



The purpose of our Community is:

“Building Committed Followers of Jesus Christ”

Prelude**Shirlene Everhart****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.

Opening Song**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, #244****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**Isaiah 7:10-17 [NLT]**

¹⁰ Later, the LORD sent this message to King Ahaz: ¹¹ “Ask the LORD your God for a sign of confirmation, Ahaz. Make it as difficult as you want—as high as heaven or as deep as the place of the dead.” ¹² But the king refused. “No,” he said, “I will not test the LORD like that.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Listen well, you royal family of David! Isn’t it enough to exhaust human patience? Must you exhaust the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴ All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’). ¹⁵ By the time this child is old enough to choose what is right and reject what is wrong, he will be eating yogurt and honey. ¹⁶ For before the child is that old, the lands of the two kings you fear so much will both be deserted. ¹⁷ “Then the LORD will bring things on you, your nation, and your family unlike anything since Israel broke away from Judah. He will bring the king of Assyria upon you!”

Epistle Lesson

2 Corinthians 11:24-28 [NLT]

²⁴ Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. ²⁶ I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not. ²⁷ I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. ²⁸ Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of my concern for all the churches.

[If you are able, please stand for the reading of the Gospel]

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25 [NLT]

¹⁸ This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. ²⁰ As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet: ²³ “Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him 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.

Words of Healing

Pastor: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

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 Song

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing, #237

Pastor: Go In Peace and Serve the Lord!

(Everyone) Thanks be to God

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## **Postlude**

## **Things going on during the week:**

**Monday-Friday: 7:15 am to 5 pm Little Blessings Christian School**

**Wednesdays: 5 pm, Choir practice.  
6:30 pm, Advent Service begins December 6th**

## **Birdhouse = Building Fund Donations**

Please place all and any donations for the Building Fund in the Birdhouse. This fund is needed to replace 'The Shack' and build for the future of this church. Being more visible to Mission Avenue we hope to attract Christians looking for a new home and non-Christians looking for what is missing in their life.

## **Mark Your Calendars!**

### **Save the Date & Mark your Calendars... December 1, 2023**

**Everyone [that includes you] is invited and asked to come and help decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. Many hands will lighten the work load. Even if you don't think you can be helpful, come and see what you can do. We will try to meet your skill level with a helpful task.**

**December 9, Saturday - NO Women's Bible Study. It will resume January 13.**

**December 18, Monday - 10 am, Council Meeting**

**January 13, Saturday - 10 am, Women's Bible Study**

**January 15, Monday - 10 am, Council Meeting**

**February 4, Sunday - Love Offering ... for Missions**

Once a quartr, we will be collecting a special offering in he 'Missions Giving Box' on your way out of the Sanctuary for our Missionaries. This offering is above and beyond our regular giving. In planning ahead, we will repeat the Love Offerings in 2023 on the first Sunday in February, May, August & November.

**February 10, Saturday - 10 am, Women's Bible Study**

