



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

Every worship service opens by invoking the name, the presence, and the power of the one true God, the God in whose name and by whose power we became members of the Holy Christian Church in our Baptism.

(Pastor) In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

(Everyone) **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession of Sin

We pray to confess our sin to God and ask His forgiveness to remain humble before Him.

(Everyone) Gracious Heavenly Father, as we draw closer to the Christmas celebration and the birth of Your Son, we would also praise You for our Advent faith which has prepared our hearts for Your Son's coming at Bethlehem! Yet we understand and admit that we have not lived perfect lives and instead have wandered from your path of Christian living. We have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have said things for which we are sorry and reacted in ways that were not appropriate. For all these sins we come now in confession, and humbly seek Your pardon and mercy. Please forgive us for the sake of Christ's suffering and death on our behalf, and may our forgiven lives continue to serve our Savior in Advent joy and peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Declaration of Grace

We remember the Good News that God forgives our sin because of Jesus.

(Pastor) The Bible tells us that we are to penitently and sincerely confess our sins. Having done so in faith, we now humbly seek God's pardon. Christ has promised to us His forgiveness because of His suffering and death at Calvary. Thus, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

Pianist: Shirlene Everhart

Once in Royal David's City #155

Children's sermonette:

“A childlike faith...”

We Worship Through Our Giving

We express our gratitude to God as we give to support the work of the church so that more people may hear the Good News about Jesus. Please ask an usher if you need an envelope.

Offertory

We Worship Through Speaking and Hearing the Word of God

We read the Word of God to strengthen, encourage, and challenge us for the week ahead.

Old Testament Lesson for the Day

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 10-11 (NKJV)

¹ "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound; ² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, ³ To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified." ⁴ And they shall rebuild the old ruins, They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations.

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks *himself* with ornaments, And as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its bud, As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, So the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Epistle Lesson for the Day

I Thessalonians 4: 13-18 (NKJV)

¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Choir sings:

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

(Please stand)

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1: 18-25 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." ²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

²³ *Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,* which is translated, "God with us."

²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

We Respond to God's Word by Confessing Our Faith

As we recite together the words of the Apostles' Creed, we join the worldwide chorus of followers of Jesus, who, for centuries, have confessed their faith through this simple declaration.

(Everyone) I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful #145

Sermon

Pastor Robert McDonald

“An astounding announcement!”

Matthew 1: 20,21

General Prayer

Communion Hymn

Softly and Tenderly #326

We Worship at the table of the Lord’s Supper

Communion — If you prefer grape juice instead of wine, please hold up 2 fingers when you reach the person with the cups.

Everyone who confesses Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior is welcome and invited to join us. Together we receive anew the love and grace that God pours out to us through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Come hold in your hands and taste on your lips the love He poured out for you.

Pastor: The Words of Our Lord...(Consecration of the Elements)

(Everyone) *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!*

Distribution

Benediction

A blessing we receive to send us out into the world once again.

Sending Hymn

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name #604

Go In Peace and Serve the Lord!

(Everyone) Thanks be to God

Postlude

Message Notes:

Things going on during the week:

Monday—Little Blessings Christian Preschool: “Theme: Christmas (Love, Joy, & Kindness) Letter: Li Bible: Jesus Is Born (The Most Special Baby) Luke 2”

**Wednesday--Choir Rehearsal: At church at 5 pm.
Soup Supper: 6:15
Advent Worship Service: 7:00**

Thursday—Potluck Dinner & Bible Study: Potluck Dinner starts at 6:15 pm followed by Bible Study at 7:00 pm.

Prayer Chain Requests

In order for us to be sensitive to everyone’s needs regarding prayer requests, please mark the Connection Card very clearly as to whether you want our prayer chain to pray for you or if it is something you want kept private between you and Pastor. Our prayer chain encompasses a large percentage of our members. We will try calling/emailing if we are unsure how you want your request handled.

Mark Your Calendars!

December 20, Wednesday, Advent Service -- Soup dinner starts at 6:15 pm followed by service at 7:00 pm at the church, each Wednesday during Advent

December 24, Sunday— Regular Worship Service 10:00 am
Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm

January 6, Saturday — Women's Bible Study: 10:00 Esther,

January 20, Saturday -- Free Food Distribution--At the Shack from 9:30 to 10:30 am. If you know of someone who could benefit from the free food distribution, please let them know. Please come and lend a hand with handing out food to those in need. If you can help with set-up, please come at 8:30 am. If you can come later and stay until about 11:00 am to help with putting away leftover food, tables and chairs, your help will be greatly appreciated. Join us in thanking God for the continuation of this ministry!

December 2017 Birthdays and Anniversaries

Here at Community we celebrate our birthdays/anniversaries each second Sunday of the month. If your birthday is this month, and your name is not on this list, please put a note in the offering plate so we can include yours!

(PS) after the name denotes one of our Preschoolers' birthday.

Birthdays

12th— Sharlene Miller, 15th— Bob Ommen, 17th— Pastor Buchhorn,
28th— Randy Ommen, 30th— Bob Miller

Anniversaries

29th— Duane & Marjie Ericson

Community Lutheran Church

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Church Office

(760) 722-3337

Office Hours:

Sandy Dahl, Church Secretary sandy@cloceanside.com

Little Blessings Christian Preschool (760) 722-1705

Preschool Hours:

Monday – Friday 7:00 am to 6:00 pm

Kristen Erwin, Preschool Director

Building Committed Followers of Jesus Christ

Weekly Schedule:

Sundays	10:00 am	Worship Service & Sunday School
	11:15 am	Community Fellowship Time <i>Refreshments in the Courtyard</i>
Wednesdays	5:00 pm	Choir Practice—At church at 5 pm
	6:15 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Advent Worship Service
Thursdays	6:15 pm	Dinner and Bible Study
Saturdays	10:00 am	Women's Bible Study
		<i>The <u>First</u> Saturday of each month.</i>
	9:30 am	Free Food Distribution
		<i>The <u>Third</u> Saturday of each month. from 9:30—10:30 am</i>
	11:00 am	Women's Bible Study with Debbie Giles
		<i>The <u>Third</u> Saturday of each month.</i>