

The Advent Wreath: "The Christ Child Candle"



Where You Meet Your Savior And Find A Friend

Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Monday Worship – 7:00 p.m.

Church (608) 742-5609

Pastor Scott Schultz (608) 617-8409

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Welcome

Here is some helpful information to guide your stay with us.

1. **Enjoy.** We feel blessed you came to Cross of Christ. Our worship service lasts about 60 minutes. Participate as much as you feel comfortable with.
2. **Restrooms.** We have one restroom in the back of church and a men's and women's restroom downstairs.
3. **Children.** Your children are welcome to worship with us regardless of their age. If you feel they are being too disruptive, we do have a **Parents Area** available downstairs with a television where you can watch the worship service.
4. **Offering.** You are welcome to give an offering, but you do not need to feel obligated to do so.

About Cross Of Christ

Cross of Christ is a Bible based church, which exists to give thanks to God for Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection by which God forgave all people of their sins and gives eternal life to all who believe in him. We do this by believing in the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and sharing his Word with our community and the world.

Sermon Series: **The Advent Wreath**

Many Christian churches decorate their church with an Advent Wreath during the Advent and Christmas seasons. In this sermon series we will learn about the history of the Advent Wreath, what it symbolizes, and how it prepares us to celebrate our Savior Jesus' birth on Christmas. The different parts of the Advent Wreath are:

December 2: The Wreath

December 9: The Outside Candles

December 16: **The Christ Child Candle**

Order Of Service

HYMN 3:1-3: *"Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates"*

- 1. Lift up your heads, you mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation he will bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.**
- 2. The King is born in poverty, His chariot is humility, His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe he brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.**
- 3. How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is he Who comes to set his people free.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.**

Please stand

M: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C: the light no darkness can overcome.

M: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening.

C: and the day is almost over.

M: Be our light and scatter the darkness.

C: and hear our evening hymn of praise.

M: Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Be seated

PSALM 2 (on page 65 in the front of the red hymnal)

**C: (sing) REFRAIN: Great are the works of the Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Great are the works of the Lord.**

**Why do the nations 'conspire*
and the peoples 'plot in vain?**

**The kings of the earth take their stand and the
rulers gather together a'gainst the Lord*
and against his A'nointed One.**

**REFRAIN: Great are the works of the Lord. Alleluia!
Alleluia! Great are the works of the Lord.**

**The One enthroned in 'heaven laughs;*
the Lord 'scoffs at them.**

**Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies
them in his wrath, 'saying,*
"I have installed my King on Zion, my 'holy
hill."**

**I will proclaim the decree 'of the Lord:*
He said to me, "You are my Son; today I
have become your 'Father."**

**Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son*
and to the Holy 'Spirit,
as it was in the be'ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

**REFRAIN: Great are the works of the Lord. Alleluia!
Alleluia! Great are the works of the Lord.**

PSALM PRAYER

M: Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may hear and believe your Word. Cleanse our minds and renew our hearts that we may live for you here and hereafter; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (NIV)

SEASONAL RESPONSE

M: The Lord will come again in glory. The Spirit and the Church cry out: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

HYMN 26:1-3: *"Jesus Came, The Heavens Adoring"*

- 1. Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring,
Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption,
Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Came in deep humility.**

- 2. Jesus comes again in mercy
When our hearts are worn with care;
Jesus comes again in answer
To an earnest, heartfelt prayer,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comes to save us from despair.**
- 3. Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness,
Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hope to all the world is giv'n.**

SERMON LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ 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."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us."

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. (NIV)

"The Christ Child Candle"

Please stand

HYMN 274:5,6: *"My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord"*

- 5. He helped his servant Israel,
Rememb'ring his eternal grace,
As from of old he did foretell
To Abraham and all his race.**
- 6. So praise with me the Holy One,
Who comes in all humility.
To our Redeemer, God's own Son,
Be glory in eternity!**

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN 15:1-3: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

- 1. Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding;
"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness;
You are children of the day."**
- 2. Lo, the Lamb, so long-expected,
Comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiv'n,**
- 3. That, when next he comes with glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He may shield us with his mercy
And with words of love draw near. Amen.**

Be seated

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Take The Next Step

We are so glad you took a big step and joined us for worship. You may be wondering what your next step is for connecting to Cross of Christ. Here are some options:



Come back for worship next week. Attending worship services is very important for people to grow in their faith in Jesus.



Set up a time to meet. Call or email the church office. We would be happy to set up a time to answer your questions and to share more about Cross of Christ's ministry with you.



Enroll in "Starting Point". This is a class environment designed for every guest to discover (or rediscover) the foundational teachings of the Bible and how they apply to their lives. Talk to the pastor if you are interested in attending.



Stay Connected. Stay connected with us online at www.portagelutheranchurch.org, on Facebook, on Instagram, and on Twitter.

Announcements

Special Thanks. A special thanks to our hymnsoft player Dave Kreklow, our ushers Scott McCluskey (C), William Beimborn, Todd Miller, Donovan Dumbleton, Aaron Miller, and our altar committee Nona Lione and Sandra Beimborn.

Midweek Advent Services. There will be special midweek Advent Services on Wednesday, December 2, 9, & 16 at 7:00 p.m. The sermon series theme is "The Advent Wreath". Everyone is invited to attend!

Camp Philip Supper. The Camp Philip Chili Supper has been canceled due to COVID-19. Instead, a collection will be taken after the three midweek Advent services on Wednesday, December 2, 9, & 16.

Children's Christmas Service. The Sunday School Children's Christmas service will be on Thursday, December 24 at 6:00 p.m. and Friday, December 25 at 9:00 a.m. The service theme is "The Greatest Gift". Invite your family and friends to attend one of these two services or to watch it on Facebook Live.

Poinsettias. If you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia to beautify church for the Christmas season, please sign up on the table in the back of church. You can purchase red, pink, and white poinsettias for \$7.00. Please pay Tracy McCluskey when you place your order, otherwise your poinsettia will not be ordered. The deadline for placing orders is Wednesday, December 16.

Gift Bags. The Cross of Christ Ladies will be giving Christmas gift bags to Cross of Christ's shut-in members and the residents of Hamilton Park Place. They are collecting the following items for the gift bags: individual tissue packets, gripper footed socks, hard candy, sample size lotion, body wash, shampoo, and conditioner. Any money donated will be used to purchase items for the bags. The gift bags will be assembled at the December 17 gathering and will be delivered to the church's shut-in members and Hamilton Park Place residents. Please bring the items to church by December 13.

Cross of Christ Mission Statement Committee. At the November 1 Quarterly Voters' meeting, it was decided to create a committee to develop a Mission Statement for the church. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, contact Pastor Schultz.

Canceled Fellowship Activities. Due to COVID-19, the Fellowship Committee decided to cancel the following activities in December:

- Snacks after Sunday worship services
- Fellowship meal
- Midweek Advent meals
- Christmas caroling
- Christmas party

10 For 10 Notes. Please place your 10 For 10 commitment cards in the offering plates as you walk into church. These cards will not be opened. They will be placed on the altar for ten weeks and then returned to you unopened for your prayerful reflection. Please also fill out the new Time and Talent surveys you were given and place them in Bonnie Dorniak's mailbox at church.

Bulletins. Please take your bulletin home with you after church. Do not put it back because of COVID-19

Used Items. On the table in the fellowship hall are electronic items that Cross of Christ no longer needs. They include a Google Chromecast, a color printer, a black and white printer, a mouse and keyboard. Anyone may take these items. A freewill donation is appreciated.

Advent Devotion Booklet. We have received "Christ is the World's Light, an Advent Devotion booklet from Martin Luther College. Please take one to follow day by day through the month of December until Christmas.

Forward in Christ and Meditations. You can pick up the new Meditations and Forward in Christ in the back of church.