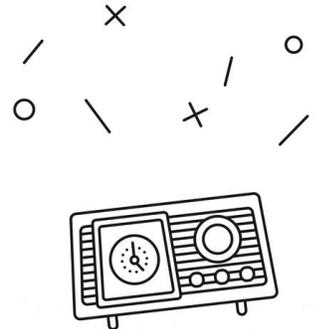


## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS SALE

The Deacons will be selling poinsettias, in the narthex, after worship today. Color choices include: Red & White; Red; White @ \$15/poinsettia.

## COTC Radio Play on January 5th

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.



## Café Hours



Join Pastor Julie for *Café Hours* on Thursday mornings from 9:00-11:00 am at, **Tous Les Jours** @ 20 E Golf Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60173 (corner of Golf & Roselle Roads, same strip mall as Office Depot) Stop in to say hi, enjoy a cup of coffee, and share a prayer if you like.

## BOOK CLUB

January 15 - the Magic Hour by Kristin Hannah



## COTC 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020

It may not seem that long, but Church of the Cross has been bringing hope in the name of Jesus Christ for 60 years! Sue Letterer has agreed to chair an anniversary committee to plan our celebration... and Sue needs help. If you are a history buff, or simply interested in being a part of planning our celebration for our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, please let Sue know right away.

## 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

### ➔ Opportunities with Habitat for Humanity

We've all heard of Habitat for Humanity (HfH). They build and renew homes for families with limited income. It's considered "a hand up, not a hand-out". Prospective homeowners must perform 500 hours of "sweat equity" as part of their qualification, along with having a full-time job to help pay off the house.

There are a number of HfH Affiliates in the Chicago area. The nearest is HfH of Northern Fox Valley located in Elgin. Northern Fox Valley works through Partnerships that actually do the construction. These Partnerships include Spring of Life, New Hope, Joyful Hands and Pottawatomie. All of these Partnerships consist of churches in the northwest suburbs.

COTC used to belong to Spring of Life Partnership. However, due to declining members, financial restraints and some of us getting older, we stopped volunteering. One member, Dave Wilson, is still an active participant with Spring of Life.

Then why is this information in our newsletter? In 2020, Northern Fox Valley will begin working toward a goal of building 25 houses in two years. They are looking for more volunteers. While Church of the Cross will pray for their continued good works, we will not be participating directly with this build. However, we encourage you to consider volunteering on your own.

HfH of Northern Fox Valley has an impressive website: [www.habitatnfv.org](http://www.habitatnfv.org). You will find information on volunteering to do construction, work at the ReStore, Women's Build, associated programs such as Brush of Kindness and Critical Home Repair, as well as people to contact and phone numbers. If you decide to participate, please let me know. If enough people are interested, we might be able to join one of the Partnerships. My e-mail address is [mersmr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mersmr@sbcglobal.net).

Stu Rutter

# ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Please sign up...

1. for the Advent candle lighting on 8, 15, 22 & 24 December
2. 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



*Wonderful Counselor*

### First Week of Advent

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

Worship & Hanging of the Greens @ 10 am

### Second Week of Advent

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> - Worship @ 10 am

Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> - Advent Prayer Service @ 7 pm



*Mighty God*



*Everlasting God*

### Third Week of Advent

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> - Worship @ 10 am

### Fourth Week of Advent

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

Cantata Worship @ 10 am & Christmas party @ 11 am  
*Laying on of Hands*

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7 pm



*Prince of Peace*



### Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> @ 10 am

# ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE

*During the season of Advent, we are called to seek the light of Christ, even in the midst of darkness.*



Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died; it may be a time which has always been difficult.

The constant refrain on the radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation – all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending. We need space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concerns; we need to know we are not alone.

For these reasons, Church of the Cross offers an **“Advent Prayer Service” on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.** Come and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music which acknowledge God’s presence for those who mourn, for those who struggle. God’s Word does come to shine light into our darkness.

Please invite anyone who may need time set apart this holiday season, regardless of church background, for everyone is welcome.

# CALENDAR

## For the week of December 1<sup>st</sup>

### Sunday, December 1

**9:00 am** Sunday School for Adults only

**10:00 am** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent Worship

*Hanging of the Greens*

**11:00 am** Coffee/Fellowship

**11:30 am** 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting

### Tuesday, December 3

**7:00 pm** Corporation team meeting

### Wednesday, December 4

**12 noon** Lunch with Pastor

### Thursday, December 5

**7:00 pm** Choir practice

### Sunday, December 8

**9:00 am** Sunday School for All

**10:00 am** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Worship

**11:00 am** Coffee/Fellowship

## December

10 Tuesday	11 Wednesday	12 Thursday	13 Friday	14 Saturday	15 Sunday
<b>6:00 pm</b> - Deacon & Session meeting	<b>12 noon</b> Lunch w/pastor 1:30 pm - Friendship Devotions <b>7 pm</b> - Advent Prayer Service	<b>9am</b> - Café Hours <b>7 pm</b> - Choir Practice			<b>9:00 am</b> - Sunday School for All <b>10:00 am</b> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Worship <b>11:00 am</b> - Coffee Hour & Fellowship

## WORSHIP RESOURCE SCHEDULE

Date	December 1	December 8	December 11	December 15
	First Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Greens	Second Sunday of Advent	Advent Prayer Service	Second Sunday of Advent
Worship Leader	Jim Letterer			Cathy Walker
Disciple on Duty				
Usher/Greeter	Bob Lovell	J. Liautaud		S. Murray
Counter				B Groenewold
Communion Set Up	Dawn Amos			
Communion Servers	Pastor Julie			
	Jim Letterer			
	Dawn Amos			
Advent Candle Lighters	John & Cheryl W			
Coffee Hour	Pastor Julie	Cathy W.		Judie T