

Welcome to Worship

December 3, 2023

Today's reading

We find joy in connection. When we adopted a new mission statement (see bottom of page), we discerned that we value the connections that we have through this community. In today's gospel we hear the story of two women who are strengthened by their connection to one another. Joy is found in connection.



† Health concerns: Jeanette (sister of Pastor Nancy's friend) surgery for a brain tumor; Helen Jackson; Tami Cobb (Gail Tenbus's daughter); Nancy and Debbie (Robin Freeman's friends); Lewis Johnson Montana State Trooper (Robin T's relative); Miller family, and Jean (Caplinger friends); and those awaiting surgery.

† For those struggling with life (in whatever way), especially those who are hungry and unhoused. We pray for dignity and care for all who struggle.

† We continue to pray for all those in Israel and Gaza who are suffering from the war. We also pray for the people everywhere who have no place to go to escape the violence that envelops their homes. We continue to pray for peace in our world and care for all those who are suffering from natural disasters.

Welcome & Invocation

Confession and Forgiveness

L: *Family of faith, one of the ways we find joy in a weary world is through connection. The prayer of confession is a place of connection with God. In the prayer of confession we get to come before God with our full, messy, honest selves. And in the midst of that mess, God tells us that we are loved, claimed, and forgiven.*

There is no greater joy than that. So join me in the prayer of confession, not because you have to, but because you can. Let us connect with our merciful God. God of laughter, God of open front doors and family reunions, we confess that we often doubt good news.

C: **We move through this world waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.**

L: Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity.

C: **We lean into fear. We lean into isolation.**

L: Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

C: **Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth. Show us how to find joy in connection. Amen.**

L: Faith family, I imagine that when we come before God with the truth of our lives, God meets us like Elizabeth meets Mary in our scripture today. The door is thrown open. There is laughter. There is joy. There is embracing—and it is holy. So trust this; *believe this*: You are claimed. You are loved. You are forgiven. And you are sent to serve. Find joy in that. Amen!

Gathering Song

I Can Celebrate You, vs 1-2

Advent Candle Lighting

R: How does a weary world practice peace?

C: **By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.**

R: By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

C: **By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.**

R: There are a million ways to practice peace. So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge.

C: **With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.**

Gathering Song:

I Can Celebrate You, vs 3

Prayer for Illumination

L: Holy God, we know that you are near. We know that you are standing at the door, you are running down the driveway, you are inviting us in—into your Word, into relationship, and deeper into joy. So as we approach your Word, O God, we pray: do not let us pass you by. Do not allow distraction or doubt to get the best of us. Do not let us walk down this road without you. Instead, give us the wisdom to turn and run your way. Give us the wisdom to hear your wisdom, to let it sink into our bones and change us. With hope and gratitude we pray, amen.

C: **Amen**

Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia," Pompey

Gospel: Luke 1:24-45

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke in the 1st chapter

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After those days his (Zechariah's) wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion...

L: The gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Arlin Scott

Our Mission: *Living in God's Love, Building Community, Loving and Embracing People*

Our Vision: a faith community where people participate in activities that build community with God and neighbors.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and Preschool – 721 Doris Avenue, Oxnard

Holy Communion

We will celebrate communion this morning. If you are joining us online, please have bread and wine (or juice) ready.

What's happening this week at Our Redeemer

Monday, 5pm: Stretch & Prayer

Wednesday, 9am: quilting and fellowship with The Love Ladies (and gents)

Wednesday, 12pm: Word & Prayer.

Saturday, 5pm: Hanging of the Greens & Dinner Church

We are thankful for those helping with worship today

Worship Leader

Arlin Scott

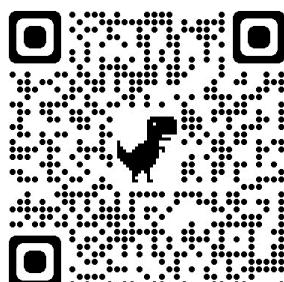
Reader

Julie Jensen

Ushers

Lloyd Tribbitt,
Robin Tribbitt,
Teddy Irock

Scan below to see this week's grace notes!



Did you know?

We have a YouTube Page. Scan the Qr code below to re-watch a missed worship service



Hymn of the Day:

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (265)

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that joy is a sacred gift, existing on a plane deeper than happiness, stemming from the truth that we belong to God.

We believe that joy is not meant for isolation. Joy is meant to be shared, weaving us together in laughter and in hope.

And when joy feels impossibly out of reach, we believe that part of being sacred community is leaning on one another.

So together we say: I will share my joy when yours runs out. You will share your joy when mine runs out. And in doing so, we will both see God. Amen.

Prayers and sharing of the Peace.

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering, Offertory

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (ELW 257), vs 1-2

We will not pass offering plates today, but the offering will be brought to the altar during the offertory. If you would like to make an offering you can place it in the plate before the offering time or after the worship service.

Offering Prayer

L: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Pompey

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

Communion Song

Lamb of God, Pompey

Prayer after Communion

L: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

L: Family of faith, as you leave this place, you go into a weary world—so speak tenderly. Do the good that is yours to do. Choose connection. Hold onto hope. And remember that Christ took on flesh for you. You are God's beloved. So go rejoicing. The world needs it.

C: Amen

Sending Song:

Comfort, Comfort Now My People (ELW 256)

Sending

L: Go in peace, keep awake

C: Thanks be to God.