

CROWN OF GLORY

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation



*We are one family of God,
inspired by the Holy Spirit to welcome everyone,
to serve our neighbors, and to share God's love and saving grace.*



“A Promise of Peace”

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Cantata
December 21, 2025
9:00 a.m.

GATHERING MUSIC

Ukrainian Bell Carol
(Mykola Leontovych, arr. Zach Heyde and Frank Tedesco)
(Ginger Larson and Pastor Laura Laughlin)

Music Note

This popular Christmas carol is based on the Ukrainian New Year celebration song, “Shchedryk” and was originally written and arranged by Ukrainian composer, Mykola Leontovych. This four-hand piano version, arranged by Zach Heyde and Frank Tedesco, highlights the chaos of the familiar melody with interchanging parts and positions. Pay attention to the live video feed of Pastor Laura and Ginger’s hands, as they will cover the full range of keys, sometimes interlocking arms to do so!

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Crown of Glory is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.
- We will not be celebrating Holy Communion in worship today.
- Members, guests, and visitors are invited to fill out a yellow Welcome Card located in a Hymnal, at the North entrance, Hospitality Station, and Church Office table. If you need a pencil/pen, they can be found at the North entrance of the building, Hospitality Station, and church office. Filled out Welcome Cards can be placed in the offering plate during offering, put in the designated box at the church office desk, or handed to an usher as you leave worship today.
- The Kiddos' Corner is located at the North side of the Sanctuary along with Activity Bags. Please utilize these resources as needed throughout our worship service.
- Thank you to our Readers, Elias Barnett, Grant Taylor, and Tammy Wolf, to our AV Technicians, Matt Scherer and Tony Sie, to the Crown Brass, Percussionists, Servant Song, Youth Christmas Choir, Chancel Chimers, Chancel Choir, and the Music Ministry Staff for their music, and to our Hospitality volunteers for their help with today's service.

ENSEMBLE ANTHEM

O Magnum Mysterium (Morten Lauridsen) (Crown Brass)

Music Note

The title of this piece translates to “O Great Mystery” and was originally written by Morten Lauridsen as a motet to be sung a capella (without instruments) by a choir as a Gregorian chant. While the words are not sung today, keep them in mind as the Crown Brass brings the melodies to life in this performance:

*O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger!
Blessed is the virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord, Jesus Christ. Alleluia!*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Wait for the Lord (ELW 262)

ENSEMBLE ANTHEM

Joy Unto the World
(Dan Ostebo, Ethan Hulse, Jordan Mohilowski, Joshua Havens, & Matt Fuqua)
(Servant Song and Youth Chorus)

Music Note

This modern take on the traditional Advent hymn, *Joy to the World*, brings focus to the light and peace that the birth of Jesus brings to the world. Our Youth Choir joins their young voices with those of our worship band, Servant Song, to proclaim that the longed-for Messiah is near:

Your light came breaking through the darkness, waking every heart with heaven singing, “Joy unto the world!” Our long-awaited Savior, You will reign forever. We are singing, “Joy unto the world!”

A LITANY OF HOPE

P: As we worship today, may we know the hope that is not just for someday but for this day here, now, in this moment that opens to us:

C: **hope not made of wishes but of substance,**

P: hope made of sinew and muscle and bone,

C: **hope that has breath and a beating heart,**

P: hope that will not keep quiet and be polite,

C: **hope that knows how to holler when it is called for,**

P: hope that knows how to sing when there seems little cause,

C: **hope that raises us from the dead**

P: not someday but this day, every day,

All: again and again and again. Amen.

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ENSEMBLE ANTHEM

As the Deer (Martin Nystrom, arr. Patricia Sanders Cota)
(Chancel Chimers)

Music Note

This praise and worship song was written by Martin J. Nystrom, with the lyrics based on Psalm 42:1 – “As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs for You; You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship you.” This arrangement for handbells rings out the longing that permeates the season of Advent and the great anticipation for the Savior of love and peace to come among us once again.

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ENSEMBLE ANTHEM

Still, Still, Still (Tradition German Carol, arr. William Berry)
(Crown Brass)

Music Note

This Austrian Christmas carol and lullaby’s melody is a folk tune from the district of Salzburg, with the modern German text attributed to Georg Götsch. The words describe the peace of the infant Jesus and his mother, Mary, as she sings him to sleep. The soaring notes of this lullaby in today’s brass arrangement by William Berry bring a peace of their own, offering a moment of breath and reflection on the miracle of Immanuel.

Great, great, great, love is exceedingly great. God has left the throne of heaven and must travel the roads. Great, great, great, love is exceedingly great! (verse 3)

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 58:6-12

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am." If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. ¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

P: Word of God, Word of Life.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

ENSEMBLE ANTHEM

Who But the Lord? (Craig Courtney) (Chancel Choir)

Music Note

The text for this choral piece is based on the text from Isaiah 58, proclaiming all that God has and continues to do through the person of Jesus Christ, Immanuel. The beginning chant yearns for the coming of Jesus to bring comfort from afar and the rest of the choir responds with the declaration of faith:

Who but the Lord can give the shadows light? None but the Lord. Oh, shine on us!

OFFERING

Christmas is Coming (CAIN) (Servant Song)

The offering will be received in offering plates during worship. To give by phone with *Text-to-Give*, text 833-497-3991 with the amount that you would like to contribute. To give online, visit our website and click on the *GIVE+Online* icon. We give thanks and praise for all gifts given toward our on-going mission.

Music Note

The band, CAIN, wrote this song to highlight the moment the shepherds received the news from the angels that the unthinkable had happened...Jesus was born and changed the world forever! The song is sung from the perspective of these lowly shepherds and the chorus declares the charge given to them to share this good news with everyone:

They said (we've got) to tell everybody Christmas is coming! The waiting is over, our God is with us. Joy to the world for our Savior is born! Oh tell everybody, Christmas is coming!

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Nourishing God,
C: **you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, nourish our hearts, that we may rejoice and be signs of your kingdom come in a world longing for hope. Amen.**

ENSEMBLE ANTHEM

Angels From the Realms of Glory (Henry T. Smart, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski)
(Chancel Chimers)

Music Note

The tune for this familiar Christmas hymn, Regent Square, was composed by Henry T. Smart, who was regarded for his improvisational skills and continued his work as an organist even after becoming blind in 1865. The text, written by James Montgomery in 1816, compels all those listening to join with the choir of angels, the group of shepherds, the wise sages, and all creation in proclaiming, “Come and worship Christ, the newborn king!” Today’s handbell arrangement by Cynthia Dobrinski captures the joyful magnitude of this traditional hymn while also honoring the less joyful moments found in life on this earth, proclaiming that Christ enters into it all.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: God of grace,
C: **hear our prayer.**

ENSEMBLE ANTHEM

Hallelujah (Light Has Come) (BarlowGirl, arr. Grace Becker)

(Tabitha Hanson, Grace Becker, Sarah Morrow, Pastor Laura Laughlin, Ginger Larson; Rachel Berg Scherer, percussion)

Music Note

This song is sung from Mary's point of view on the night of Jesus' birth, as she takes in everything that has taken place, and reflects on what the coming of Christ not only means for her, but for the entire world. The ensemble is comprised of the Music Ministry Staff and CoG member, Rachel Berg Scherer.

Hallelujah! We've been found. A Child is born to save us now. Hallelujah! Light has come; a Savior who will set us free. Praise to God on high!

PEACE

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

ENSEMBLE ANTHEM

Prayer for Shalom (Kyle Pederson) (Chancel Choir)

Music Note

It may seem curious that we share the peace each week in worship. It is such a brief moment and yet, in the world in which we live, we find ourselves in need of every second of shalom (meaning peace, wholeness, and well-being) that we can embrace and share. Kyle Pederson's *Prayer for Shalom* is a cry to God for the peace so desperately needed, the peace that was and is made real and true in the person of Jesus Christ, and a call to the responsibility we all share in furthering that peace through our lives of faith.

God's peace to you, and grace and truth, a place where you can be made new! Shalom my friend, shalom, shalom!

THANK YOU

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her

quietly.²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

ALL ENSEMBLE ANTHEM

Emmanuel! God With Us! (Mary McDonald)
(Crown of Glory Music Ensembles)

Music Note

Every musician joins together in this final anthem, interweaving the themes experienced throughout today's service: the light, peace, and promise of God made real in Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. Together, we join our voices and melodies giving thanks and praise to our Creator for this gift and we repeat it for all to hear:

Emmanuel! Emmanuel! God with us. Emmanuel!

BLESSING

P: May God who comes among us, Creator, [☩] Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: **Thanks be to God. We will!**

SENDING MUSIC

Joy to the World (arr. Kristen Allred and Stephine Ng)
(Ginger Larson)

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Advent 2025: “In Days to Come”

Welcome to the season of Advent! We begin the church year waiting for the arrival of our Savior and yearning for the hope that he brings to our broken world. This year, we will watch as a tree grows and transforms in our Sanctuary, highlighting the Biblical themes that we hear from the books of Isaiah and Matthew each week of Advent.



Advent Week 1

“Plant and Wait”

(Isaiah 2:1-5 & Matthew 24: 36-44)

We gather around and under the tree that is bare, perhaps appearing as though it is not alive, but we look to the coming of our Savior to prove us wrong and bring light, life, and transformation.



Advent Week 2

“Grow in Hope”

(Isaiah 11:1-10 & Matthew 3:1-12)

We hear from the prophets, Isaiah and John the Baptist, foretelling of the One who is coming, and the hope that grows from this good news, quite similar to the hope that is found in the waters of baptism.



Advent Week 3

“Blossom with Joy”

(Isaiah 35: 1-10 & Matthew 11:2-11)

We experience brilliant imagery of life bursting forth from parched places, strength amid fear, peace among enemies, and life renewed through the healing love of the Savior to come.

We also witness life and joy through the voices of the youngest among us as they tell the story of Jesus’ birth.



Advent Week 4

“A Promise of Peace”

(Isaiah 7:10-16, Isaiah 58: 6-12, Matthew 1:18-25)

Immanuel/Emmanuel, God with us, is the theme of this day, as we embrace the promise of peace that is proclaimed through word and song in the texts for the day, and the offerings of Crown of Glory’s musical ensembles in the annual Christmas Cantata. The tree reflects the light-filled promise as it twinkles throughout the service, reminding us of the heavens that will be filled with angels in just a few short days.



Christmas Eve

“Love Has Come”

(Isaiah 9: 2-7 & Luke 2:1-20)

We move from waiting, “In Days to Come,” to celebrating that “Love Has Come” on Christmas! The life that abounds from the manger is reflected in the colors and life that bursts forth from the tree and encapsulates the Sanctuary, all the way to the cross. We join with the angels and all creation in singing praises to God for the gift of Love.

Announcements

Building and Offices Closed: December 25 (Christmas) & January 1 (New Year's Day)

Year-end Giving

2025 is almost over but it is not too late to offer a gift that impacts our future ministries and helps us reach our goal. Visit our [website](#) to make a year-end gift, mail your gift, or drop your gift off at the church. **Gifts for 2025 must be received or postmarked by Wednesday, December 31, 2025.**
Thank you for your consideration of a year-end gift and for your continued support of Crown of Glory and its ministries.

Sign Up on the Worship Whiteboard

Located to the left of the Hospitality Station outside the main Sanctuary entrance, this board is available to kids of all ages to volunteer to help in worship with things like passing the Offering plates, serving Communion to the Pastors, lighting candles, etc. All kids are encouraged to arrive by 8:55 a.m. on Sunday to get signed up.

Winter Crownicle Available

The Winter Crownicle features an article from Council Secretary, Sherri Eriksrud, on page 4. There are a few printed copies available for reading at the church and it is available to view online on the Crown of Glory website.

Wednesday Night Programming

Wednesday Night Dinner Team: Seeking New Members

Our Wednesday Night Dinner is small and mighty. They work hard to plan the meals, purchase food, prepare meals each week and oversee each Wednesday night serving time. We are seeking new members to join this team of amazing leaders. If you would like to volunteer to serve on this team, we welcome your participation! Contact pastorreggie@crownofglory.org for more details and information.

Wednesday Night Dinner

Do you want a night off from making dinner? Join us for a wonderful meal and fellowship on Wednesday nights. Dinner is served almost every Wednesday from 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. The cost is \$6 per youth or \$16 per family (cash or Venmo). Crown of Glory Venmo code is available at the dinner line for payment option. Meals are prepared by the Wednesday Night Dinner Team and served by Confirmation small groups. All dinners include a salad and yogurt bar.

Menu:

December 24 & 31: No Dinner

Kitchen Helpers:

Winter Break

Music Ministry Rehearsals: No Rehearsals December 24 & 31

Servant Song: Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir: Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m.

Chancel Chimers: Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Garage Band: TBD

Connect and Confirmation: No Classes December 24 & 31

Registration is open: Connect– 6:00-7:00 p.m. crownofglory.org/children

Confirmation– 6:30-8:00 p.m. crownofglory.org/middle-school-youth

Children and Youth

SPARK: No SPARK December 21 & 28

Registration is open for SPARK- crownofglory.org/sunday-school-registration

Volunteer for SPARK Leader or Helper and Kiddos' Corner- crownofglory.org/children

Adult Ministry and Education

J & I Team Meeting: January 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Lutheran Women Gone Wild: January 8

Join this group of women for good food and fellowship at Turtle's Bar and Grill, Shakopee, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Contact Sandi Rue at sandirue@gmail.com with any questions and to RSVP.

Women's Bible Study: January 10 at 9:00 a.m. in the Sun Hall

Led by CoG member, Sherri Taylor, this group of curious and delightful women meet once a month on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. throughout the program year to study a book of the Bible together. This year, they will be journeying through First and Second Corinthians.

Sunday Conversations: January 11 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Sun Hall

Book Discussion: January 15

You are invited to join the Justice & Inclusion Team for a discussion of the book *Being Ellen: A Second Chance at Life* by Ellen Krug. The author will join us for this event which will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2026, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Sun Hall. Copies of the book can be purchased from the author at elliejkrug@gmail.com, your local bookseller or Amazon. There are also a few copies available at the Hennepin County Libraries. If you have questions please contact Becky Varone at rebecca.varone@gmail.com.

Men's Pub Ministry: January 22

Join this group at Crown of Glory for a Bottling Party from 6:30-8:00 p.m. We will be bottling the beer from the retreat. Please bring a beer to share and pizza will be provided.

Donations, Fundraisers, and Volunteering

Crown of Glory's Monthly Pledge to the Bountiful Basket Food Shelf

During December we will be collecting donations of toilet paper, laundry detergent, dish soap, and shampoo. These items should be placed in the bin located in the Gathering Space. Thank you for your generosity!

Christmas Tree Pickup

Let Scouts from Crown of Glory's BSA troop 174 help you dispose of your Christmas tree in an environmentally friendly manner. No need to bag! Just throw your tree on the curb, and scouts will pick it up on Saturday, January 3. A \$10 donation is requested, which supports camps and other important scouting programs. Visit <https://bit.ly/troop174trees> or follow the QR code to sign up by **Sunday, December 21**.

Thank you for supporting our Scouts!



SCAN ME



Donations, Fundraisers, and Volunteering



2025 CoG Giving Tree:

The 2025 Giving Tree has Christmas ornaments labeled with donation items to help welcome eighteen new families into Prairie Pointe. We will receive these donations until January 5. Please place these purchased items in the donation box in the Sun Hall or under the tree. The tree will also include donation envelopes benefiting The Faithful Knotters, The Kitchen Essentials Ministry, and Bountiful Basket Food Shelf. Any gifts given in those envelopes will be split three ways for these ministries. We will receive these gifts through December 28. You may place the gift envelopes for the ministries in the drop box in the Church Office. Crown of Glory Ministries and the families at Prairie Pointe thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the ministry teams. Tracy Cunningham- Kitchen Essentials Ministry- tacunningham3040@gmail.com, Corky Jochum- Faithful Knotters- cejochum@gmail.com, Becky Varone- Justice & Inclusion Team- rebecca.varone@gmail.com, Sara Keim- Bountiful Basket- sara@crownofglory.org. Thank you from the Crown of Glory Justice & Inclusion Team

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule:

2:00 p.m. (In Person)

3:30 p.m. (In Person & Livestream)

5:00 p.m. (In Person)

Financial Update:

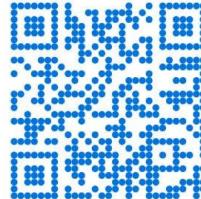
Financial Reports

Copies of Financial Reports can be found on the display board next to the main Church Office or by contacting our Finance Manager, Ashley Pederson.

Ways to Give at Crown of Glory



To give via Venmo, scan the QR code. Include the amount you would like to contribute and the fund you are giving to.



Directing Thrivent Choice Dollars:

Online: thriveon.com/thriventchoice

Phone: 1-800-847-4836

Contact: Pastor Reggie (952)-448-3230 ext. 3
pastorreggie@crownofglory.org

Scan the Code:



Charitable Giving Information

Investment groups have great information on tax savings that help you give more to charitable causes and could save you money overall. Win/win! Check out this link for ideas (disclaimer, we do not give tax advice, simply serving up ideas for your review with your tax advisor).

<https://www.fidelitycharitable.org/guidance/charitable-tax-strategies.html>

Church Council



Pictured from left to right:

Pastor Reggie Klindworth (Senior Pastor), Kate Peterson, Kristi Kirsch, Deb Mangen, Sherri Eriksrud (Secretary), Eric Larson (Vice President), Bill Tyler, Mikel Jones (President), Bob Chinnock, Pastor Laura Laughlin (Pastor of Worship and Music)

Staff

Senior Pastor	Reggie Klindworth	pastorreggie@crownofglory.org 952-448-3230 ext. 3
Pastor of Worship and Music	Laura Laughlin	pastorlaura@crownofglory.org 952-448-3230 ext. 4
Finance Manager	Ashley Pederson	ashley@crownofglory.org 952-448-3230 ext. 5
Director of SPARK Ministry	Gretchen Mitcham	gretchen@crownofglory.org 952-448-3230 ext. 7
Administrative Office Assistant	Sara Keim	sara@crownofglory.org 952-448-3230 ext. 8
Piano Accompanist Ginger Larson	Organist Tabitha Hanson	Chancel Chimers Director Sarah Morrow
Servant Song Leader Grace Becker		

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Worship Schedule (All Year): Sunday 9:00 a.m.

SPARK Sunday School (Program Year): Sunday 9:55-10:35 a.m.