

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 28, 2025



PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Dorothy Cottingham

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Tim Ditch

CANTOR

Paul Gonzales

LAY ASSISTANT

Sharon Ray

ALTAR CARE

Sharon Ray

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 www.tigardlutherans.com/connect

Sunday, December 28, 2025 • First Sunday of Christmas

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

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

En el nombre de Dios, Creador, Redentor y Sabiduría Santa. Amén.

In the name of God, Creator, \oplus Redeemer, and Holy Wisdom.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is

marked at baptism, as the

presiding minister begins.

Reconciling God,

we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace.

We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news.

Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you. \oplus Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 267

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) created this text by "Christianizing" the last five lines of Psalm 98. The original poem was entitled "The Messiah's Coming and Kingdom" in Watts's Psalms of David, Imitated in the Language of the New Testament (1719). Lowell Mason (1792-1872) is credited as the composer of the tune ANTIOCH, as he first published it in a hymnal in 1836, marked "arr. from Handel." He or another composer or arranger utilized melodic fragments from George F. Handel's Messiah in the tune.



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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE Glory Be to God on High to God on high, to all peo-ple, peace 1. Glo - ry be on earth. 2. Je - sus Christ we now de-clare Lamb of God and Lord of Love. the Ho - ly One, 3. Prais - es prais-es sing in high - est heaven; to An - gels, shep-herds draw-ing nigh, join to cel - e - brate his birth. Grant us mer - cy, hear our prayer, give us grace from heaven a - bove. Fa - ther and the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it given. ri - a Glo 0 Glo in ex - cel - sis De - o, ri - a De in ex-cel-sis 0. **d**. O

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

READING ISAIAH 63:7-9

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

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 148

A reading of Psalm 148.

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created, who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps; fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; young men and maidens, old and young together.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!

God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.

READING HEBREWS 2:10-18

Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews, the second chapter.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

And again,

"I will put my trust in him."

And again,

"Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PASTOR DOROTHY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to greet the Holy Gospel.



CANTOR May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you.

ALL **Refrain**

HOLY GOSPEL MATTHEW 2:13-23

In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod. El Santo Evangelio según Mateo, capítulo dos.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.

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

Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

El Evangelio del Salvador.

The Gospel of the Savior.

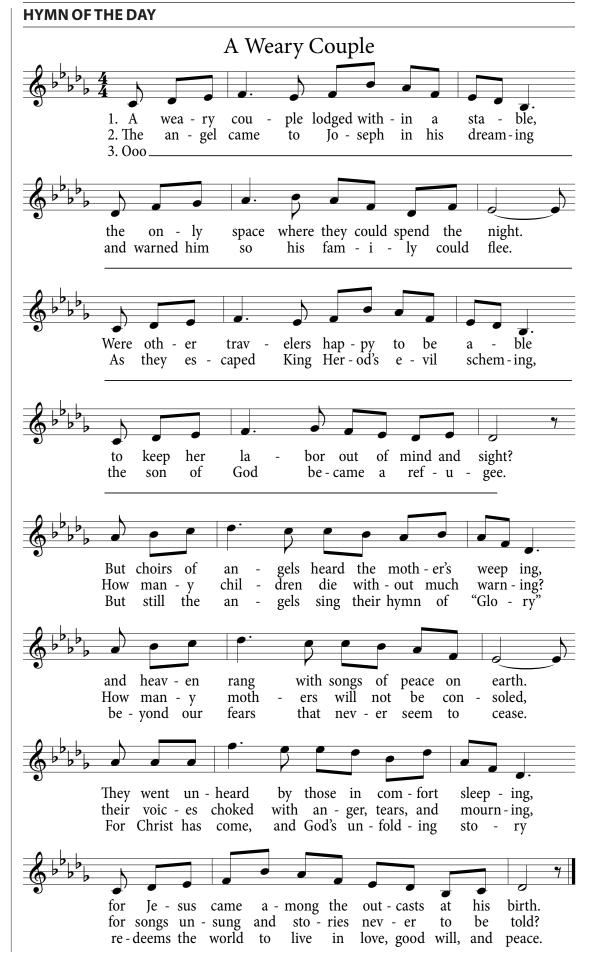
Praise to you, O Christ. (¡Alabanza a ti, oh Cristo!)

The assembly is seated.

THE HOMILY PASTOR DOROTHY

The assembly stands.

Mennonite hymnwriter Adam M. L. Tice created this text a few years ago in response to a European refugee crisis. It draws on today's Gospel story to express the anguish of those who have been driven from their homes and hope sparked by the coming of Christ who has embraced their life. Tice wrote this text with the tune LONDONDERRY AIR, a traditional Irish folk melody, in mind.



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 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.

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Compel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. We pray especially for Nick, Myrna, Travis, Gaynelle, Jonathan, Kole, Del, Jean, Sandy, Don, Nancy, and Betty. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For what else do the people of God pray?

God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones. Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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

PREPARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS AND OUR TABLES

OFFERTORY HYMN



The assembly stands.

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898) wrote a longer Christmas poem, "The Manger Throne," from which this hymn is derived. It appeared in this form with the tune **GREENSLEEVES** in Christmas Carols New and Old (1871). The old English tune has been traced to 1580. William Shakespeare mentioned the tune GREENSLEEVES in his play The Merry Wives of Windsor. There Shakespeare joked that it could not be used as a tune for singing Psalm 100. However, from its earliest reference in history, it has been used with both sacred and secular words.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory,

great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

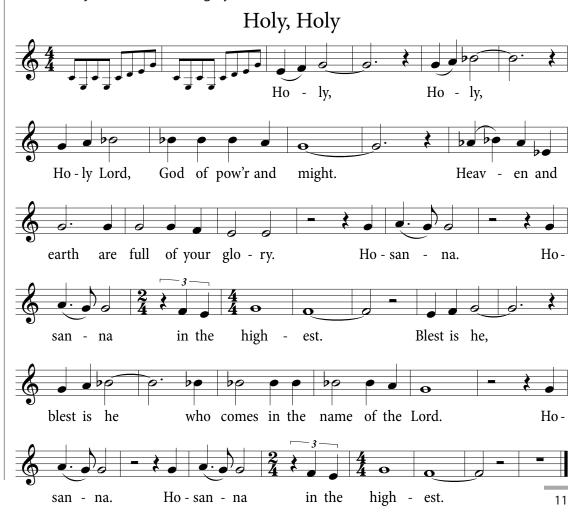
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

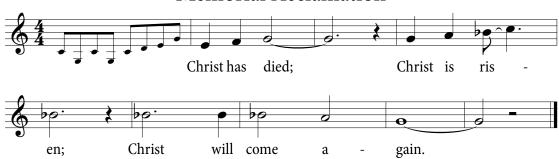
Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:





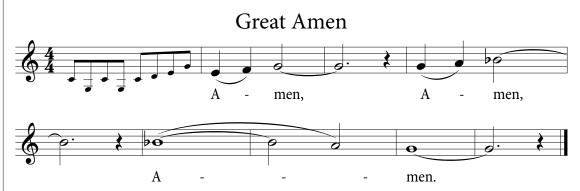
With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus. (Ven, Señor Jesús.)

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. (Ven, Espíritu Santo.)

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.

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

DISTRIBUTION

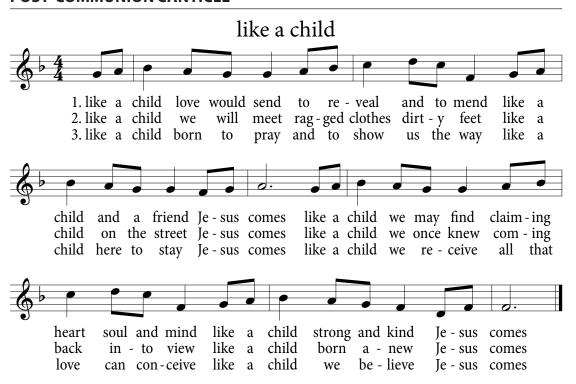
COMMUNION BLESSING

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.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Hymn Commentary, continued

a child-like melody to accompany this new carol. Rather than comparing the Christ-child to royalty or detailing the humble surroundings of the manger scene, Damon looks at children in the world and sees Christ-like qualities in them. Look at the children around you, he tells us in this carol, and you will see glimpses of the infant Jesus.

Traditionally many Christmas hymns have explored the birth of Jesus as the coming of a monarch: "Glory to the new-born King!" "Noel, born is the King of Israel." "Let earth receive her King." Others have explored the images of Jesus, born in humble surroundings: "Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall." "Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed." Poets are always searching for metaphors to express the nature of the Incarnation. Rev. Daniel Charles Damon is among the more recent hymn writers who explore the coming of infant Jesus in fresh ways. Reminiscent of e.e. cummings' poetic style, Damon wrote his original poem with no capital letters or punctuation. Presented as a poem rather than interlined with the music, the indented lines of the text

(continued at right)

provide a visual symbol of the Christ child descending to

earth. Damon composed

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God,

you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.

SENDING BLESSING

Dios todopoderoso, Creador, + Redentor, y Sabadurío Santo, los bendiga ahora y siempre. Almighty God, Creator, + Redeemer, and Holy Wisdom, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 263



DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God.

This text by Ken Bible highlights "love" in relation to Christmas. The word "love" appears 22 times, partly by itself as a refrain, but it is also refracted through a variety of interpretive prisms, which collectively help to define it: coming, shining, proclaimed, born, peace, Jesus' name, life, gift, free, with us, and ultimately God. The tune is associated with the text "Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella," from Provençal, France, where torches are important for Christmas festivities. The editors of The New Oxford Book of Carols (1992) say that the tune is found in Sequin's Recueil de noëls composés en langue procençale (1856) and that it derives from a drinking song.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH





ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WEEKLY ENEWS

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 box above to subscribe.

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

Zoom "doors" open at 10 a.m.

Phone-in # **1-253-215-8782**

Meeting ID 865 1710 7296 Password 299944

THIS WEEK

Packed with Pride gratefully accepts non-perishable food and hygiene donations. *Especially needed is canned tuna and other canned proteins*. You may leave them in the donation barrel outside the office door or in the donation basket in the Sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity.

We continue to collect change and loose bills for the laundry ministry of Just Compassion. Drop your donation in the plastic washing machine on the table in the entry. Or send along an extra amount with your regular gift to the church and mark it clearly for "laundry."

Pick up a blue BottleDrop bag for your personal use and benefit Christ the King/Cristo Rey. To date you have deposited more the \$800 worth of cans and bottles. Keep up the good work for the environment and for our ministries here. Simply return the filled bag to any BottleDrop location and scan the barcode.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASONS CONCLUDE

As we plan for the conclusion of the Advent to Christmas seasons, please feel free to offer your hopes about our future Advent and Christmas celebrations. What are the most meaningful icons of the season as we worship in this place. What would you like to see come along to our next worship space? What traditions are most important to you? Drop a note to the council or send an email to any council member, Pastor Dorothy, or Tim. It's most helpful if you can put it in writing and sign it so we can refer to your suggestions as we move forward and can get in touch with you to clarify if needed.

EPIPHANY SEASON BEGINS

The festival season of the church year continues with the Season of Revelation of the Light. The first Sunday of Epiphany we will celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. The color turns from Advent blue to Christmas white to green, the color of growth. Consider your baptism. Do you have any mementos from that day, any family stories you would like to share? Perhaps your child was baptized at Christ the King, or your grandchild. Maybe one or two of you would be willing to share your story publicly, in worship. This season is a time to acknowledge the unfolding light, figuratively and literally. We are people of the Light.

YEAR-END GIFTS

All charitable donations must be received in the church office by December 31 for inclusion on your 2025 giving statement. The church is blessed by your generosity so that we can continue to do ministry in the community.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE SERIES

The Liturgical (Church) Year. Why do we change the paraments (the table cloth) from time to time? Why does the pastor change her vestments (robes)? What do those colors mean? Why do we only light the "baptism candle" (the one by the font) once in a while? Why not every week? And why is it called a "font"? Well, come and see!

It's Christmas! What do you notice in the sanctuary? What's missing, what is added? Has anything changed? What season comes next? Come explore these meanings every week.

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 tigardlutherans.com 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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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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