

The Light of Christ ANGELICAN CHURCH

Connecting the Gospel of the Kingdom to Ordinary Lives

The First Sunday after Epiphany
January 8, 2023 - 10:00 am



Welcome to The Light of Christ Anglican Church (TLC).

At TLC, we engage with what it means that God's Kingdom is not only a future promise but also a present reality within our world even now, ushered in by Christ.

This reality shapes our worship and life together. It speaks into the way we embrace community in our multi-ethnic and multi-generational context as one big family.

Worship is the core that brings all aspects of our identity together. In worship we celebrate the King who loves us and has redeemed us, and who invites us to join in His Redemptive story within the world.

A Note to Our Guests

If you are visiting TLC for the first time, it is our hope that you would feel very welcome. Here are a few thoughts on how to make that happen.

- Everything you need to follow the service is in this bulletin, the responses for you are in bold. Lyrics are projected on the screen.
- Are you new to liturgy? Please do not be bothered. We are not about perfection. We are ordinary people gathered to worship.
- If you are comfortable doing so, we encourage you to let an usher know it's your first time. They can help make your experience smoother. For example, you may find it helpful if you sat next to a member who knows their way around here and can answer any questions for you.

Did You Bring Little Ones?

At TLC, we value children. They are not tomorrow's church. They are one church with us. We strive to make their worship experience age appropriate.

Infants through age 4 are welcome to check in any time at the nursery. There is childcare through the entire duration of the worship service. If you prefer to have your child with you during the service or part of it, that is also welcome.

Sundays

8 am, Early Service
9 am, Discipleship Classes
10 am, Late Service & Livestream

Mondays

10 am, Wegener Women's Group
(1st & 3rd)

Tuesdays

2 pm, Sorensen Women's Group
(1st & 3rd)
6 pm, Vestry, (2nd)

Wednesdays

6:30 pm Youth

Thursdays

5 pm, Ogawa Women's Group
6 pm, Second Thursday Dinner

Saturdays

8 am, Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
(2nd and 4th)

The Gathering

The Processional

Celebrant: Blessed be God: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Let us pray:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Worship Song

The Collect

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Word

A Reading from the Book of Acts. (10:34-43)

³⁴Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

³⁷You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

³⁹"We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and

drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

A Psalm. (29) Read responsively by half verse.

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴ The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

⁷ The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁸ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.

⁹ And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.

¹¹ The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Gospel (Matthew 3:13-17)

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Children's Discipleship

The children now proceed to their fellowship following the banner. They rejoin us during the Peace. The Karen also leave to hear the sermon proclaimed in their language and return afterward to continue the rest of the service together.

Leader: Children of God
People: **The Lord be with you as you worship.**
Children: And also with you.

Sermon

Rev. Donald Nwankwo

The Karen move to the Kolini room to hear the message presented in their language.

The Response

Prayers of the People

Leader: Lord and Master, your church marks the season of Epiphany. You revealed yourself and called your disciples to closer fellowship and a deeper knowledge of you. In this season we raise our prayers to you.

The Magi came from distant lands to see your Son
Guided by the star, they found Jesus and worshipped
May the Star of the Gospel rise across all lands
May your light shine in the dark places of this world
Reveal yourself to us, Lord.

Your Son went through John's Baptism at Jordan
You called Him your Beloved Son before the people
Cause us to remember our baptism into Christ
Remind us that we are your beloved in Him
Reveal yourself in us, Lord.

Your Son was presented at the Temple as a child
As was required of you in the law given through Moses
We dedicate all our children in this place to you
May they be the Temple where your Holy Spirit dwells
Reveal yourself to our children, Lord.

The Holy Family lived far from their homeland, in exile
Where they experienced your provision and protection
We remember before you all who are burdened and distressed
Meet them at their point of need with your care and blessing
Reveal your grace to us, Lord.

You called your first disciples to follow you
Leaving all behind, they answered your call
Renew in us a love for you above all else
Do your work in us to the glory of the Father
Reveal yourself in and through us, Lord.

You may now raise your individual requests to the Lord.

Deacon:

God and Father of us all, we thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ. Open our eyes to see Him revealed to us daily. Open our ears to hear his call on our lives. Open our hearts to love Him above all else. Open our minds to ponder on His goodness and grace. Open our hands to receive all He has for us in this life and in eternity. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant:

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Please greet one another in the name of the Lord. The children ages 5 through 4th grade will be practicing for the Christmas Pageant, through Dec 11th. The pageant will be presented on Dec. 18th. They will rejoin us during the peace.

Announcements

Offertory

Doxology

The Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Eucharist

Celebrant: Is the Father with us?

People: **He is.**

Celebrant: Is Christ among us?

People: **He is.**

Celebrant: Is the Spirit here?

People: **He is.**

This is our God.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We are his people.

We are redeemed.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant:

It is right and our delight to give you thanks and praise, great Father, living God, supreme over the world, Creator, Provider, Savior and Giver. From a wandering nomad you created your family; for a burdened people you raised up a leader; for a confused nation you chose a king; for a rebellious crowd you sent your prophets. In these last days you have sent us your Son, your perfect image, bringing your kingdom, revealing your will, dying, rising, reigning, and remaking your people for yourself. Through him you have poured out your Holy Spirit, filling us with light and life.

Therefore with angels, archangels, faithful ancestors, and all in heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you and singing:

Sanctus

Almighty God, owner of all things, we thank you for giving up your only Son to die on the cross for us who owe you everything. Pour your refreshing on us as we remember him in the way he commanded, through these gifts of your creation. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.

On the same night that he was betrayed he took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Amen. His body was broken for us.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave thanks; he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Amen. His blood was shed for us.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Heavenly Father, hear us as we celebrate this covenant with joy, and await the coming of our brother, Jesus Christ. He died in our place, making a full atonement for the sins of the whole world, the perfect sacrifice, once and for all. You accepted his offering by raising him from death and granting him great honor at your right hand on high.

Amen. Jesus is Lord.

As our Savior, Jesus, taught us, so we pray:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia! This is the feast of victory.

The lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia!

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,

We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ is alive forever.

We are because he is.

We are one body.

We share one bread.

Draw near with faith.

Christ is the host and we are his guests.

(We have gluten-wheat-yeast-dairy-egg-soy-nut-and-corn free communion wafers available for anyone who needs it. Please let the Clergy serving communion know if you prefer to receive those.)

(All baptized Christians are welcome to take communion. The ushers will direct the people down the center aisle. After receiving bread, please take a cup from the tray, then dispose of your cup in the basket.)

Communion Songs

Prayer Ministers are available to pray with you during communion. If you would like to pray with a minister, please come to the alcove on the left-hand side of the sanctuary (when facing the altar).

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we have eaten at your table and heard your word this day. Give us grace to receive it, understanding to know it, faith to believe it, and in this coming week, the will to obey it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Sending

Celebrant: All our problems
People: **We send to the cross of Christ.**
Celebrant: All our difficulties
People: **We send to the cross of Christ.**
Celebrant: All the devil's works
People: **We send to the cross of Christ.**
Celebrant: All our hopes
People: **We set on the risen Christ.**

Celebrant:
Christ our Lord, to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts; perfect in you the image of his glory, gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom, and pour upon you the riches of his grace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit abide with you now and always.
Amen.

The Recessional

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

Solomon's Porch, Wednesdays, Jan 11, 18, 25, & Feb 1st. 6 – 8 pm.

Join us four consecutive Wednesday evenings beginning January 11, from 6–8 pm. Bring a sack supper to eat at 5:30 pm, we will provide a drink and dessert. Come to dive deeper and engage in Scripture and Christian history in a way that shapes us as Christians in today's world, as we deepen relationships with others in our church community.

Second Thursday Dinner – Jan 12th @ 6 pm - IHOP, 7733 W. Long Dr., Littleton, CO. RSVP to Paul Wegener, 303-963-5774, if you would like to join us.

Celebration Sunday, Jan 29th, Sunday School at 9 am, Eucharist Service at 10 am. We will have ONE service to celebrate God's blessings on TLC in the past year followed by a short business meeting. This is our one Business Meeting of the Year and a chance for all to reflect on the past year in the Senior Warden's report and to hear about our vision for 2023 in Pastor Donald's report. There is also time set aside for you to ask questions and make comments. We hope you will plan on attending. Childcare will be provided.

Community Ministry – January

Jelly, Peanut butter, Canned Fruit, Cereal

Stewardship

Thank you for your faithful stewardship at TLC. Your generosity and participation among God's people enable us to accomplish Kingdom goals together. May the Lord continue to bless TLC.

Offering – \$7,213.01

Budget – \$8,900.00

Giving to TLC

There are multiple ways available to send your offerings to the church.

- Through Zelle which acts like a bank transfer. Please use our admin's email, jeanie@tlcdenver.org, when you set it up.
- Through our secure, easy-to-use online page at www.onrealm.org/TheLightChrist/Give
- By texting TLCgiving to 73256. (standard text message and data rates may apply)
- By mailing a check to the church.

Pastoral Staff

Donald Nwankwo, Rector – Donald@tlcdenver.org

Toe Ma, Canon of Karen – Toetoema700@gmail.com

Peggy Murray, Executive Pastor – Peggy@tlcdenver.org

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Vestry

Bishop Ken Ross

Donald Nwankwo (Rector)

Pam Munter (Sr. Warden)

Michael Padbury (Treasurer)

Jacob Blessing

Lorraine Bosworth

Kay Buturla

Judi Carey

Steven Soe

Contact Information

For Prayer Requests and Prayer Chain, please email barbpadbury@comcast.net