



CHRISTMAS EVE

Holy Communion

Christ the King Lutheran Church

Great Falls, Virginia

December 24, 2023

7:00 & 11:00 p.m.

*Our vision is to be a vibrant community of Jesus' disciples,
empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring God's grace into our world.*

ELW refers to Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the red hymnal in the pew.

ACS refers to All Creation Sings.

A: indicates Assisting Minister; P: indicates Presiding Minister; R: indicates Reader;

C: indicates Congregation.

At places where the ✝ appears, it is customary to make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your baptism. The Congregation responds with the words in **bold type**.

Should you need to use an enlarged print order of service, complete with Bible readings and hymns, you will find several in red binders located on the usher's table at the back of the sanctuary.

A few notes about Christmas Eve worship:

- **We are glad to have children in worship.** We also know that children sometimes need to move and express themselves in ways that the service (and the pews) don't accommodate. There is a family break room available with toys, a rocking chair, changing table, and other items. It will be staffed during the 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship services, but you are free to use it as needed.

To find the family break room, turn left in the foyer and go past the doors leading to the parking lot. It's the first door on the left down the hall.

- Christ the King strives to be a welcoming and safe place for all. Masks are optional; the pastor will wear a mask when moving among the congregation and when distributing communion.
- The 7:00 p.m. worship service will be streamed live on Facebook. The camera angles are set so that worshipers' faces are never seen on camera (the camera may occasionally pick up the back of the heads of those sitting in the front rows); only those leading worship from the chancel, lectern, piano, and organ are ever shown fully or face-on.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.


PRELUDE

ENTRANCE OF THE CHRIST CANDLE


PROCLAMATION OF LIGHT

P: The people have stumbled in the abyss for so long but now have their paths illuminated. For those dwelling in a land of deep shadows, radiance shines forth. God brought forth the bright blessed day and the dark sacred night and declared them to be good. In the fullness of time, the Word, that divine shine, put on flesh to stay among us. And we saw the Word's glory, filled with grace, filled with truth. In Jesus, brilliance illuminated the world, and the shadows did not overcome it. We have been given the gift of glow. Sometimes it is a flicker and sometimes it is a blaze, but the divine shine is within us; it is what we carry into the world. The places of shadows and stumbling yearn for the radiant beams we carry, this holy night.


GATHERING HYMN: ELW 295 Of the Father's Love Begotten




1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly




gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

RESPONSIVE READING

A: We need not be afraid.

C: for we have found favor with God.

A: When we are weary and lay down our heads,

C: God's angels descend upon us.

A: When we wrestle with life and are wounded in our struggle,

C: God's angels make sure we travel with a blessing.

A: When we are aware of our unworthiness,

C: God's angels touch our lips, hands, and hearts and declare us righteous.

A: When we are moved to generosity and hospitality,

C: We entertain angels without even knowing it.

A: And when we see God face to face,

C: We sing with the angel: Glory to God in the Highest!

HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW 289 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 62:6-12

A: A reading from Isaiah.

⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, ⁷and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

⁸The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; ⁹but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

¹⁰Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

¹¹The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion,

"See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him."

¹²They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD";
and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: ELW 290 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.



SECOND LESSON: Titus 3:4-7

A: A reading from Titus.

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 267 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Henry Langknecht

Silence for meditation may follow the sermon.

The service continues on the following page.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003756.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Angels We Have Heard on High. Public domain; The First Noel. Public Domain; Go Tell It on the Mountain. Public domain; Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. Public domain; Joy to the World. Public domain; Night Long-Awaited.

Text © 1965 and music © 1965, 2019 Lawson-Gould, admin. Alfred Music. All rights reserved.

O Come, All Ye Faithful. Public domain; O Little Town of Bethlehem. Public domain; Of the Father's Love Begotten.

Public domain; Silent Night, Holy Night! Public Domain.

Reprinted under One License # A-727861. Reprinted under CCLI #21096238.

Nativity and Annunciation to the Shepherds. Bernardino Luini.

Adoration of the Shepherds. Lorenzo Lotto. Public domain. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bernardino_Luini_-_](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bernardino_Luini_-_Nativity_and_Annunciation_to_the_Shepherds_-_WGA13754.jpg)

Nativity_and_Annunciation_to_the_Shepherds_-_WGA13754.jpg

KKU_Poinsettia © 2021 Christ the King Lutheran Church.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 283 O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Curb our addiction to the artificial light that disrupts the lives of sea turtles and migrating birds, hibernating mammals, flying insects, and owls. Deepen our care of these nonhuman neighbors. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Continue to bless the armed forces of this nation and all those around the world who work for peace, who keep the peace. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes this season difficult. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE

Please greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace by saying Peace be with you as you shake hands or embrace. Please be seated following the sharing of the peace.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL _____

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

7:00 PM CHOIR ANTHEM

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Oh Creator, from the beginning of time you have been with us. You save us again and again: from ourselves, from our hatred of others, from our judgements that we know more than you. You created us as whole beings, minds, bodies, souls, all together, all connected. You bring us prophets to point the way, to call us in, to call us toward love and life. And yet, we turn away. It is too hard to see.

In the creative darkness, in the beginning of time, the depth of Mary's womb, you knit together a human body that comes from another body. A connected body. You were a baby. We hear your cries to eat, to sleep, to be held, to be cleansed.

In the incarnation, in becoming human, you know what it is to bleed. To hurt. To cry out for justice from a body that was tortured. You know the pain of speaking up against the things that separate. The pain of oppression. And yet, you gave yourself to us. You gave your own body and blood to heal us, to bring us closer to ourselves, and one another. To heal the broken connections, within, without, and between our whole beings. In this meal, you connect your body to ours. As the story about you is told: On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, broke it, and gave it to his disciples to eat saying, "Take and eat. This is my body. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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 all people, and for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Through your human and divine body, you bring us salvation. You also shared your Spirit with us. Oh Holy Spirit, thank you for promising to infuse this wine and bread with the spirit of Jesus. Saturate the wine and the bread with your spirit. Use it to unite us to Jesus' body, and the bodies of all those around us. Unite everyone who eats of this meal, until, at last we know the joy of connection until, at last we know the joy of connection with all that is around us. Amen.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

The service continues on the following page.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW 300 The First Noel

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain
 night that was so deep.
 tin - ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay,
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

ELW 279 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: We thank you, God, for Jesus, God with us in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING

The presiding minister lights a large candle from the Christmas Candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted but is always held upright when giving light to another.

CAROL: ELW 281 Silent Night, Holy Night!



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

BLESSING

P: Listen to the angels: fear not, this is good news!

Go like the shepherds to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.

Be like Mary, treasure these words you have heard, ponder them in your heart.

And may the peace of baby Jesus give you good courage to go into the world, glorifying and praising God for all that you have seen and been told.

C: Amen.

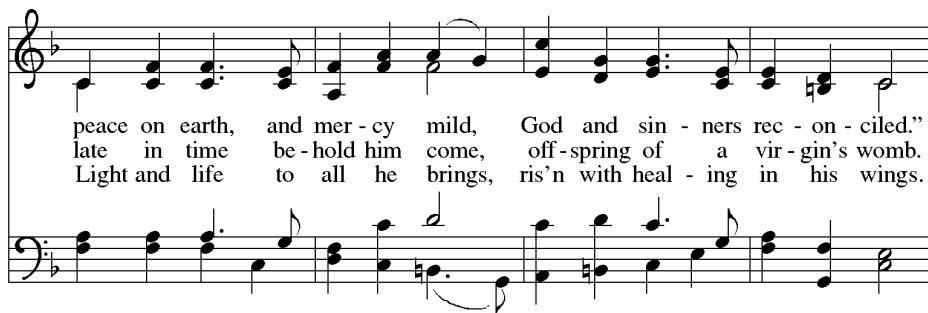
SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING HYMN: ELW 270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



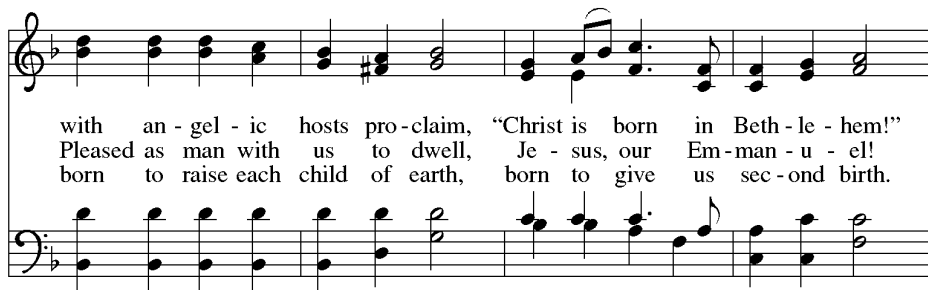
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

DISMISSAL

A: With angelic hosts proclaim, Christ lives, now! Join the triumph of the skies!

C: **Glory to the newborn king!**

POSTLUDE

Christmas Poinsettia Dedications

By	In honor of
Kim & Jon Buckingham	Our children, Sarah, Emily, and Mike
Karen & Phil Magley	Our family
Rich & Melinda McGowan	The birth of our grandson, William
Heidi Toloczko	My children, Thora, Sonia and Julia
By	In loving memory of
Martina & Don Goss	Marie & Ken Goss, Virgil & Nancy Clark, and Robert & Marie Dent
Janet & Bill Hiatt	Our parents
Kathy Hill	Myrtle & Eric Hill and Gini & Bud Wathen
Mary Rambo	Douglas Rambo; Mary Rambo; Kenny & Avy; Beth & Alex
David & Janet Rudorfer	Our parents: Otto & Doris Rudorfer and George & Dorothy Szigethy

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office: 703-759-6068

10550 Georgetown Pike
Great Falls, VA 22066

King's Kids Preschool: 703-759-6935
Website: www.gflutheran.org