

Today's reading

*We allow ourselves to be amazed.  
Tonight is a special worship time as we decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.*



† 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.

Prelude:

Cello for Advent  
Karin Wilcox, Cello

Welcome & Invocation

Confession and Forgiveness

L: If you spend any time with a child, you will quickly notice that children see the world differently. For a child, a ladybug is a miracle. A pine tree is a wonder. Curiosity is a love language, and water is not only for survival, but for joy. As adults, we forget this language of awe and wonder, and when we do, we distance ourselves from God. In confession, we have the opportunity to close that distance. So let us return to God with hearts wide open. Let us return to God in prayer. Join me in the prayer of confession:

C: **Holy God, Somewhere in our childhood we face pressure to outgrow awe. We turn into adults who obsess over data and facts. We praise those who have answers, and assume that wonder is an answerless game. Forgive us for closing that door to you. Remind us that the kingdom of God belongs to children. Teach us the ways of awe and wonder, so that like Zechariah, when we find ourselves speechless, our first words will be words of praise. With hearts open wide, we pray, amen.**

L: Family of faith, just as we marvel at mountains and newborns, at sunrises and sunsets, God marvels at us. There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could prevent God from loving you. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

C: **We are forgiven. We are loved. We belong to God. Amen.**

Gathering Song

Isn't It Amazing?, vs 1-2

Advent Candle Lighting

R: How does a weary world practice joy?

C: **By dancing, and throwing birthday parties.**

R: By hanging Christmas lights, and holding sleepy babies. By singing loudly, and looking for good news.

C: **By telling the story of Jesus, and showing up for our community.**

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

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

Gathering Song:

Isn't It Amazing?, vs 3-4

Prayer for Illumination

L: God of the universe, make our hearts porous. Open our eyes, as if for the first time, so that we might see your world with awe and wonder once again. We often approach scripture with an analytical lens, intellectualizing the stories heard, bringing historical context and textual criticism to the table. For just a moment, pause those instincts to make room for wonder. Help us greet this text with awe and gratitude before we begin dissecting it for truth. For I am confident, that in doing so, we will not only find you in the hallways of our thoughts, but in the pathways of our hearts. With gratitude we pray: keep us open.

C: **Amen**

Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia," Pompey

Gospel: Luke 1:57-66

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter

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

*Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy...*

L: The gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Nancy

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 evening. 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**, 9am: Breakfast

**We are thankful for  
those helping with  
worship today**  
  
**Worship Leader**  
Pastor Nancy

**Reader**  
Linda Lefler

**Ushers**  
Lloyd Tribbitt,  
Robin Tribbitt,  
Teddy Ipock

**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**



**The Hanging of the Greens**

**THE CHRISTMAS TREE**  
**SONG: O Christmas Tree**

**THE LIGHTS & THE ORNAMENTS**  
*(Please bring your ornaments forward to hang on the tree.)*  
**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, verse 1 (270)**  
**O Little Town of Bethlehem, verse 1 (279)**

**WREATHS & POINSETTIAS**  
**SONG: O Come, All Ye Faithful, verses 1, 3 (283)**

**THE CRËCHE**  
**SONG: Away in A Manger, verse 1 (277)**  
**My Soul Proclaims verses 1-2 (251)**

**Prayers of Intercession**

**Sharing of the Peace**  
P: The peace of Christ be with you always.  
C: **And also with you.**

**Offertory** **He Came Down (253)**  
*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:** **Soon and Very Soon (ELW 439)**  
**Sending**  
L: Go in peace, keep awake  
C: **Thanks be to God.**