

# FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 3, 2023



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH -- ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO

140 Russell Avenue  
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1  
Church: 905-685-8294  
[www.christlutheransc.ca](http://www.christlutheransc.ca)

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**Office Hours:** Thursday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon  
**Bulletin Announcements:** Please send to [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca).  
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

**Pastor:** Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) [sr.pastor@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:sr.pastor@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Parish Assistant:** Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) [parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Business Manager:** Karen McCumber [business.manager@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:business.manager@christlutheransc.ca)  
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**Facebook:** Lisa Gall [www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC](http://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC)  
**Bulletin by email:** [chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca)

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING\\_TKT19c\\_OIBbMqGwLw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKT19c_OIBbMqGwLw)

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**Prayer:** Stir up, we implore You, Your power, O Lord, and come that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and be saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:**

Monday: 11 Cor.1: 15-22      Wed.: 11 Sam. 7: 4-9, 11-14a, 16      Friday: Heb. 10: 19-25  
Tuesday: Mic. 2: 1-2, 9, 12-13      Thurs: Isa. 64: 1-3      Saturday: Rev. 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21

**Musician:** Louise Gondosch  
**Reader:** Dan Figueroa  
**Greeters:** Ralph & Mary Muller

**EVENTS THIS WEEK:**

Today: 9:00 to 9:50 a.m.: Coffee Hour in Basement, Sunday School, CHAT Bible Study  
4:00 p.m. – Advent Carols & Lessons at the Seminary  
Monday: 10-11:00 a.m. – Luther Manor Bible Study  
7:30 p.m. – Choir Practice  
Tuesday: 9:30 – 11:00 am. – Precious Moments  
Thursday: 10-11:30 a.m. – SOUL  
Friday: 6:30 p.m. – Youth and Confirmand Christmas Party (*sing at Luther Manor first*)  
**Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal**  
**(next Saturday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>) 9 a.m.-Sunday School Dress Rehearsal**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday morning from 9:00 - 9:50 a.m. Preschool in the nursery and Grades 1-6 together. Bring your children, stay for Coffee Hour!

**TODAY:** Today we learn about Mary and Joseph and their initial struggles, but through an angel visitor and a dream they realize this is all part of God's great plan. Our memory verse is **"He will be called Immanuel, which means 'God is with us'"**.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICES** will be held **Saturday, December 9 at 10:00 a.m.** and our dress rehearsal **Saturday, December 16 at 9:00 a.m.** Each practice will be about an hour long. Parents if you have questions, please contact Louise 905-329-8579.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Preschoolers do not need to join us for practices but we encourage parents to be singing ***Away in a Manger*** with them. If your preschooler has an animal costume and would like to wear it that morning or you can borrow an angel costume by speaking with Kim Zacharuk or Louise Gondosch.

**YOUTH & CONFIRMAND CHAT:** 9:00 - 9:50 all Youth & Confirmands are invited to a **CHAT/Bible Study**. One of our youth leaders Dan Figueroa will be leading today and the next 2 weeks. Grab a coffee, tea or juice and meet in the youth room. If you have some future topic ideas let us know!



# CHRIST'S CAFÉ

Hope to see you downstairs

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

for Coffee, Tea & Treats!!

Anyone willing to help serve or bring treats, please contact:

Judy Mason 905-641-7546

## DECEMBER 2023 WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Dec. 3	Special Advent 1 Chrismon Service
Dec. 10	Advent 2 Creative Communion – The Band
Dec. 17	Advent 3 Special Children's Christmas Program
Dec. 24	Advent 4 10 AM LSB Setting 4 Communion
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve 7 PM Lessons and Carols
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve 10 PM Lessons and Carols
Dec 25	Christmas Carol Festive Communion Service 10am
Dec. 31	New Years' Eve Carol Service 10 AM

# CHRISMON SERVICE

TODAY, Sunday, December 3rd, 2023

During the Service, we thank the following members who will place the Chrismon Ornaments on the Chrismon Tree:



### NATIVITY

"The Manger"

Elly Reck

"The Angel"

Lilyan Zacharuk

"The Epiphany Star"

Sophia Mambella

### PASSION

"The Sacrificial Lamb"

Laura Cosco

"The Chalice"

Hunter Cadieux

"The Latin Cross"

Kareem Al Humaidi

"The Butterfly"

Lia Fraccaroli

"The Dove & Shell"

Trevor Koch

### VICTORY

"The Shepherd's Staff"

Jenna Cosco

"The Fish"

Arthur Kemp

"The Cross & Orb"

Ava Alessandrino

"The Circle with IHS"

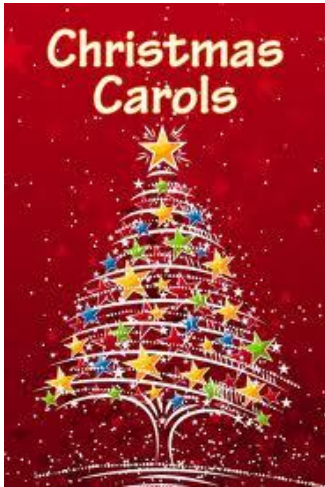
Gary Kuenzel

"The Crown"

Owen Radunskuy

**TODAY— ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS 2023:** Sunday, December 3, 4:00 p.m. at Concordia Lutheran Seminary, 470 Glenridge Ave. Free-will offering. Parking available at the building for those with limited mobility. Others please part in nearby Brock Lots E or O. *Featuring Scripture readings and hymns, choral music, organ, brass and violin.*

**YOUTH/CONFIRMAND CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Friday, December 8, 6:30 pm. We will meet at the church and organize a bit before heading over to Luther Manor for some Christmas Caroling. From there we will head back to the church for some games, snacks and a gift exchange. Simply bring a gift valued at \$10-15 to participate in the fun. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Val, Dan or Louise. As always friends are welcome



# Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 6:30 PM  
Fellowship to follow

Please bring along a favourite dessert or treat to share.  
Beverages will be provided.

Everyone Welcome

**MARY MARTHA LWML-C:**

Tuesday, December 19, 5:30pm – Advent/Christmas Potluck (blessing) Dinner & Program

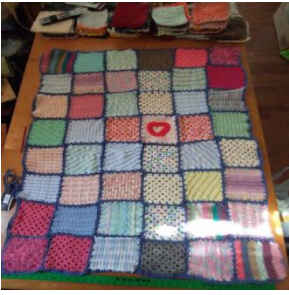
Tuesday, January 16, 7- 8 p.m. – “Staying Safe Presentation-- “Please join us for a presentation by Constable Michael Matwijow and his partner Constable Daryl Landry of the Niagara Regional Police, Community Oriented Response and Engagement unity (CORE). They will be speaking about what they do and the services they provide as well as providing us with information regarding current crime trends in our area and the preventative measures that we can take to reduce the chances of us being victimized. Everyone is welcome to attend!!

<u>Last Sunday Attendance:</u>		<u>Nov. 26th, 2023</u>	<u>Attn: 10 a.m. – 115</u>	<u>SOUL:</u>	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or – (--)</u>
Current	297,841.00	5,840.02	2,705.05	256,188.01	(18,742.14)
LCC Missions	17,000.00	333.33	127.00	15,811.50	119.19)
Property Improvement:			107.00	6,275.50	

**FLOWERS** have been placed on the altar this morning to the Glory of God by Linda Roepke on the occasion of her husband John’s 79<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to all who supported our Bazaar in any way. We had an amazing day last Saturday! Lots of people came to buy; tremendous donations were made; we had wonderful helpers to help set up, display, carry, price, sell, take down, clean-up. It was so helpful to have a small group of men helping with all the heavier work and Glenn who looked after the elevator all day. People who worked and people who came were joyful and in good spirits; it was an exciting day. Pastor had a chance to mingle and greet a lot of people. It was one of our most successful Bazaars ever! We will let you know the amount of money that we raised for missions once everything has been tallied. THANK YOU AGAIN!!

**MANY THANKS** to the people who donated and purchased items from the auction last Saturday. We raised over \$1,600, the most ever and it couldn't be done without the support of those who donated and also purchased items! *Thank you again, Judy*



**Granny Squares still needed:** This is an ongoing project we will gratefully accept more completed 6 inch knitted or crocheted Granny Squares in any pattern or colour. We would also appreciate any yarn that you may have, leftover yarn or full balls of yarn. In the narthex there is a white cube with yarn and hooks that you are welcome to take (or donate). There is another basket for completed squares. Once there are enough, we will make a Caring Squares blanket for whoever may be in need of a hug. On behalf of the Caring Squares, if you have any questions, call Lorraine at 905 964 5837)

**USED STAMPS:** Start saving and collecting your used stamps now! They will be gathered at the LWML-C Convention and donated to a charity who will in turn use them to purchase spiritual resources like Bibles.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX GIFT

Operation Christmas Child has become a Holiday tradition for many of us here at Christ Church. The love and care put into every shoebox gift has changed the lives of children worldwide, and I think we can say it has changed us as well. Together, let's continue to make these children an important part of our Christmas celebration by extending Christ's love and compassion.

([www.samaritanspurse.ca](http://www.samaritanspurse.ca))

### HOW TO PACK YOUR SHOEBOX

1. Pick up a designated shoebox from the narthex.
2. Decide on the category and age. Girl/Boy 2-4; 5-9; 10-14
3. Fill the box, mark it and put an elastic around it.
4. Enclose a \$10.00 cheque (made out to Christ Lutheran) to cover postage to send your box and put it in the offering basket – designated "Samaritan's Purse" – CLC will tax receipt your donation and mail donations to Samaritan's Purse as a lump sum.
5. Drop your box off at the Church by Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

### SUGGESTED GIFTS

Toys:	slinky, yo-yo, kazoos, animals, stickers, dolls, balls, cars
School Supplies:	pens, paper, stamps, markers, calculators, pencil crayons & sharpener, colouring books
Hygiene Items:	soap, toothbrush, comb, washcloth, <b>NO</b> toothpaste or shampoo
Other:	hard candy only, sunglasses, ball caps, socks, flip flops, watches, hairclips, T-shirts, underwear, small picture books, flashlights, batteries

Please **DO NOT** include: used items, war related items, medicines, cosmetics, breakable items, perishable foods or liquids (shampoo, etc.), gum

**NEEDED:** Grace Mennonite Church, (677 Niagara St.) welcomes donations of homemade shawls and or small blankets for our Bears and Blankets program for Elders in Long Term Care. We have provided 117 care-kits thus far. We have requests for 171. Our care-kits go to Seniors who don't get many visitors or who are lonely. Please contact Jan at 289-990-4839 or [janscats@gmail.com](mailto:janscats@gmail.com). Thank you!

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

December 3, 2023



**Kareem says thank you is not enough to thank all our members at Christ Lutheran Church all they have done for him and his family.** As you know from last Sunday, they arrived safely on Thursday night after a processing time of 2 hours at the airport and the boys being energetic after the long confining plane ride. Friday afternoon the Wi-Fi was installed as planned so they could connect with their family and friends to tell them how they were doing. On Saturday, Ameer and Asser had their first experience at bowling and laser tag at a boy's birthday party. As you know, Sunday they came to our church service and were able to meet a number of you after service and also downstairs. Then Sunday afternoon they came back for the tree set-up and decorating. Kareem helped put up the Christmas trees, the first Christmas tree he has ever done in his life, as he wouldn't be able to do that in Iraq. Hamida and the boys helped with decorating both Christmas Trees and then had lasagna with us for dinner. Kareem really liked the lasagna. Monday Kareem got his Social Insurance Number, maps and app from St. Catharines Transit, we had a

Bank appointment for Thursday, and an appointment for this past Thursday morning for their English language testing, (Hamida has no English so will be starting from scratch). Kareem really wants Hamida to go to school. He says the boys will learn English quickly. Ameer is going to be enrolled in school for January. Hamida is putting her personal touches on their new home here in Canada, it is so good to see. Hamida took the boys to Precious Moments with Miss Louise on Tuesday morning, and they really enjoyed it, so Tuesday mornings are now planned for them which is positive.

On Monday they are to get their family photos for our church photo directory. This coming week we need to get Hamida's Social Insurance Number. On Thursday morning there is a scheduled zoom meeting with Jennifer Ardon from Canadian Lutheran World Relief to follow up on their arrival and a check to see how they are doing. Kareem and Hamida have decided on a school and plan to start the registration process online next week. Things are progressing well without overwhelming them. Kareem is talking about a job. This week Kareem asked if he could go outside without papers, he was so happy to hear he could, because even up until the day they left Greece he didn't have any ID from the Canadian Government and could have been picked up and put in holding as happened a couple years ago. We thank God for our freedom and the freedom He has given the Al Humaidi family.



There is still lots for them to do to get settled and your continued support and encouragement of them is so important and so appreciated by the whole family.

God bless each and everyone of you here at Christ as the hands and heart of Christ our Saviour.

# THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Chrismon Service

December 3, 2023 + 10 AM Worship

Opening Hymn:

*“O Come Emmanuel”*

LSB 357

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here - until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel;  
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, our Wisdom from on high, Who orders all things far and nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go:**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel;  
shall come to you, O Israel.**

*Medieval Latin texts, 9<sup>th</sup> Century, public domain*

## RESPONSIVE VERSES & LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH:

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Jesus says, “Keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.”

**Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**The light no darkness can ever overcome.**

Let your light so shine before all others,

**That they see your good work and give glory to your Father in Heaven.**

*[The 1<sup>st</sup> Advent candle is lighted]*

We pray: **God of hope, we light this candle as we prepare for the coming of your Son.  
Awaken our hearts to you this Advent season, so that when Christ arrives, we are ready  
to receive him with all our hearts, all our minds, and all our strength. Amen.**

*www.littlewaychapel.com/blog/advent-wreath-prayers*

## ADVENT WREATH HYMN VERSE:

**Advent candles tell their story, as we wait and watch and pray,  
longing for the Day of Glory, ‘Come, Lord, soon,’ we say.**

**Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness changed to gladness on that Day.**

*Words: Mark Earey Copyright © 2002 Mark Earey; All the texts may be reproduced for local use without further permission. From Sunday by Sunday (Royal School of Church Music UK) : Music: “Angels From The Realms Of Glory”*

## INTRODUCTION:

The word “Chrismon” is a trademark, a combination of the first letters of “Christ” and “monogram”. Chrismons were first made by Mrs. Harry Spencer of Danville, Virginia in 1957. Chrismons have great education value in the church, especially for the young. As we learn about what each chrismon means they move us to worship the Lord, whom the symbols represent. There are many different chrismons on our Chrismon Tree. In our worship service today we will learn about 12 different kinds of Chrismons.

**Scripture 1:** *Isaiah 9:2-7*

The people in walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burden them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

**NATIVITY SYMBOLS** -- remind us that God very often starts at the bottom. His first point of contact with humanity is generally the insignificant and powerless: the poor, the uneducated, the children. That should give pause to those who are totally bent on getting wealth, power and fame, shouldn't it? At the manger, the rich and powerful came to humble themselves before a poor, helpless unknown child. God, as He so often does, messes with our minds and turns our world of ideas upside down.

**MANGER**

The manger reminds us of Jesus' humble beginning. Jesus was born during a Roman census and everyone had to go to their own hometown to register. Joseph' hometown was Bethlehem. Jesus' mother Mary gave birth in Bethlehem and placed Jesus in a manger because there was no room available in the inn.

**Hymn:**

*"In A Lowly Manger Born"*

*[Tune: Savior When In Dust MADRID]*

**1 In a lowly manger born, humble life begun in scorn;  
Under Joseph's watchful eye, Jesus grew as you and I.  
Knew the suff'rings of the weak; Knew the patience of the meek,  
Hunger'd as but poor folk can; This is he. Behold the man!**

**3 Then, to rescue you and me, Jesus died upon the tree.  
See in him God's love revealed; By his Passion we are healed.  
Now he lives in glory bright, lives again in pow'r and might;  
Come and live the path he trod; Son of Mary, Son of God.**

*Words: Japanese poet Koh Yuki [1896-1985] © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship  
[https://hymnary.org/text/in\\_a\\_lowly\\_manger\\_born](https://hymnary.org/text/in_a_lowly_manger_born)*

**Scripture 2:** *Luke 2:1-7*

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.



## ANGEL

Angels are servants of God who carry out His will. Angels often deliver messages from God to God's people. The Christmas angel reminds us of the angel Gabriel who told Zechariah and Elizabeth that they would be the parents of John the Baptizer, and who also announced to Mary that she would become the mother of Jesus the Saviour. A choir of angels announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds around Bethlehem.

Hymn:

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

*LSB 368 VS 1 & 3*

**I. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Glo--ria in excelsis Deo. Glo--ria in excelsis Deo.**

**3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Glo--ria in excelsis Deo. Glo--ria in excelsis Deo.**

*French, 1862, public domain*

**Scripture 3:** *Luke 2:8-14*

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men".

**CHOIR:**

### ***"The Shepherd's Invitation"***

On a hillside with their sheep, the shepherds were asleep  
till they heard the angels singing in the sky.  
Fear not, O lowly ones! With joyful news we come  
To tell you that your Saviour has been born.  
You'll be the first to see! First to worship!  
First to celebrate His birth -- First to see God's Son on earth!  
Go now to Bethlehem, find God's Holy Lamb  
Alleluia, your Saviour has been born!  
God is now inviting you like the shepherds long ago  
To come and worship Jesus Christ, His Son.  
That tiny infant child grew up to be the King  
The Saviour and Redeemer of this world!  
Let us adore Him. Let us worship Him  
Let us celebrate the night when God sent His holy light!  
The Child of Bethlehem is God's Holy Lamb  
He is Jesus, our Saviour and our Lord!  
He is Jesus, our Saviour and our Lord!

*One License Song # 215809*

*Tune: JS Bach, (Sheep May Safely Graze)\_ Words & Music: Julie M Wright, Arr: Brad Nix*

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## **EPIPHANY STAR**

The 5-pointed epiphany star is sometimes called the Christmas star. It reminds us of the star that God used to guide the wise men from the east to come to Jerusalem and look for Jesus whom they called the king of the Jews. The star went ahead of the wise men until it stopped over the place where the baby Jesus was in Bethlehem.

**Scripture 4:**     *Matthew 2:1-2; Revelation 22:16b*

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. And Jesus says [as recorded by John in Revelation], "I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.

**Hymn:**

*We Three Kings*

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

**O star of wonder, star of light, star of royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice:  
hallelujah, hallelujah, earth to the Heav'ns relies.**

**O star of wonder, star of light, star of royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

*John Hopkins, 1857 public domain*

## **PASSION SYMBOLS**

Nobody in their right mind likes suffering. Yet we all have to face it in this life. That's the result of the first sin in the Garden of Eden and all the sins that have followed it. Life is filled with sickness, turbulence, violence and death. Why did Jesus go the hard way, choosing the troublesome route, fighting against all that harms us only to drink from the bitter cup of suffering? As we ponder this, we will realize that we not only need help when times seem favourable, but even more so when we struggle through the same forms of trial and hurt. Jesus is the Suffering Servant, the Ransom Offering, the great physician Who can heal us from the toxic effects of sin and darkness.

## **THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB**

When God delivered His people out of slavery in Egypt He punished the Egyptians. The last and greatest plague God sent on Egypt was the plague on the firstborn sons of the Egyptians. God did this to prove to Pharaoh who was testing Him that He alone was God. God commanded His people to sacrifice a Passover Lamb and to paint its blood on their door frames. In that way the destroying angel would see the blood of the Passover Lamb and pass over the houses of the Israelites and spare them. Jesus is our Passover Lamb. By faith in Jesus' death for us, God spares us His punishment. For Jesus Himself bore our punishment for our sins on the cross.

**Scripture 7:** *Isaiah 53:4-6; John 1:29*

Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all....And the next day John [the baptizer] saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

**Hymn:** *Lamb of God [Your Only Son]* © Twila Paris

**Your only Son no sin to hide, but You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod, and to become the Lamb of God.**

***Chorus: Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God I love the holy Lamb of God  
Oh wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ: the Lamb of God***

**Your gift of love they crucified, they laughed and scorned Him as He died  
The humble King they named a fraud. And sacrificed the Lamb of God.**

***Chorus: Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God I love the holy Lamb of God  
Oh wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ: the Lamb of God.***

**I was so lost I should have died; But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod. And to be called a lamb of God.**

***Chorus: Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God I love the holy Lamb of God  
Oh wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ: the Lamb of God***

<https://digitalsongsandhymns.com/songs/4230>

## **CHALICE**

The chalice or common cup reveals why Jesus was born. Jesus was born to fulfill prophesy, pour out His life and die for the sins of the world. At the Last Supper Jesus began with the Passover Meal and shared the New Passover for His Holy Supper. Jesus shared the wine in the cup with His disciples and said that it is His blood for them and for all to drink for the forgiveness of their sins.

**Scripture 5:** *Matthew 26:26-28*

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

## **LATIN CROSS**

The cross is the most recognized and ancient of all Christian symbols. It reminds us of Good Friday. The cross of two wooden beams the Romans used to crucify Jesus and put Him to death. Jesus died on the cross to bring salvation, forgiveness and peace to the entire world. By His suffering we are healed and made right with God.

**Scripture 6:** *John 19:16-18*

Finally, Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying His own cross, He went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgatha). Here they crucified Him, and with Him two others --- one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Hymn:

“Old Rugged Cross” ”

<https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/618>

**On a hill, far away, stood an old, rugged cross,  
the emblem of suff'ring and shame  
And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain --  
So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down  
I will cling to the old rugged Cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.**

**In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see;  
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,  
To pardon and sanctify me.**

**So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down  
I will cling to the old rugged Cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.**

*George Bennard, 1913, public domain*

## **BUTTERFLY**

Jesus died on the cross, laid in a borrowed tomb and rose to new life on the third day. Jesus rose from the dead with a glorious resurrected body. The caterpillar wonderfully represents this process of a coldness of death and then a warm, transformational life. The caterpillar begins by spending time in its tomb-like cocoon as if dead, only to emerge from the cocoon a glorious butterfly.

**Scripture 8:** *Luke 24:36-44*

While the disciples were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence. He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

## **DOVE AND SHELL**

The dove and shell represent Holy Baptism. The dove represents the Holy Spirit who appeared at Jesus' baptism and descends upon all people when they are baptized. Shells appear near the water, the essential element needed for Holy Baptism.

**Scripture 8:** *Matthew 28:19-20*

Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to keep everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

## CHOIR:

### **“God’s Own Child I Gladly Say It”**

God’s own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!  
He because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price.  
Do I need earth’s treasures many? I have one worth more than any  
That brought me salvation free Lasting to eternity!

Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!  
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus’ cleansing sacrifice.  
Should a guilty conscience seize me Since my baptism did release me  
In a clear forgiving flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus’ blood

Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ!  
When I die, I leave all sadness To inherit paradise!  
Though I lie in dust and ashes Faith’s assurance brightly flashes:  
Baptism has the strength divine To make life immortal mine.

### **CONGREGATION JOINS**

There is nothing worth comparing To this life-long comfort sure!  
Open-eyed my grave is staring: Even there I’ll sleep secure  
Though my flesh awaits its raising, Still my soul continues praising:  
I am baptized into Christ; I’m a child of paradise!

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## **VICTORY SYMBOLS**

We all like to win. We all like to think of ourselves as winners. The victory symbols remind us that we are – all of us. Christ gained the victory over sin, death and the devil; those things have no power over us anymore. Jesus gained the win and gives that triumph to us. With faith in our Lord, we are invincible; there is no way to lose in this world, or more importantly, in the next.

## **SHEPHERD’S STAFF**

The staff is spoken of many times in the Old Testament. A shepherd used their staff to guide the sheep and to pick them up by the crook [*curved portion*] if needed. But the staff could also be used as a weapon by the shepherd to protect the sheep against wolves or other predators. Truly this is an ancient and comforting image.

## **PSALM 23 spoken together:**

KJV

**The LORD** is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I **will dwell in the house of the LORD** forever.

**Scripture 9:**            *John 10:11-15*

[Jesus says:] I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

**FISH**

Along with the cross and staff, the fish is one of the oldest symbols of the Church. The word for fish in Greek is spelled Iota, Chi, Theta, Upsilon, Sigma and can be used as an acrostic. When using each of these five letters as the first letter of a word, they can form the sentence: Jesus Christ, Son, of God, Saviour. Early Christians under persecution used the sign of the fish to recognize one another.

**Scripture 10:**        *Matthew 4:18-20*

As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

**Hymn:**                    *They Cast Their Nets In Galilee*        [Tune: LSB 389 “Let Altogether Praise Our God”]

**They cast their nets in Galilee, just off the hills of brown;  
Such happy simple fisherfolk Before the Lord came down;  
Before the Lord came down.**

**Contented peaceful fishermen, before they ever knew  
The peace of God that fill’d their hearts, brimful and broke them too;  
Brimful and broke them too.**

**Young John who trimmed the flapping sail, home-less, in Patmos died.  
Peter, who hauled the teeming net, head-down was crucified.  
Head-down was crucified.**

*William Percy, 1924 www.hymnary.org*

**CROSS AND ORB**

In this symbol the circle, or orb represents the world, and the cross represents the Kingdom of God. By placing the cross on top of the orb, this symbol shows the present and future reality of life on earth: through the Spirit and Jesus Christ the Church witnesses to the world, grows in faith, in works of love, and creates a way to receive peace. Even if it doesn't always look like it, Christ has overcome the world.

**Scripture 11:**        *John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10*

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whosoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life-----God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

## **CIRCLE WITH IHS**

In Greek the letters IHS (iota, theta, sigma) can be used as another acrostic. These three letters, can be explained as the first letters of Greek words spelling: Jesus, Christ, Saviour. Jesus Christ is the victorious Saviour for all.

**Scripture 13:** *Matthew 1:21; Hebrews 13:8*

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins. ----Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

**Hymn:** *“All Hail The Pow’r”*

**All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem -- And crown Him Lord of all  
Bring forth the royal diadem -- And crown Him Lord of all**

**You seed of Israel’s chosen race; You ransomed from the fall  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all**

**Let ev’ry kindred, ev’ry tribe On this terrestrial ball;  
To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all  
To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all**

**O that with yonder sacred throng -- We at His feet may fall  
Join in the everlasting song -- And crown Him Lord of all  
Join in the everlasting song -- And crown Him Lord of all**

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<https://sovereigngracemusic.org/music/songs/all-hail-the-power-of-jesus-name/>*

## **CROWN**

Every young child knows that a crown is meant for a king or queen. Jesus was born the King of the Jews as announced by the wise men, and Jesus died the King of the Jews as announced by Pilate who posted this message on the cross. Jesus is our king too.

**Scripture 12:** *Revelation 19:11-16*

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords.

**THE OFFERINGS** *are gathered.*

## PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for coming in the flesh at Bethlehem, and for coming to us whenever we gather in your name. We pray for your church, her mission, the people and pastors. Keep us alert and watchful in support of one another, guard us from everything false and untrue, and shine on us with the light of your holy word. We pray for the nations and people of the whole world. Lift the eyes of those in authority to their duty to govern wisely and well, for the good of all. Curb all terror and replace it with peace. Thank you for providing us with everything we need for daily living. Bring relief to all those affected by natural disaster, terrorism, want or war. Keep us alert and watchful to the needs of others. Please stand by those who wake or watch or weep. Uplift those who are weary. Soothe those who suffer. Shield those who prosper. Come to those from our parish and our community we know in particular need, giving healing in body, mind and soul. Keep us always alert and watchful so we may welcome you with joy when you return in glory. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **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.**

**BLESSING: The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, Son + and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. Amen.**

## CHOIR:

### ***"Be Born In Us"***

In a world of darkness where light has lost its way,  
And our hearts grow colder with each passing winter day;  
Beneath the pain and sorrow hope is waiting to be born  
Through a tiny Babe, whose life will change this world forevermore.  
Be born in us, O Holy Child and let the light of Your love shine within our lives,  
Be born in us, O Prince of Peace, let the hope You bring this world be born in me.  
To a world that's longing for a Child and King,  
For the joy and comfort only heaven's love can bring,  
We must be the beacon; we must show the world the way  
To the tiny Babe whose life can change each heart that humbly prays:  
Be born in us O Holy Child and let the light of Your love shine within our lives.  
Be born in us, O Prince of Peace, let the hope You bring this world be born in me.  
Born for us, to deliver; to reign in us forever;  
Unto us You will be given. Come to us, that You may be born in us  
O Holy Child, and let the light of Your love shine within our lives  
Be born in us, O Prince of Peace, let the hope You bring this world be born in us,  
O Holy Child, and let the light of Your love shine within our lives  
Be born in us, O Prince of Peace, let the hope You bring this world  
be born in me Be born in me.

*Be Born in Us One License Song # 1020818 David S. Gaines and Ruth Elaine Schram  
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# CHRISMONS

C A N D L E N V Y Z U I V A R E N A N T B A Y L  
 A G E M O D N A A H P L A K E Y K G D U N X W Z  
 Z Y Q J X I A E Z M Y U O L M S T E O G V Y S R  
 V Y Q I G R A P E S M T D O J M K A E Y G H M E  
 L A M B G R I D I A J R X D N V E L S A E L F G  
 M E L H E E S O R S A M T S I R H C E L H L C N  
 E L U L V T U V Q R F I R F I S H I L A E N C A  
 T O A W E C I L A H C E T A U X S H X U X G E M  
 H B P B Y U Q H O P V C R J R B I W R K L D E Q  
 L F X I D Q B Y G O X T F U U F F D I D M F R B  
 Q C X D G L J Z D J E X E T S Z E C W L A A T Y  
 U B V C R X O Q T U R R T U Z L G W A J U J N N  
 Q G O R Y G U G Q M D E T J I C P M H F S O E L  
 Z C D O Y Z X I C U R V O S A K P V U E M T E M  
 V Z G S H B R C L F S D T F C F D Y P R A J R L  
 E H H S Y T N L L B T A U X Z W D B I O M T G B  
 A P R H Q Y O Y Z K H J Z X L G Q X Z U N Y R A  
 I B C J L R R U P P G C D H L P O W B C T F E R  
 T H F Q C L M M Z N I H E Q E V E R T L R M V I  
 A K X S G N P L N U L I P T B J R O E R D O E P  
 H B T R B H K I Y G H R V Y I V E H C E S A W T  
 G U T N I K M G I T N H R N Z H D C I W T W V N  
 Y L M D U O F X V R T O R O O V W N A J A F I D  
 F Y T N H X Y D H F H G Z Q X H D A K O R E H O

Fleur de Lis  
 Anchor  
 Shell  
 Fish  
 White  
 Angel  
 Cross

Grapes  
 Lamb  
 Star  
 Dove  
 Gold  
 Scroll  
 Candle

Manger  
 Lights  
 Christmas Rose  
 Butterfly  
 Alpha and Omega  
 Crown  
 Bell

Wheat  
 Evergreen Tree  
 Triquetra  
 Lamp  
 Chi Rho  
 Chalice

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Advent 1 - Hope

Y S Q J M J O S E P H C R K Q R Z  
D H M X Z F A X T Q H M P P A E Y  
K H D O T Y N J H O P E Y C H F C  
N R K N R B G E N W U N C H H S C  
A F O G E G E S A Z W C A R I H S  
Z S W L S T L U T A H S N I Z U P  
B I H E C D C S I Q V Y D S I N O  
F C Q I U A K C V G U Q L T P A B  
O K L G E X X Z I W M C E M R V L  
R Y M N R D W X T I B W C A O R V  
Y E A G P M L U Y P W J F S P I S  
J O R A N I M U V K V M L Z H K R  
T P Y B J R A D V E N T N S E Y W  
Q V Y R X H U Z M X O R O G T C I  
Z D V I E A S C W Z B S O Z S D B  
C D K E S G I P X M X O X M K E R  
R D E L L S I S N F K X X N J W T

advent  
Christmas  
Jesus  
nativity

angel  
Gabriel  
Joseph  
prophets

candle  
Hope  
Mary  
rescuer