

Our Vision:
To Be the Lantern to Leisure World

Our Mission:
Lighting a pathway into Community.
Growing disciples in God's Love.
Sending the Hope and Joy of Jesus into the Community.

Leisure World Community Church
in Worship *December 25, 2022*

14000 Church Place
Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

9:50 am
(562) 431-2503

Opening Announcements — Rev. Johan Dodge

Good Morning and Welcome to Worship!

Worship is often the first place that new people come into contact with this growing community of faith. And so if you are joining us for the first time, I say to you what I say every Sunday. You are welcome here. Here is a place where all are welcome. For such is the love of God for God's Very Good Creation. And if you are enjoying this worship experience, I invite you to give to God in support of this growing faith community.

[please stand as you are able]

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: O Lord our God, your glory shines as far as the east is from the west, from the north to the south, so that all people may see and be radiant, so that every heart might thrill and rejoice. Guide us on our baptismal journey in Christ. Overwhelm us with the joy of your presence. May we enter your house and pay homage to him whose infant arms were already reaching out to the ends of the earth that all might be gathered in. In your triune name, we pray. Amen.

*[Candle is lit while All sing: **Christmas Doxology**]*

PRAYER OF THE DAY – Virginia Olejnik

**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. Amen.**

Hymn Carol: “Joy to the World”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Gracious and Holy God, your eternal purposes, revealed to us in Christ Jesus, show that your love extends to the ends of the earth, and stretches far beyond our own imaginings.

We thank you for such expansive love and for the rich variety of ways you make yourself known among us.

We pray for the church, too often afraid of the rich diversity you have designed, too often timid in its proclamation of the gospel before the rulers and powers of this world. Strengthen us in our witness, we pray. Fill us with the power of the Holy Spirit that we may be bold and confident through faith in Christ.

We thank you for such expansive love and for the rich variety of ways you make yourself known among us.

Cast out jealousies and suspicions until we become sharers in the gospel promise. We pray for people in positions of power in our country and throughout the world. May they govern people with justice and compassion. Give to all who control economic and military might wisdom to choose the common good over personal or political gain.

We thank you for such expansive love and for the rich variety of ways you make yourself known among us.

We pray for people who have little power according to the world's measure of power. Defend the cause of the poor; deliver those in need; put an end to oppression; and save the lives of everyone in

harm's way this day. May all victims of violence find their lives redeemed by your love and care.

We thank you for such expansive love and for the rich variety of ways you make yourself known among us.

We pray for people who are seeking you this day, or searching for new meaning and purpose for their lives. Guide and direct them in their spiritual journey. Give them the vision to see signs of your promise, the wisdom to discern between what is false and what is true, and courage and curiosity in all their searching. May the joy of Christ surprise them and lead them to a place of welcome.

We thank you for such expansive love and for the rich variety of ways you make yourself known among us.

Finally, we pray for those overwhelmed by personal darkness today: the one bowed down in grief; the one overcome by depression; the one who is unemployed or in economic trouble; the one who is struggling with illness or recovery. We pray for those who are estranged from one another and for people undergoing stressful transitions. Send the light and peace of your presence, O God, and send us, too, that we might bear the light of Christ and so bring companionship and hope by your grace.

We thank you for such expansive love and for the rich variety of ways you make yourself known among us.

Stretch us, O God; expand the horizons of our lives so that we are able to comprehend the mysterious and wonderful ways you are at work in the world, joining you with joy and thanksgiving. In Christ, through Christ, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we pray. **Amen.**

Anthem: "Ring, Christmas Bells" (Ukrainian Bell Carol)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Virginia Olejnik

O God of wonder, as that ancient star rose and guided the magi, illuminating the place where Jesus was, so now may the light of your Holy Spirit shine in our hearts and minds as the Word is read and proclaimed. Guide us again to be servants of your gospel. By your grace, through the power of your Holy Spirit, reveal to us your wisdom in its rich variety. Speak to us in your Word read and

proclaimed, that hearing we may in turn be directed in new paths of faithfulness and share with others the boundless riches of Christ, that everyone might come to see your plan for all creation. In Christ Jesus our Lord we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Virginia Olejnik

Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Message: "Come From Away Part 2" Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

Can you think of a dark time in your own life or a dark time in the history of the world when God's glory shone? When the light of Christ's presence became evident? When was that time? What

happened? Who was a bearer of light in that darkness? Is there presently someone you know or some situation weighed down in darkness or despair? How can you be a light-bearer for that person, that circumstance?

Reflection: “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

Hannah Yi, pianist

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Virginia Olejnik

As the magi entered the house, they knelt in joy and paid homage to Jesus. Opening their treasure chests, they gave gifts to him. So we come into God’s house today, offering from our own treasure chests gifts to Christ, the light of the world.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Gloria”

Lisa Margaroli, alto

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Virginia Olejnik

Though we are least among the saints, O God, still you have given us the gift of your grace that we might share with others the boundless riches of Christ, and also the resources we hold in trust. Receive now, we ask, what we have given today. Use these offerings and use us for your plans and purposes. We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn Carol: “Good Christians All, Rejoice!”

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

May the love of God uphold you; the light of Christ guide you; and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit fill you with joy for your journey. Get up: shake off apathy, despair, and anything else that has brought you low. Arise, shine; for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Glow: reflect God’s glory, the light of Christ, so that others may see in you the glory of God.

Blessed Be the Tie that Binds

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. Amen.

Postlude - Hymn Carol: “Silent Night”

Notes and Announcements:

Note: Coffee Fellowship following Sunday Worship is on hold until further notice. Refreshments will not be provided after Christmas Day, or New Year's Day services. The kitchen "Elves" are taking a breather!

Flowers: Provided by the congregation and LWKCC

See the sign-up charts to provide refreshments or cover cost of altar flowers. Altar flowers are \$35. Sandy Walker coordinates arrangements.

Year End Giving: If you would like to provide a special year end offering, please use the "Christmas Offering" envelope provided with your Worship Guide

Poinsettias: If you purchased a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, you may be pick it up after the Christmas worship service.

Poinsettias Given With Love

Donated By

Korean Community Church
Carmen Edward
Phyllis Spencer
Gerri Seaton
Joyce Reed

Marylee Thomsen
Roberta Lane
Virginia Olejnik

In Memory/Honor of

Friendship with Community Church
Memory of son, Lionel
Memory of husband, Lee
Memory of parents
Memory of husband, Jim and
Son, Michael

Memory of John Lane
My loved ones passed

Christmas Doxology

Transcribed and Adapted by David Albulario for Leisure World Community Church. Seal Beach, California

Words by
THOMAS KEN;
adapt. Dale A. Schoening

Traditional German Carol
O TANNENBAUM

$\text{♩} = 100$

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow, in ev-'ry gen - er - a - tion. Praise

6

God, all crea - tures here be-low, who gives to us sal - va - tion. Praise

10

God a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host, Cre - a - tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Let

14

all cre-a - tion praise the Lord with love and ad - or - a - tion.

Joy to the World

words by Isaac Watts, alt.

tune: *Antioch*, George Frederick Handel
adapt. & arr. by Lowell Mason

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth re-ceive her King.
2. Joy to the earth! The The Sav-our reigns. Let men their songs na-tions
3. He rules the world The with truth and grace and makes the na-tions prove

Let while ev-'ry heart pre- pare Him room, and
the the fields - 'ry floods, rocks, hills and plains re-
glo - ries of His right - eous - ness and

heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
won - ders of His love, and won - ders of His

and re - heav'n and na - ture sing and re -
and - peat the sound - ing joy love and -
and won - ders of His

sing, and hea - ven and hea - ven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat - ven and the sound - ing joy.
love, and ders, won - - - ders of His love.

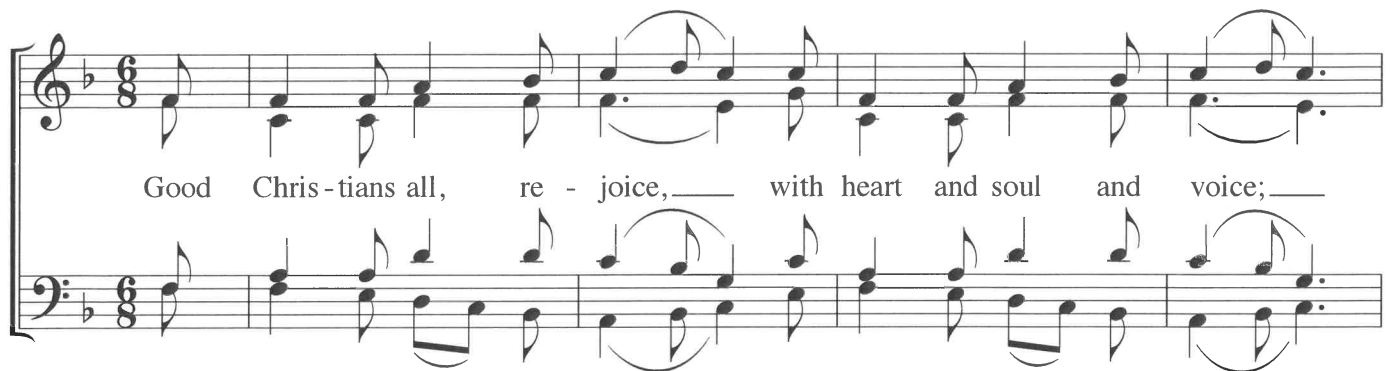
heav'n and na - ture sing
peat the sound - ing joy
won - ders of His love

Good Christians All, Rejoice!

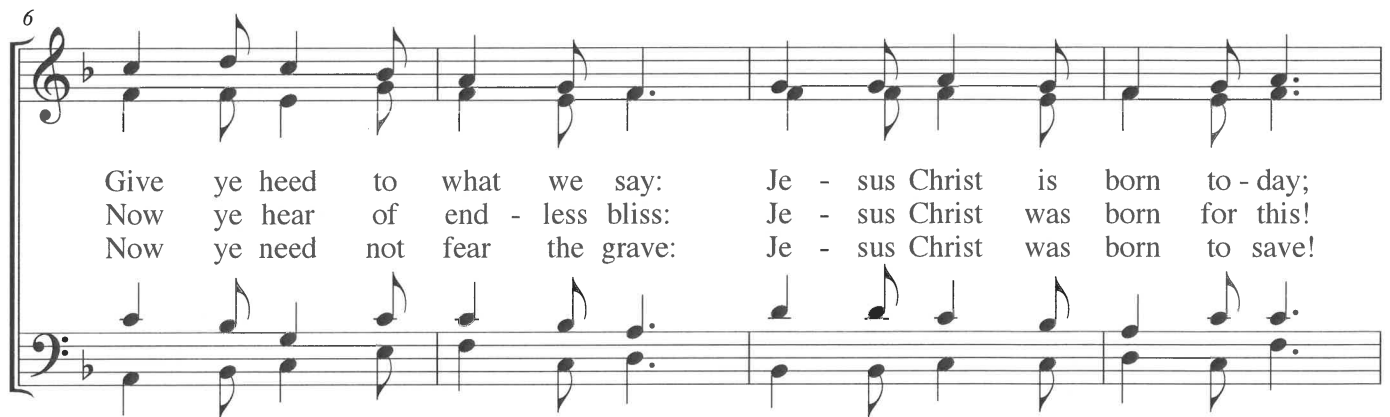
Transcribed and Adapted by David Albulario for Leisure World Community Church, Seal Beach, California

English Words by
JOHN M. NEALE

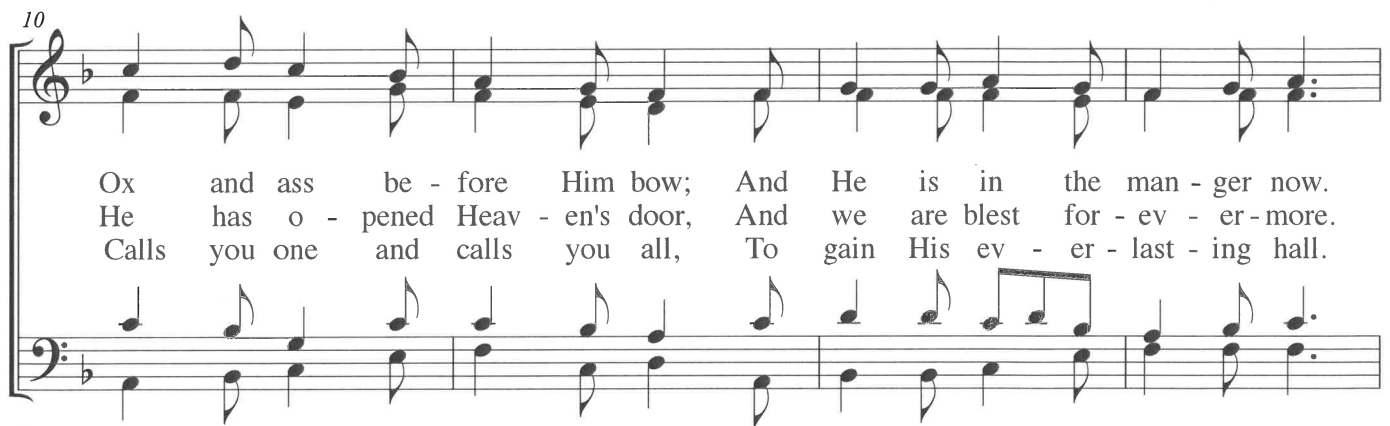
Traditional German Melody
IN DULCI JUBILO



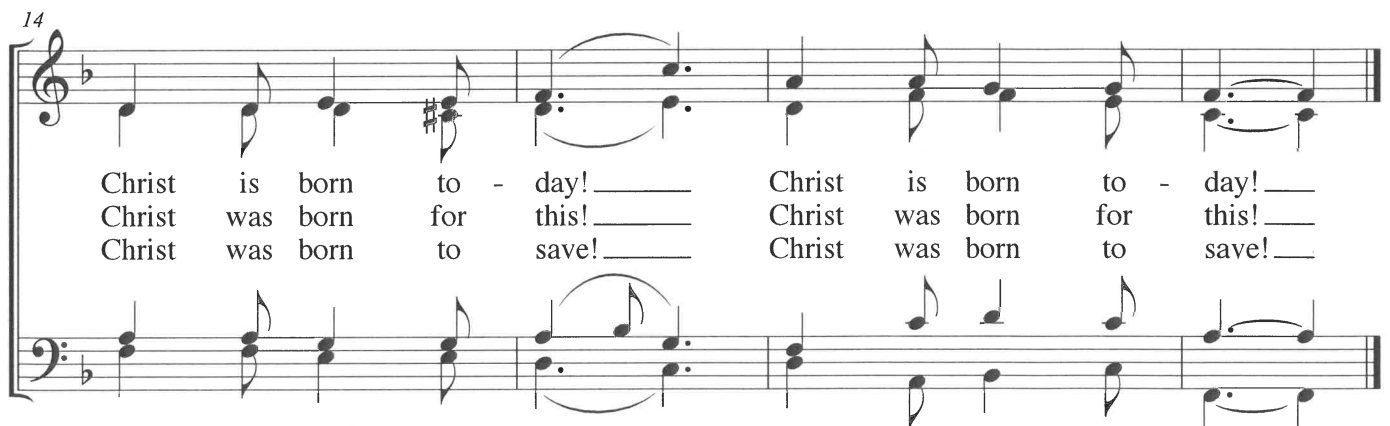
Good Chris - tians all, re - joice, — with heart and soul and voice; —



6
Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
Now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
Now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



10
Ox and ass be - fore Him bow; And He is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened Heav - en's door, And we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all, To gain His ev - er - last - ing hall.



14
Christ is born to - day! — Christ is born to - day! —
Christ was born for this! — Christ was born for this! —
Christ was born to save! — Christ was born to save! —

Silent Night

wrds by Joseph Mohr
trans. John F. Young

tune by Franz Gruber, alt.
harm. by Carl H. Reinecke

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight,
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

The first system of musical notation for 'Silent Night' is in 6/8 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are arranged in three parts, with the first part starting on a 'range 2' note. The melody is simple and gentle, with a focus on the lyrics.

round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,
glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia.
ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawning of re - deem - ing grace,

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and lyrics. It includes a 'range 2' note and a 'range 1' note. The lyrics are arranged in three parts, with the first part starting on a 'range 2' note. The melody is simple and gentle, with a focus on the lyrics.

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ the Sav - iour is born, Christ the Sav - iour is born!
Je - sus, Lord at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord at thy birth.

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. It includes a 'range 2' note and a 'range 1' note. The lyrics are arranged in three parts, with the first part starting on a 'range 2' note. The melody is simple and gentle, with a focus on the lyrics.