

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Together with Christ We Care

5409 NW 72nd Street, Kansas City MO 64151

(816) 741-3150 • (816) 741-3253 (fax)

www.gloriadeikc.org e-mail: info@gloriadeikc.org

www.facebook.com/gloriadeikc www.twitter.com/gloriadeikc

Pastor Edd's Contact Information:

Cell Phone: 713-598-3650 Email: pastoredd@gloriadeikc.org

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! If you are a guest, we're delighted you could be with us today! We pray today's worship will help you grow closer to the God who loves you.

AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN DURING WORSHIP

Pre-School Child Care (ages 5 and under) available in the Nursery.

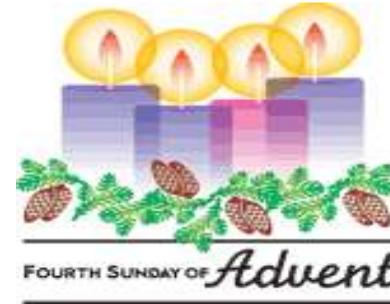
Scribble Sheets for Little Lutherans are located in the pew racks.

Activity Bags for children are located in the hallway near the main entrance (north).

ALTAR FLOWERS: To the glory of God!

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 114

Disciples	People of Gloria Dei
Preacher/Presider	Rev. Edd Wunderlich (pastoredd@gloriadeikc.org)
Music Director	Taylor Tracy
Worship Accompanists	Dr. Calvin Permenter Dr. Tracey Johnson
Church Administrator	Glen Anderson (ganderson@gloriadeikc.org)
Nursery Attendant	Beth Thatcher
Lectors	Greg Dovel
Communion Assistants	Jeff Hoyer



**Blue Christmas Service
Holy Communion
December 21, 2019
5:00 PM**

+ GATHERING +

Prelude & Welcome

This is a service for those who feel at odds with or estranged from the general feeling of joy and happiness typically associated with this time of year. These may be people who have suffered a personal loss: death of a loved one, divorce, illness, or job loss. The service seeks to comfort them by reminding them they are not alone and that their feelings are honored.

The following service is offered by Quentin Chin. Permission granted to churches for one time use. All publishing rights reserved.

Our Longest Night: A Service of Hope at Christmas Time

Opening Words: The Uses of Sorrow

(In my sleep I dreamed this poem)
Someone I loved once gave me
a box full of darkness.
It took me years to understand
that this, too, was a gift.

Mary Oliver

Unison Gathering Prayer

Your compassion for us overflows, O God. We are facing our longest night. We come burdened with sorrow, loneliness, and sadness. We come seeking a place to set them down; a place where our words will be heard and our feelings honored. We need a place where we can drop our masks of good cheer so our tears can flow freely and our faces can wear the cares of all that we are carrying. Be among us this night, O God. Let your compassion heal us in this moment. Comfort us. Strengthen us. Care for us. Be Christ to us. Amen.

Hymn: ELW #294

In the Bleak Midwinter

Readings

Lamentations 3:1-3, 19-26

¹I am one who has seen affliction
under the rod of God's wrath;

²he has driven and brought me
into darkness without any light;

³against me alone he turns his hand,
again and again, all day long.

¹⁹The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!

²⁰My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.

²¹But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;

²³they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."

²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.

²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

Matthew 5:3-12a

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Words of Comfort

Silent Prayer and Reflection

A Time for Comfort

Litany (based upon Psalm 13)

P How long, O Lord; will You ignore me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? How long will I have cares on my mind, grief in my heart all day? How long will my enemy have the upper hand?

C Deliver me, O God.

P Look at me, answer me, O Lord, my God! Restore the luster to my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death; lest my enemy say, "I have overcome them," my foes exult when I totter.

C Deliver me, O God.

P But I trust in Your faithfulness, my heart will exult in Your deliverance. I will sing to the Lord, who has been good to me.

C Deliver me, O God.

HYMN ELW #296

What Child Is This

Unison Collect

P Generous and gracious God, we look to you for compassion and thank you for your presence this night. Overwhelmed by our burdens we easily forget that you never leave us alone and that your steadfast love for us never falters. By coming together we find assurance and comfort that we do not suffer this longest night alone. You have given us strength to live through this night. Turn us to reach out to those whose night is also long. Grant that we may be your healing presence in their lives by bringing them your compassion and comfort that will assure them that they do not suffer alone.

C Amen.

Holy Communion

The Lord's Prayer

P As the Savior taught us, so we pray,

C **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.**

Closing Words

To be alive – is Power –
Existence – in itself –
Without a further function –
Omnipotence – Enough –
To be alive – and Will!
'Tis able as God –
The Maker – of Ourselves – be what –
Such being Finitude!

Emily Dickinson

Hymn ELW # 292

Love Has Come

P Go in Peace, Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks Be to God!**

P Together with Christ!

C **We Care!**



Glen Anderson in memory of Bob Anderson

Cruce Family in memory of our loved ones that we miss

Greg Doval in memory of Becky Doval

Larry & Mary Engebretson in memory of B.J. Laurence

Marilyn Johnson in memory of Ron Johnson

Lloyd & Pam Kerns in honor of our family

David & Carol Kuhr in honor of our family

Roger & Kay Lehr in memory of our parents

Bob & Kitty Long in honor of our daughters, Jennifer & Rachel

Gayle & Rena Mason to the glory of God

Kath Orr in memory of Jim Orr

Norma Weaver in memory of Tom Weaver

Dan & Lorrie Wolf in memory of our parents & to the glory of God!