

Now There Was A Man In
Jerusalem Called Simeon,
Who Was Righteous And
Devout. He Was Waiting For
The Consolation Of Israel,
And The Holy Spirit Was
Upon Him.

Luke 2-25

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.

Prayer of Confession of Sin

[Everyone]: Gracious Heavenly Father, as today we end calendar year 2023, we rejoice that You have seen fit to bring us safely through another year! Yet, as we begin 2024 tomorrow, we also ask for Your blessings and protection in the New Year. We come before You today admitting that we are poor sinners and cannot earn or work our way to heaven. This past year, we have sinned in weakness and have done and said things of which we are ashamed. We have allowed sinful anger to invade our minds and inappropriate thoughts to taint our soul. We have not always treated our family in a way that is God pleasing. Therefore, as we anticipate 2024, we come before You with a penitent heart, seeking Your pardon and peace in the new year. Please pardon and forgive us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and His merits won for us on the cross. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Declaration of Grace

[Pastor]: Especially as we end a calendar year today, we truly desire to 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. Peace be with you. Amen.

Opening Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful, #19

Children's Sermonette:

'Happy New Year!'

Pastor McDonald

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.

First Lesson

Isaiah 43:1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10-12 [NKJV]

¹ But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called *you* by your name; You *are* Mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I *will be* with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. ~~~ ⁴ Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honored, And I have loved you; Therefore I will give men for you, And people for your life. ⁵ Fear not, for I *am* with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, And gather you from the west; ⁷ Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him." ~~~ ¹⁰ "You *are* My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I *am* He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹ I, *even* I, *am* the LORD, And besides Me *there is* no savior. ¹² I have declared and saved, I have proclaimed, And *there was* no foreign god among you; Therefore you *are* My witnesses," Says the LORD, "that I *am* God.

Epistle Lesson

Galatians 4:4-7 [NKJV]

⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" ⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

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

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:25-35 [NKJV]

²⁵ And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: ²⁹ "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word;

³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation ³¹ Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, ³² A light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.” ³³ And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ³⁵ (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

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 Little Town of Bethlehem, #21

Sermon:

‘Seeing salvation with a patient heart!’

Luke 2:25

Pastor Robert McDonald

<p>Message Notes:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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Communion Hymn*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear, #24***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**Sending Hymn***What Child Is This?, #26*

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord.

Everyone: Thanks be to God

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**Postlude Music**

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

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

***Choir Practice is on vacation until mid-January.***

## ***Mark Your Calendars!***

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

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

***January 21, Sunday after church - Annual Voters Meeting***

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

Once a quarter, we will be collecting a special offering in the '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.

## ***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.

Community Lutheran Church, AFLC\*: 760.722.3337  
 4507 Mission Avenue, Oceanside, CA 92057  
[www.cloceanside.com](http://www.cloceanside.com)

## Building Committed Followers of Jesus Christ

Little Blessings Christian Preschool: (760) 378-7973

**Preschool Schedule: Monday – Friday ... 7:15 am to 5:00 pm**

Kristen Erwin, Preschool Director



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Weekly Schedule:

Sundays: 10:00 am **Worship Service & Sunday School**
 11:00 am **Community Fellowship Time**

Monday 10:00 am **Council Meeting, usually 3rd Monday of each month**

Choir Practice is on vacation until mid-January.

Thursdays: 5:00 pm **Choir practice.**

Saturdays: 10:00 am **Women's Bible Study**
Second Saturday of each month

For more information, please visit:

Website: www.cloceanside.com

Facebook Page: **Community Lutheran Oceanside**

AFLC [Association of Free Lutheran Congregations]: aflc.org



Prayer Chain Requests

Please mark the Connection Card very clearly ... your request is for Pastor only or you want the prayer chain to pray for your request.

Children's Activity Items

These are available for younger children during the service. They are in the cabinets at the back of the church to the left of the Prayer Room.

