

**CHRIST OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**

37 Warner Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07305

***The Reverend Kimberly Vaughn, Pastor***

Church: 201-433-1836 Fax: 201-433-1865

email: [pastor@christourredeemer.net](mailto:pastor@christourredeemer.net)

Website: **RedeemerLutheranJC.com**

Facebook: **RedeemerLutheranChurchJerseyCity**

Worship Service – 9:30 AM

Zoom Meeting ID: 881 4746 6449; Password: 348873

Phone: 1-646-558-8656

**December 31, 2023**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas/Service of Lessons and Carols

**WELCOME VISITORS!**

We are delighted that you are worshipping today at Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. May your experience with God here be a blessing!

ACCESS FOR ALL: While we stand often during the service, please assume a posture of reverence which you are able or comfortable. A wheelchair accessible restroom is located in the Parish Hall through the kitchen. If you'd like Communion brought to your seat, our Pastor will gladly assist you. Activity bulletins are available for young worshippers (see ushers or Pastor).

***How do I find worship music?***

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (the red book in your pew)

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship (the green book in your pew)

Find us online at:

**Website:** **RedeemerLutheranJC.com**

**Facebook:** **[www.facebook.com/RedeemerLutheranJerseyCity](https://www.facebook.com/RedeemerLutheranJerseyCity)**

Have questions? Interested in baptism or membership?

Please speak with our ***Pastor Kimberly Vaughn*** after service

Or, call 201.433.1836

Prelude

Welcome

**GATHERING**

Opening Litany

*Please stand as able*

P: Remember the journey God has taken with God's people,

**C: Let us listen again to the story of Christmas.**

P: It started at the beginning of time and continues today,

**C: Let us sing the songs that speak of God's faithfulness.**

P: With readings and carols we travel towards Bethlehem,

**C: Let us worship God, who came and dwelt among us.**

**Carol:** ELW 270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**Carol:** Good Christian Friends Rejoice (ELW 288)

**First Reading:** Genesis 1:1-8

**Carol:** Away in a Manger (ELW 277)

**Second Reading:** Jeremiah 23:5-6

**Carol:** It Came upon the Midnight Clear (ELW 282)

**Third Reading:** Zechariah 9:9-10

**Children's Time:**

The Reverend Kimberly Vaughn

*(Children are invited to come forward for a special message.)*

**Carol:**

What Child Is This (ELW 296)

**Fourth Reading:**

Luke 1:26-33

**Carol:**

O Little Town of Bethlehem, v. 1-2 (ELW 279)

**Fifth Reading:**

Matthew 1:18-23

**Carol:**

O Little Town of Bethlehem, v. 3-4 (ELW 279)

**Sixth Reading:**

Luke 2:8-18

**Carol:**

Angels from the Realms of Glory (ELW 275)

**Seventh Reading:**

Luke 2:21

**Carol:**

The First Noel (ELW 300)

**Eighth Reading:**

John 1:1-9

**Carol:**

Jesus, What A Wonderful Child (ELW 297)

**Prayers of Intercession**

**MEAL**

**Greeting of Peace**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

*(Please share the peace)*

*Please be seated.*

**Offering & Offertory Music**

*The offering is collected.*

*Please stand as able.*

**C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all, unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

### **Offertory Prayer**

P: Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C.: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! Come ye, O, come ye to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of angels! O come, let us adore him! O come, let us adore him! O come, let us adore him! Christ the Lord!**

### **Words of Institution:**

P: 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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

**C: Amen**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

P: Let us pray as Jesus taught...

**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**

P: Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

*Please be seated.*

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

**Communion Hymn:**

Go Tell it on the Mountain (ELW 290)

**Distribution of Communion**

*(Please bring the communion back to your seat to eat and drink. Someone will collect the cups afterwards.)*

*Please stand as able.*

**Post Communion Canticle:**

God is so Good

GOD IS SO GOOD, GOD IS SO GOOD, GOD IS SO GOOD  
HE'S SO GOOD TO ME.

HE CARES FOR ME, HE CARES FOR ME, HE CARES FOR ME  
HE'S SO GOOD TO ME.

HE'S ALL I NEED, HE'S ALL I NEED, HE'S ALL I NEED  
HE'S SO GOOD TO ME.

P: God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## Announcements

*(Some are listed on the last page)*

## SENDING

*Please stand as able.*

### Benediction

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit † remain upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

**Sending Carol:**

ELW 281 Silent Night, Holy Night!

**Closing Anthem:**

Jesus Remember Me

### Dismissal

P. Go in peace. Christ the Savior is born!

C. **Thanks be to God.**

## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers	The People of Christ Our Redeemer
Pastor	Reverend Kimberly Vaughn
Pianist	Kim Norton
Lector	Carla Parker
Counters	Carla Parker and Joan Narain
Usher	Jakiya Carter

*Thank you for your assistance in today's worship!*

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### Please Remember Our Sick and Shut-Ins:

Deborah Frazier	Jersey City, NJ	201-333-0707
James Gumbs	Jersey City, NJ	646-940-3464
Joe Heard, Sr.	Linden, NJ	201-725-5231
Jonathan Strong Sr.	Jersey City, NJ	551-580-5759

Juanita Larkins	North Plainfield, NJ	201-798-3460
Kate Fauder	Jersey City, NJ	201-333-5752
Kathy Connally	Jersey City, NJ	201-451-9057
Louise Givens	Jersey City, NJ	201-432-1486
Maggie Graves	Jersey City, NJ	201-434-2251
Rabone Goolserran	Jersey City, NJ	201-432-8215
Sylvia Bishran	Jersey City, NJ	201-492-8108
Vernon Goolserran	Jersey City, NJ	201-432-8215
Yvonne Grant	Jersey City, NJ	973-444-2266

### OUR PARISH CALENDAR

#### January Birthdays:

Joe B. Heard Jr.	4 <sup>th</sup>
Grayson Chiatoo	9 <sup>th</sup>
Earl Hart	12 <sup>th</sup>
Martin Dunbar	19 <sup>th</sup>

#### January Baptismal Anniversaries:

#### Worship Assistants for 1/7/2024

Lector:	Bai-Eyse Pugh
Counters:	TBD
Usher:	Wanda Fluellen and Ed Price

#### Worship Assistants for 1/14/2024

Lector:	Joan Narain
Counters:	Wanda Fluellen and TBD
Usher:	Wanda Fluellen and Ed Price

#### Worship Assistants for 1/21/2024

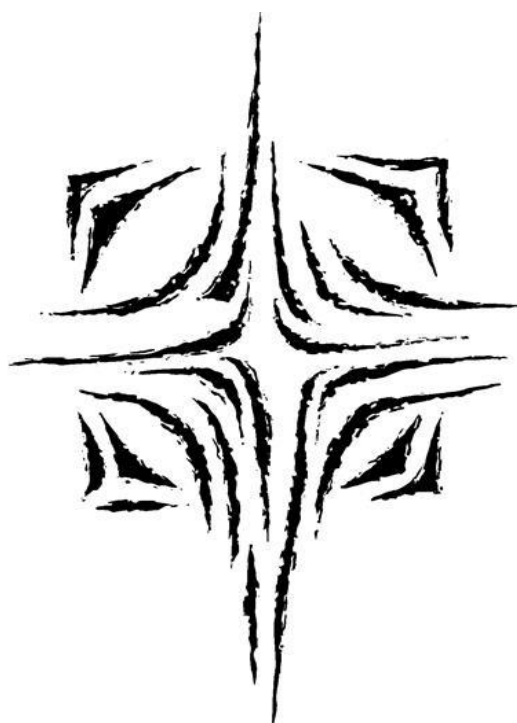
Lector:	Joy Griggs
Counters:	Joy Griggs and TBD
Usher:	Wanda Fluellen and Ed Price

#### Worship Assistants for 1/28/2024

Lector:	Corey Brooks
Counters:	Corey Brooks and TBD
Usher:	Wanda Fluellen and Ed Price

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

*-from Sundays and Seasons 2023.*





## ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

### Congregational:

- On Friday, January 19 @6:00 pm, the British Swim School will be here to present on the importance of swimming for adults and children. Refreshments will be provided.
- *GOOD NEWS!* The installation service for Pastor Kimberly Vaughn will be Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 11 am here at Christ Our Redeemer. All are welcome. Refreshments will follow the service.
- For those participating in the Sight & Sound bus trip on March 16, 2024, please remember that final payment is due no later than January 15, 2024. Please see Timekia to make a payment.
- *BIBLE STUDY:* Beginning Thursday, January 11, join us weekly at 6:30 p.m. for study and conversation on “Daily Discipleship”. See Pastor Kimberly for details.
- *HOLY BAPTISM:* If you or your child are interested in being baptized, the first “Festival of Baptism” will be Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, the week we celebrate the baptism of Our Lord. We will meet after church on January 7 for preparation. The next dates will be Feb. 11 (Transfiguration Sunday) and March 31 (Easter). Please see Pastor Kimberly!
- *FIRST COMMUNION:* Do you have a child ready to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion? Please see Pastor Kimberly about upcoming classes.
- Welcome to our church family, a baby girl born December 28th to Jameka Carter and Bai-Eyse Pugh! Everyone is doing well!
- Merry Christmas and happy new year to all of you! Blessed 2024!

### NJ Synod and Community:

- The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering will take place July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans. Registration fee is \$425 through February 14th. Late fee (Feb. 15—April 15) is \$475. MYLE and tAble registration fee is \$190 (Waived restriction apply). A \$150 nonrefundable and registration fee are due at sign-up.

**125<sup>th</sup> YEAR OF WITNESS AND SERVICE TO CHRIST  
THROUGH GOD’S WORD,  
THE LIGHT AND THE TRUTH,  
WE INVITE ALL TO GROW IN CHRIST**

*† Connected to Christ † Connected to Each Other † Connected to Community*