#### **BLESSING**

those in darkness, joy to those who can find no joy, magic to a world steeped in realism. Go with the songs of angels in your ears, and the love of God in your hearts. Go and spread the word— the babe of Bethlehem is born for all. Rise up and go in peace wherever the Holy Spirit leads you, for the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Thanks be to God. May the light of Christ lead us forevermore.

SENDING HYMN Silent Night

281

Please remain seated for the Postlude

#### Worship Servants

Assistant Deacon Brigitte McKenzie

Reader Anita Walper, Pr. Jim Hill, Barb S., Anne Weicker

Greeters Barb Smart and Anne Weicker

Counters Anne Weicker & Barb S.
Altar Care Barb Smart, Anita Walper

Musician Seoyoon Lee

# Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church, ELCIC A Reconciling In Christ Congregation

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Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/glcvictoria">http://www.facebook.com/glcvictoria</a>

You are CREATED by God, LOVED just as you are and we WELCOME you

We are delighted you are here today to share in worship! Please sign our guest book if you are a visitor.

We acknowledge and thank the Lkwungen and WSÁNEĆ Peoples, also known as the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations communities, for allowing us to live, worship, work and play on their ancestral lands



#### Prelude

### WELCOME and GREETING

Welcome to this most magical night when angels and shepherds mingle and the birth of a baby changes the world. We come to celebrate with joy and wonder.

Celebrate the light that shines all around us.

We will sing and praise our most wondrous God.

Let us kneel before the Christ child, who makes God's promises come true.

O Come let us adore him!

HYMN O Come All Ye Faithful 283 (vs. 1,3,4)

#### ADVENT WREATH LITURGY - CHRIST CANDLE

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it; let the land give praise, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for the Lord is coming! (The advent wreath and Christ Candle are lit) The Christ Candle shines, giving us hope, peace, joy, and love to carry into the world.

Christ comes to make all things new! We prepared him room, and we are opening to Christ, the light of the world.

HYMN (Kindle Advent Candles Vs. 5)

See Insert

#### **GREETING**

Christ is born! Alleluia! May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the joy of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you

**HYMN**: Joy to the World

267 (vs 1,2,4)

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray .... Creator God, By your greatness you became small, by your power you became powerless, by your limitlessness you became limited. Through the birth of your son, we can live in your light that shines on a world transformed by the limitless power of your love. **Amen** 

## THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

READING 1 (Hope in the Messiah)

Isaiah 9:2-5

The worlds were yet unborn.

The stars did not yet shine.

When the Dream began.

God's Dream of Love,

God's vision of hope,

Was and is and will be.

When the dream began,

Light entered in,

And Salvation was born

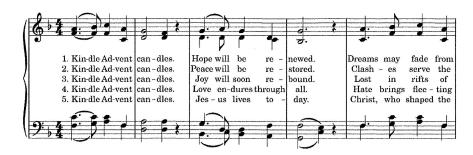
Alleluia!

HYMN: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (1,4) 282

# Kindle Advent Candles CRANHAM

Elana Keppel Levy, 2024

Gustav Holst, 1906







The light and hope of Christ lives in each of us. The Peace of the Christmas Child be with.

### And also with you

Let us greet each other as a sign of God's peace, love forgiveness and grace. (Please share a gesture of peace with those around you)

OFFERTORY: What Child is This 296

#### OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed Lord, you have given us your greatest gift— your very Word come to earth, to live with us and through us; you have filled us with your grace and truth— your holy child sent to free us from our bonds. How can we repay such divine generosity?

Receive our thanks and praise. As you have given to us, so now we share your gifts and your grace with a world in need. May our offering help bring your light and love to those who still wander in darkness. Amen.



The dream of expectancy

This design of tenderness

Is God's vision for us

The dream is of love.

The design is of salvation

And we have seen it

For before all worlds

And proceeding from all time

Is God's dream for us

Alleluia

HYMN: O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs 1, 4)

READING 3 (Christ the Eternal Word)

John 1:1-5

279

God's dream is a Word,

The Word which brings joy

Is and was and will be

This Word brought Light,

A Splendour beyond imagining

Which is God with us.

This Word is ours,

**Our source of Life** 

Which God gives to us all

**HYMN**: Once in Royal David's City (1,2,3)

269



READING 4 (The Birth in Bethlehem) READING 6 (The Shepherds Worship) Luke 2:1-7 Luke 2:15-20 When the Dream begins, **HYMN:** Go Tell It On the Mountain 290 Light enters in, And Salvation is born Sermon God's Dream of Love. **HYMN:** Good Christian Friends Rejoice 288 God's Vision of Hope Creates new life. PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Worlds are spinning, (Holy Jesus, we pray ..... Be born in us tonight) And stars are shining At God's dawning! We pray in the name of Jesus, our light, our life, and our hope, who taught us to pray: God's dream of love God's vision of hope The Lord's Prayer (Tune: 270 Hark the Herald Angels Sing) Christ the Saviour is Born! Alleluia! Amen! God our Father, God of fame hallowed be your holy name; HYMN: 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime 284 Everywhere your kingdom come, far away from here at home; Luke 2:8-14 May we to your will comply **READING 5** As the angels do on high; Grant that we, our sins forgiv'n The dream continues Christ enters in Follow in the way of heav'n Grant that we, our sins forgiv'n And salvation is born Follow in the way of heav'n. God's dream of love God's vision of hope Seeks all people May we, even at our worst, The worlds spin on Show forgiveness shown us first. The stars shine in glory Guard us from the tempting devil, It is the generation of the Dream! and deliver us from evil. Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Saviour is born! Yours the kingdom so sing we, Blessed are we who can see the wonder and mystery of Pow'r and glory ever be. Emmanuel, God's dream for us! Unto you while ages run. Yea, Amen! So be it done! Alleluia! Alleluia! Unto you while ages run. **HYMN: Angels From the Realms of Glory** 275 Yea, Amen! So be it done!