

Welcome to Worship at  
***Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church***

Growing Together for Christ

*Rev. Rebecca Gordon, Interim Pastor – 847-497-4JOY (4569)*

*5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051*

*[www.joyfulharvest.org](http://www.joyfulharvest.org)*

Christmas  
Eve  
Worship



**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Christmas Eve**

**We worship in-person and on-line through Zoom and Facebook. There will be a link on our website to watch the live-stream on Facebook!**  
**Stay safe and God bless!**

## Gathering

### **Greeting**

A: Christ is born: Alleluia, Alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### **Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy**

P: Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

**C: Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. “His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this” (Isaiah 9:7).**

P: We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God’s salvation wherever we go.

**Opening Carols:** O Come All Ye Faithful  
(Please join us in “Sharing the Peace”)  
Angels We Have Heard on High

### **Christmas Eve Prayer**

**Carol of Praise:** Emmanuel, Hallowed Manger Ground

### **Word**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with

righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**Carol of Praise:** Go Tell it on The Mountain

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

P: <sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all....

P: This is the gospel of the Lord!

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

**Children's Message**

**Pastor Ken Gibson**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Ken Gibson**

**Carol of the Day:** Hark The Herald Angels Sing

**Prayers of Intercession**

A: "God of Grace", .....C: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**Offering:** Friends, an offering is an act of Worship, given freely to share God's love through this congregation. You may come forward to put your gift in the offering plate, send your gifts to the church at: 5050 N. Johnsbury Rd., Johnsbury, IL 60051 or give online at [www.joyfulharvest.org](http://www.joyfulharvest.org)

**Carol of Praise:** Christmas Day

**Offering Prayer**

**Lord's Supper**

**Words of Institution**

**Lord's Prayer**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has taught us:

**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.**

**Invitation to Communion:** *Christ is truly present with us today, especially in the gifts of bread and wine. God's table is open; we invite you to join us at the Lord's Table! After the choir is served, come up the center aisle, from front to back. If you are unable to come forward, please let the pastor or another worship leader know, and we will bring communion to you. If you do not receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing, simply keep your hands folded. The dark colored liquid is wine, and the light-colored liquid is juice. Please let the pastor know if you need a gluten free wafer. All are welcome!*

**Communion Carol:** Season of Hope – SOLO – Yvone Gibson  
acc. Ron Fredriksen on Piano

## **Prayer After Communion**

### **Sending**

#### **Sending and Benediction**

P: Let us go to be the gift another needs,

**C: sharing God's blessings of love and grace,  
running to tell the Story we heard from the shepherds.**

P: Let us go to be the comfort which can swaddle others,

**C: sharing Jesus' compassion with the poor and needy,  
welcoming the holiness offered by the most vulnerable we meet.**

P: Let us go to kindle the lives around us,

**C: sharing the Spirit's peace with all the broken,  
learning the language of hope from the children in our midst.**

#### **CANDLE LIGHTING**

*Ushers will come forward following the Benediction, altar lights will be turned off completely and sanctuary lights will be dimmed. Pastor gives "light" to 1<sup>st</sup> seat of each row. The 1<sup>st</sup> seat will "light" candle next to them and so on. Please use caution, the lighted candle is never tipped. Touch unlit candle to flame of lit candle.*

#### **Sending Carol:** Silent Night

#### **Dismissal**

P: Glory to God in the highest!

**C: And peace to God's people on earth!**

P: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### **Parting Carol:** Joy to the World

### **Announcements**

*If you are looking for a place to worship with your family, join us any Sunday at 9:00 am! Thank you for worshipping with us today.*

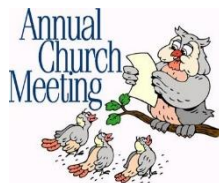


#### **Un-Hanging of the Greens - Sat. Jan 10<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 a.m.:**

Please help us as we take down the decorations in the sanctuary and pack them away for next year. The more hands the better!

#### **Annual Meeting Sun. Jan 11th @ 10:30 a.m.**

Come and hear about all the exciting things happening at Joyful Harvest. Get updates on the call process, new budget, and upcoming events. Your attendance is very important as a quorum of voting members is required to conduct church business.





**Joyful Readers Book Club:** Do you like to read, are you looking for a way to connect with other women? Consider joining the ladies of Joyful Harvest as they embark in this fellowship opportunity. The next meeting will be Sat, Jan 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00a.m. They're reading "*The Lonely Hearts Book Club*" by Lucy Gilmore. Contact Kim DuBois for more info!

### Weekly Calendar

Tue. Dec 30	<b>Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast</b>	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Dec 30	<b>Food Pantry Service Opportunity</b>	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Wed. Dec 31	<b>New Years Eve</b>	N/A
Thur. Jan 01	<b>NO Food Pantry Service – (New Years Day)</b>	N/A
Sun. Jan 04	<b>Sunday Worship</b>	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Jan 04	<b>Faith Formation Class</b>	10:30 a.m.

### Upcoming Events

Wed. Jan 07	<b>Council Meeting</b>	6:00 p.m.
Sat. Jan 10	<b>Un-hanging of the greens</b>	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Jan 11	<b>Annual Meeting</b>	10:30 a.m.
Wed. Jan 24	<b>Joyful Readers Book Club</b>	9:00 a.m.

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*Merry Christmas  
from all of us at  
Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church*

DECEMBER 24-25, 2025  
CHRISTMAS EVE,  
CHRISTMAS DAY



*Praising God for Jesus’ birth.*

**CHRISTMAS BIBLE READINGS**

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Christmas observances.

Wednesday	Isaiah 9:2-7	A child is born
	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
Thursday	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh
	Hebrews 1:1-12	God has spoken through Jesus

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS**

*The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it has been told them. **Luke 2:20 (NRSV)***

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for Christmas:**

Glory to you O God, glory to you Lord Christ; lead us to praise you and to trust your reign of hope, peace, joy, and love now and always. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Now the silence, now the peace, we pray all hunger in the world to cease. In Jesus’ name, amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the news of Jesus’ birth give you joy.



## CHRISTMAS MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When is a time you shouted for joy?
- What is it about the Christmas story that makes you want to shout for joy?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 2:1-20.

Our faith in Christ is based in history. It is the time of Emperor Augustus. The town is Bethlehem in Judea. The parents are a poor couple without land of their own. Jesus' birth happens at a time when the Jews were occupied by the Romans, a foreign power controlling much of their lives. While the events describe the life of poverty and oppression that has been a constant factor in human history, something quite amazing breaks into the story: an angel, a messenger of God, and a whole host of heavenly figures announce good news, news that shepherds—a marginalized group in society—bring to Mary, Joseph, and countless throngs throughout history. The birth of Jesus challenges history as we typically see it and announces a divine history that promises God's rule of peace and hope, life and salvation. *"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"* (v.14).

*Discuss:* The angels praised God at Jesus' birth. How do you show praise for His birth?

*Pray:* Lord God, for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ that changes everything for us and for the world, we praise you for your promise of life, peace & salvation. Amen.

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Christmas Bible Readings and theme for this day, what are some ways you can bring joy to others?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The white candle placed in the center of the Advent wreath represents Christ. Light the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love on the wreath. Then light the Christ Candle.

*Leader:* This candle is a symbol of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

*All:* John 1:5 states, *"The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."* Jesus is the true light who gives light to every person. We celebrate the birth of Jesus, the true light of the world. Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives us hope, peace, joy, and love.

*Pray:* Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for being born into our world. Bring your eternal light to our hearts, our homes, and our world, for you are our Savior and Lord. Amen.



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*May His love  
fill you with peace and joy this  
Christmas.*

