

# Do You Feel What I Feel?

A photograph of two hands reaching towards each other against a warm, golden sunset background. The hands are silhouetted, and a bright sun is visible behind them, creating a lens flare effect. The overall mood is one of connection and hope.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2024

10:15 AM

FAMILY CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

CROSS & CROWN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Come & See*



*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 & children located in the Multipurpose space. Our adult class, Books of Faith, meets in room 206. The "Purr-fect Praisers" Sunday school class for Pre-K through 1st meets in room 209, and "Catechism Crusaders" Sunday school class for 2nd through 5th grade meets in room 208.

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

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming  
Handbell Choir

Praetorius/Eithun

## Worship Song

Lord, I Need You

Reeves, Stanfill, Maher, Nockels, Carson

### Verse 1

Lord I come I confess  
Bowing here I find my rest  
And without You I fall apart  
You're the one that guides my heart

### Chorus 1

Lord I need You oh I need You  
Ev'ry hour I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You

### Verse 2

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more  
Where grace is found is where You are  
And where You are Lord I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me  
Where You are Lord I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me

### Bridge

So teach my song to rise to You  
When temptation comes my way  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus You're my hope and stay  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus You're my hope and stay

### Chorus 2

Lord I need You oh I need You  
Ev'ry hour I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You

## The Confession

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God of mercy,

**C: we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

P: God of might,

**C: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

P: God in our midst,

**C: we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Come to us, Emmanuel and bring your mercy.**

P: Emmanuel is God with us, Jesus Christ the Lord, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C: **AMEN.**

## Prayers of the Church

### Refrain

Re-joice! Re-joice!

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Emmanuel, God with us, we are starting to see the celebration of your birth approaching. As the trees go up decorated with lights, we are reminded of your light. Shine within your church that we may be a beacon of hope, sharing the good news that you bring to a dark world. Empower us to proclaim words of grace, mercy, and love to our hurting communities.

Emmanuel, God with us, open our ears to hear the Good News that you bring. Pour out your peace upon this broken world. Where there is war, especially between Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine, bring talks of reconciliation. May the powerful put aside their selfish ambitions and see the death and destruction that war causes. May your peace fill their hearts and encapsulate their minds.

And together we sing... (*Refrain*)

Emmanuel, God with us, let us taste that you are good. Fill the bellies of all whose stomachs groan with hunger pains. Shelter those without homes to protect them at night and shield them from the weather. We lift to you ministries like Common Heart, Charlotte Rescue Mission, and many others that do your will to provide for those in need.

Emmanuel, God with us, help us to feel your presence during this time, especially those who are hurting or feel alone this Advent season. Help us to care for those who need companionship, love, and grace. We pray for all on our congregational prayer list, especially those we name aloud at this time... Lord, may they feel your presence with them. Care for those who are grieving, those who are lost, people whose sickness is surrounding them, our friends and family members dealing with mental health, and all who need your care.

And together we sign our Amen. (*Refrain*)

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: Lord of Joy, You know we cannot live without touch. We must be able to feel the world around us. It is powerful and joy-filled. You are fully human and fully divine, without division, embodied with a sense of touch that will know what it means to be held, to be cared for, and also to know pain and sorrow. You were fully embraced in infancy and in death. Luke shares with us that to fully embrace you we are to take hold of your entire story. Your coming in flesh changed everything. We await your coming with joy. **Amen.**

*(Children may head out for C&C Kids)*



**This Week's Story: Jesus is Born**  
**Icebreaker Question: Are you traveling for Christmas or are you staying home?**

## Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## Welcome Home and Announcements

## THE WORD

### Luke 8:43-48

<sup>43</sup>Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. <sup>44</sup>She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. <sup>45</sup>Then Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you." <sup>46</sup>But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me." <sup>47</sup>When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. <sup>48</sup>He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

P: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Matthew 8:1-4

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; <sup>2</sup>and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean." <sup>3</sup>He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

## Sermon

Pastor Matt Simpkins

# THANKSGIVING

## Anthem

To a Virgin Meek and Mild

arr. Johnson

To a virgin meek and mild came an angel holy, Greeting her, the undefiled, in her chamber lowly; Hail to thee, thou blessed one, chosen mother of God's Son. Through a wondrous birth He shall come to earth, and shall reign as a King, as a King forever. Jesus, blessed Savior.

By the sages long foretold, now the day is nearing, Promises of God unfold in the Son appearing. He, the Child of Bethlehem, branch divine of Jesse's stem, shall have great increase as the Prince of Peace, and the earth shall be filled with Lord's salvation, hope of every nation.

Come into this heart of mine, Jesus, Guest from heaven. Cradled there, O Babe divine, earth shall be a heaven. Angels, sing your lullaby; Keep your vigil in the sky, till the dawn shall break, and all earth awake to proclaim him the King who shall reign forever, Jesus blessed Savior.

*(Please stand)*

## Offertory Response

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Hillert



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## Statement of Belief The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Communion

### Preface

P: Our God is a good God...

C: **Amen!**

### 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.

Our Father, who is of heaven,

Holy is your name

Your kingdom come

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven

Give us today our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses

As we forgive those who trespass  
against us

And lead us not into temptation  
and deliver us from evil

For yours is the kingdom

And the power, and the glory

now and forever, Amen.

OR

### Welcome to the Table

P: Come now and feast on the gifts of God for the people of God.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please be seated)*

### Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Distribution of Holy Communion

### Communion Song

Come to the Table

Glover, McDonald, Frey

#### Verse 1

We all start on the outside  
 The outside looking in  
 This is where grace begins  
 We were hungry we were thirsty  
 With nothing left to give  
 Oh the shape that we were in

#### Pre-Chorus

Just when all hope seemed lost  
 Love opened the door for us

#### Chorus

(He said) come to the table  
 Come join the sinners who have been redeemed  
 Take your place beside the Savior  
 Sit down and be set free  
 (Come to the table)

#### Verse 2

Come meet this motley crew of misfits  
 These liars and these thieves  
 There's no one unwelcome here  
 So that sin and shame that you've  
 brought with you  
 You can leave it at the door  
 And let mercy draw you near

#### Bridge

To the thief and to the doubter  
 To the hero and the coward  
 To the pris'ner and the soldier  
 To the young and to the older  
 All who hunger all who thirst  
 All the last and all the first  
 All the paupers and the princes  
 All who've failed you've been forgiven  
 All who dream and all who suffer  
 All who've loved and lost another  
 All the chained and all the free  
 All who follow all who lead  
 Anyone who's been let down  
 All the lost you have been found  
 All who've been labeled right or wrong  
 To ev'ryone who hears this song

#### Ending

Woah sit down and be set free  
 Come to the table  
 Come to the table  
 Just sit down and rest awhile  
 Just sit down and rest awhile  
 Come to the table

### The Blessing

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



## **Benediction**

P: May you have eyes to see the Good News. May your ears ring with praise and thanksgiving. May you taste the goodness of God. May you embrace your neighbor with great love. May you be the aroma of Christ's offering to God in all that you do this Advent and Christmas season! **Amen.**

## **Sending Song**

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Myrin, Redman

### **Chorus**

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul  
Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before O my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name

### **Verse 1**

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing when the evening comes

### **Verse 2**

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

### **Verse 3**

And on that day when my strength is failing  
The end draws near and my time has come  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

### **Tag**

Worship Your holy name  
Lord I'll worship Your holy name

### **Ending**

Sing like never before O my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name  
Worship Your holy name  
Worship Your holy name

## **The Doxology** (sung a capella)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## **Sending**

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Children are invited to attend music with Mr. Larry in the choir room.*

# WEEK AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

## CHRISTMAS EVE

4 pm Family-Friendly Worship Service  
8 pm Traditional Candlelight Worship Service

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

9 am- Weight Watchers

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

8-10:30 am- Weight Watchers

## LOOKING AHEAD

Details for each event are available in the Weekly Update email. Printed versions are available in the narthex.



*Christmas Eve Services*

**Family Worship 4 pm**

**Candlelight Worship 8 pm**

Both services will be live streamed.



**A SERVICE OF**

*Lessons & Carols*

**DECEMBER 29TH**

**ONE SERVICE AT 10 AM**

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

Assisting Minister:  
Acolyte:  
Communion Assistants:  
Usher:  
Communion Set-up:  
Greeters:  
Nursery Assistant:  
Contribution Counter:

Felicia Eybl  
Maggie-Kate Krahn  
Suzy Wleznjak, Terry McClure  
Leonard Rutkowski, Keith Whitener  
Hugh Kluttz

Brittany Wellborn  
Bill Rhyne, Ann Whitener

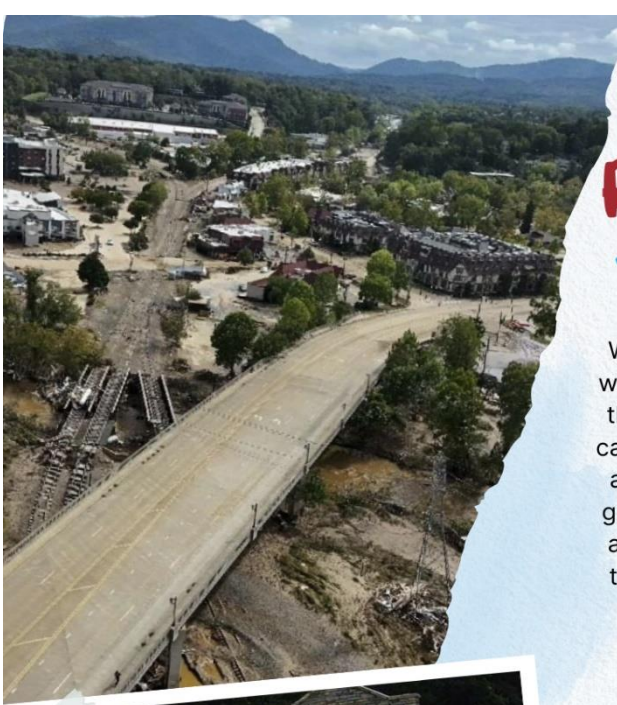
You can give to C&C by scanning the QR code below.

**SCAN TO GIVE**



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# Congregational ~~Retreat~~ Mission Trip to the Asheville Area

When Hurricane Helene hit western North Carolina, we wanted to go and help our neighbors in need, but they asked for only emergency personnel. Now, we can do hands on work. January 17-19 was planned as a congregational retreat where we would relax and get away. We're giving that up to help our neighbors and friends. Come January 17-19 to Lutheridge and together we can serve our neighbors! This will give us an opportunity as a congregation to be God's hands to our community in need.

Registration and more information to come!



*As Martin Luther King Jr. said,*

*"Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve."*

We want everyone to attend. Scholarships are available. If you can't attend but want to help make this possible for others to serve please consider a donation.

Please contact Pastor Melody.

**Here is a breakdown of cost.  
These rooms are hotel style:**

## Double Occupancy

- ✓ Double occupancy includes 2 Nights (Jan 17th & 18th)  
4 Meals (Jan 17: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner) (Jan 18: Breakfast)

**\$150 per person**

## Single Occupancy

- ✓ Single occupancy includes 2 Nights (Jan 17th & 18th)  
4 Meals (Jan 17: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner) (Jan 18: Breakfast)

**\$250 per person**

## Cost for children rooming with parents:

- ✓ Age 0-6 **\$40**
  - ✓ Age 6-13 **\$50**
  - ✓ Age 13-17 **\$65**
- If you need 2 rooms, please contact LeAnne for pricing.

**Day Rate for just Saturday is \$65**

**Example: 2 adults in a room with two children (one age 7 and one age 14)  
Room and Meals = Adults \$300 Children \$115  
Total cost = \$415**



**Retreat from January 2024!**