

HOLY COMMUNION THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023



PRESIDING MINISTER
Pastor Dorothy Cottingham

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Tim Ditch

CANTOR Paul Gonzales

LAY ASSISTANT **Doug Birkeland**

ALTAR CARE

Kathleen Larsen

Welcome to Christ the King Lutheran Church/Cristo Rey Iglesia Luterana. Whether you are worshiping in person or online, we're glad you are here! Please fill out a Connection Card and drop it in the offering plate or complete it online at tigardlutherans.com/connect.

Sunday, December 17, 2023 • Third Sunday of Advent

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

This worship service is being recorded and will be available on Facebook, YouTube, and the church website.

When indicated, please stand as you are able.

The assembly reads the **bold print**.

Gathering

INVOCATION

Bendita sea Dios, Creador, + Redentor, y Sabadurio Santo.

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, \pm Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

The assembly stands. All may make the sign

of the cross as the presiding minister begins.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of \oplus Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

The assembly stands.

Marty Haugen used the imagery of various chapters from the books of Isaiah and Matthew for this Advent hymn, written in 1983. Haugen wanted to provide these traditional texts for the Advent season in a format that was easy for church congregations to sing. He composed this tune for his own text, calling it REJOICE, REJOICE, from the opening words of the last stanza.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 256



APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The third candle of the Advent wreath is lighted.

We praise you, O God, for this wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

The assembly is seated.

Amen.

Word

READING

ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah, the sixty-first chapter.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 126

A reading of Psalm 126.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

READING

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, the fifth chapter.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

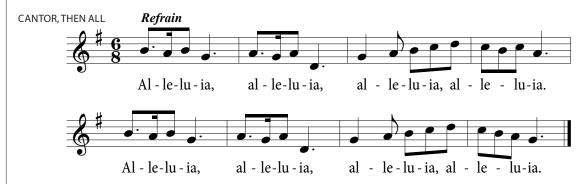
May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming. The assembly stands to greet the Holy Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



CANTOR The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. Alleluia.

ALL **Refrain**

HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

El Santo Evangelio según Juan, capítulo uno.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord. (¡Gloria a ti, oh Señor!)

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord," as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

El Evangelio del Salvador.

The Gospel of the Savior.

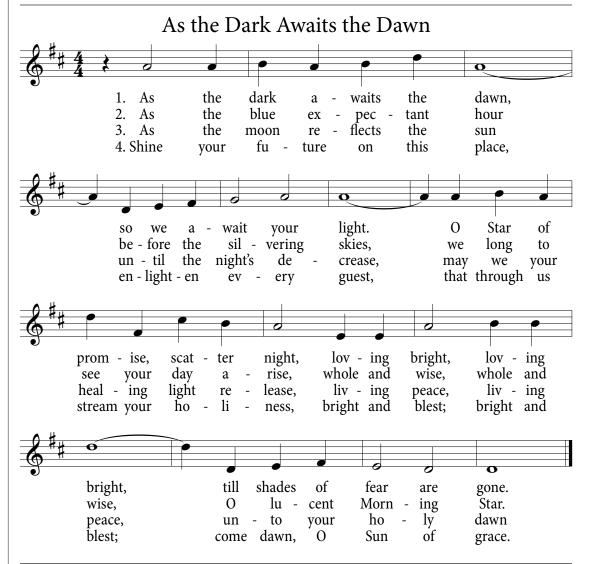
Praise to you, O Christ. (¡Alabanza a ti, oh Cristo!)

THE HOMILY PASTOR DOROTHY

John's gospel describes
Jesus as the "light of
the world." John the
Baptist is presented as a
witness to Jesus, one who
directs attention away
from himself to Christ,
the true light.

The assembly stands.

This stirring text was written by Susan Palo Cherwien in 1996 and is set to a poignant melody by Carl Schalk. Inspired by this hymn, Laura Thelander wrote this devotion when she was seminary pastor at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota: It is an increasingly rare experience these days to find oneself immersed in enough darkness to be able to see the stars in the sky. More and more of us live in cities and towns where bright lights shine 24/7 upon our streets and buildings. In our homes, the glare of computer screens and personal electronic devices reflect on our faces as we keep ourselves busy with both work and play. We may hope these lights would shield us from experiencing darkness where fears and anxieties reside, but they also often keep us from seeing the Advent Star of promise. As we enter this season of Advent, we are invited to go "off the grid" for a time—to enter the darkness that surrounds us and await God's coming. May this season rekindle our deep desire for the only true light that can scatter our fears. HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 261



THE APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The lay assistant offers the prayers.

A brief silence.

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away. Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Give us strength to pray without ceasing. Compel us toward love and compassion for all who are in need, especially Hal, Gaynelle, Gene and Pam, Del and Suzanne, Jean, Myrna and Jerry, Betty, and Don. Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For what else do the people of God pray?

With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

La paz del Señor sea siempre con ustedes.

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.** (*Y también contigo.*)

The assembly is seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meal

OFFERTORY HYMN

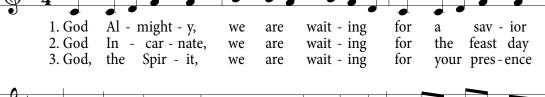
PREPARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS AND OUR TABLES

The assembly stands.

Author Ann Bell Worley writes: "God Almighty, We Are Waiting" was my first hymn. It started with the first line in my head during the season of Advent. At the time, I was on staff at Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, and a fellow minister, who was also a gifted musician, played "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship" on banjo, which struck a deep chord with me and fostered my love of the tune, HOLY MANNA. I remember writing down the first line of "God Almiahtv." and keeping a notebook by my bedside that evening, tossing and turning, and writing a line at a time. In the morning, I had a full hymn." She continues: "My undergraduate degree is in music, and I grew up in a liturgical tradition. Both of those factors highly influenced my experience in and contributions to the Baptist churches I served. I loved teaching the significance of the Christian year in a denomination that traditionally didn't follow it, because it had tremendous impact on people who were intentionally living their faith and hadn't been exposed to Christian seasons outside of Christmas and Easter. The season of Advent holds special importance to me as the anticipation of a new beginning, so I suppose it's no accident my first hymn

would be an Advent hymn!"

God Almighty, We Are Waiting







will

bow.

Search our hearts and



we

food part - ed plen ty the wild. wa - ters, in the till claim gos - pel, the world ciled. is rec read - y, make us speak lan guage strong and mild,



As we look for signs and won-ders, help us see you in a child. Let us set your ho - ly ta - ble for each wom - an, man, and child. help each one of us, your peo - ple, to re - ceive you like a child.

OFFERING PRAYER

at

your mer - cy

Let us pray.

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. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

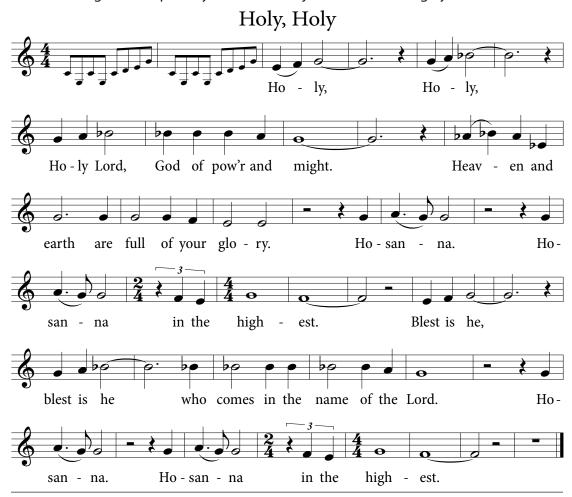
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

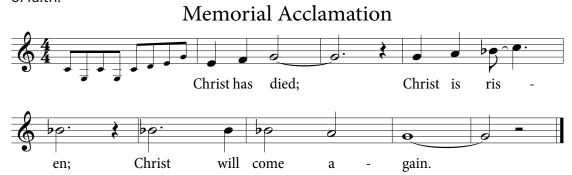
PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life.... Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



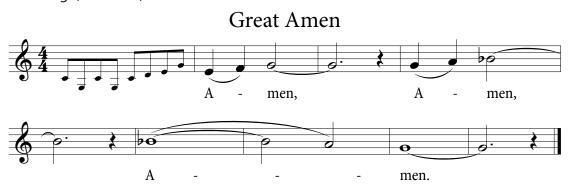
With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at this meal.

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The assembly stands.

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, strengthen you and keep you to life everlasting.

Amen.

Alberto Viñas Taulé wrote this text for the season of Advent, utilizing images of promise from the Hebrew Scriptures and those of fulfillment through Christ's birth from the New Testament. Taulé, a Roman Catholic priest, has served a small parish in Barcelona, Spain, and worked for the national offices on lituraical issues related to music. He composed this tune for his own text, and it was named TAULE in U.S. hymnals to honor him.



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Let us pray.

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. Amen.

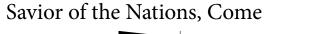
SENDING BLESSING

Dios todopoderoso, Creador, + Redentor, Sabiduría Santo, los bendiga ahora y siempre. Amén.

Almighty God, Creator, + Redeemer, Holy Wisdom, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

The text of this hymn is attributed to Ambrose of Milan (340-397). Ambrose, one of the great Latin church fathers, is remembered best for his preaching, his struggle against the Arian heresy, and his introduction of metrical and antiphonal singing into the Western church. When the bishop of Milan, an Arian, died in 374, the people demanded that Ambrose, who was not ordained or even baptized, become the bishop. He was promptly baptized and ordained, and he remained bishop of Milan until his death. Martin Luther's German version dropped one syllable from each line of the Latin text, giving the hymn its characteristically declarative Lutheran form. The tune, NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND, is a chorale

In-person and online worshipers are invited to spend a few moments greeting one another on the Zoom balcony. **SENDING HYMN ELW 263**



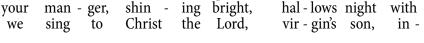


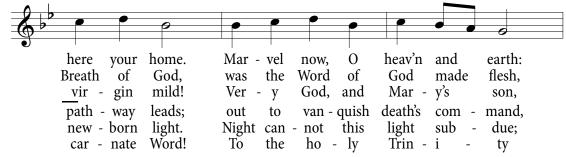
- Sa vior of the na tions, come;
- 2. Not by hu - man flesh and blood, 3. Won-drous birth—oh, won - drous child-
- 4. From God's heart the Sav ior speeds,
- 5. Now your man - ger, shin ing bright, 6. Praise we

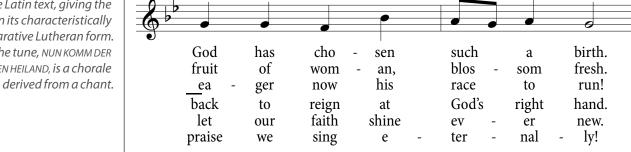
from his throne, a back to God his hal-lows night

mys - tic

but the







DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.



THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



WEEKLY NEWS

This is an abbreviated list of announcements. Be sure to read the weekly eNews for complete coverage of this week's news. Follow the link or QR code in the blue box above to subscribe.

WORSHIP IN PERSON AND ON ZOOM SUNDAY AT 10:30 A.M.

Zoom "doors" open at 10 a.m. at the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86517107296?pwd=aVZpWFV0b0QzbFF6ZFVPTDFsL0FZQT09

Phone-in # 1-253-215-8782

Meeting ID 865 1710 7296 Password 299944

CRISTO REY

Hermanos y hermanas, ven a celebrar la misa bilingüe el segundo y el cuarto domingo de cada mes a las 5 p.m. Gracias a Dios!

Brothers and sisters, worship at bilingual mass the second and fourth Sundays of every month at 5 p.m. You don't have to speak Spanish. The service is printed in both languages.

ADVENT 2023

Waiting, listening, watching, and singing! Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in person and on Zoom.

We watch! Advent 3, December 17, we hear that voice even louder, testifying to the "light of the world."

We sing! Advent 4, December 24, we sing with Mary, the mother of Jesus, rejoicing in God's goodness.

Finally, we rejoice! With angels and shepherds we adore the child! **Christmas Eve, December 24,** 7 p.m. Bilingual.

Happy Birthday, Jesus! Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, 10:30 a.m. English only.

GETTING INVOLVED

Your continued financial support of this faith community makes so many ministries possible. In addition to financial support, you are invited participate in any of the ministry teams of Christ the King. We pray you will find a place at the table that is a perfect fit for you. Prayerfully consider how you will answer if a nominating team member calls to invite you into service.

ADULT EDUCATION

Women of the Bible will return in January. Watch this space!

PRAYER REQUESTS

When you have a prayer request, there are several ways you can communicate that with us. Please call the church office (503-639-2789), send an email to **ctkoffice@ tigardlutherans.com**, call Pastor Dorothy's cell phone (503-849-6383), or visit **tigardlutherans.com** and click on the Communication tab.

END-OF-YEAR GIFTS

Be sure to have your 2023 financial contributions in by Sunday, December 31, to be included on your 2023 giving statements.

GIVING

There are several ways to share your tithes and offerings:

- Place your offering in the plate on Sunday morning.
- Mail a check to the church office (11305 SW Bull Mountain Rd., Tigard, OR 97224).
- Use your bank's online bill-pay service.
- Set up a recurring or single payment through Vanco by visiting our website and clicking on the Donate tab.
- Scan the QR code (right) with your mobile device to go directly to our giving page.



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Rev. Dorothy Cottingham Pastor
pastordorothy@tigardlutherans.com | 503-639-2789 ext. 102

Tim Ditch Director of Music and Parish Administrator **ctkoffice@tigardlutherans.com** | 503-639-2789 ext. 101



Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. Romans 15:7

Christ the King Lutheran Church/Cristo Rey Iglesia Luterana is a community of children of God who are seeking to know God by following the teachings of Jesus Christ, who welcomed all.

This community of faith is enriched and strengthened by diversity. We welcome all to share in the life and ministries of worship, sacraments, responsibilities, leadership, and blessings of participation in this congregation. We are committed to the work of racial equity.

Believing that God's unbounded love and grace are offered to all and meant to be shared and celebrated by all, we embrace differences of age, race, ethnicity, language, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, appearance, economic status, marital status, and family situation.

No matter what your life experience is or has been, you are a child of God and you are welcome here.

Por lo tanto, recibios los unos a los otros, como también Cristo nos recibió, para gloria de Dios. Romanos 15:7

Christ the King Lutheran Church/Cristo Rey Iglesia Luterana es una comunidad de hijos e hijas de Dios que buscan conocer a Dios siguiendo las enseñanzas de Jesucristo, quien ampara a todos.

Esta comunidad de fe se enriquece y fortalece con la diversidad. Damos la bienvenida a todos a compartir la vida y los ministerios de adoración, sacramentos, responsabilidades, liderazgo, y bendiciones de participación en esta congregación. Estamos comprometidos con el trabajo de la equidad racial.

Creyendo que el amor y la gracia ilimitados de Dios se ofrecen a todos y están destinados a ser compartidos y celebrados por todos, aceptamos las diferencias de edad, raza, etnia, idioma, identidad y expresión de género, orientación sexual, habilidades físicas y mentales, apariencia, estado económico, estado civil, y situación familiar.

No importa cuál sea o haya sido tu experiencia de vida, eres un hijo(a) de Dios y eres bienvenido(a) aquí.



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