

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1323 Central Ave, Alameda CA 510-522-5220

Anchored in Faith. Serving Our Neighbor. Singing God's Praise.



December 24, 2018

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

www.trinityalameda.org

Stephanie Johnson, Pastor (510) 846-0883

Craig Minich, Pastor: East Bay Lutheran Youth Program

Ned O'Donnell, Pastor: Lutheran Ministry to Nursing Homes

WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

You are invited to join with us as we seek to be God's loving community for all who enter here.

The Gospel (good news) was preached when the angels declared "peace on earth and good will toward all." It is our mission to continue to preach and to live the message of this gospel. God has called us to live and serve our community and we aim to be a church that exists in our society, with our society and for our society. We live in a society that is suffering. We choose not to succumb to grief. Instead, we lift up the light of Christ with which we are determined to light our lives, churches, and society.

We believe: Goodness is stronger than evil

Love is stronger than hate

Light overcomes darkness

Hope is stronger than despair

We believe this because God is with us!

You are welcome here!

You are received as a friend.

PRELUDE:

Shepherds and Angels
O Little Town of Bethlehem
Wexford Carol

Julie Haydon, flute and Starr Brown, piano
arr. Larry Shackley
arr. Larry Shackley
Traditional

✠ **GATHERING** ✠

(Arrows indicate when the congregation may sit ↓ or stand ↑ as able. Bold print indicates responses spoken by the congregation.)

↓ **PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST**

↑ **HYMN**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

283

↑ **CHRISTMAS DIALOG AND GREETING**

A child is born! God's son has come to us!

Glory to God in the highest heaven!

Do not be afraid—this is good news!

Glory to God in the highest heaven!

Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice!

Glory to God in the highest heaven!

The grace of our newborn Lord, the Love of Immanuel, our God who is with us,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

↑ **HYMN OF PRAISE**

Angels We Have Heard on High

#289

vs. 1 & 3

1 *Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
(Refrain)*

3 *Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
(Refrain)*

(Refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo;

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

↑ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Heavenly Wonder,

this night was the beginning of something earth shaking. Bring us in awe to the cradle of the baby who has come to live among us, to heal us, and to be our brother: our savior, Christ the Lord. Amen.

↓ SPECIAL MUSIC (5:00)	<i>The First Noel</i>	Traditional
	Carter Luo, saxophone	
(9:00)	<i>Bell Peal on How Great our Joy</i>	Traditional German Carol
	Trinity Bell Choir	arr. Linda Lamb

✝ **WORD** ✝

↓**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest.

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

↓**HYMN** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* # 279

↓**Psalm 96**

¹Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;**

renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

↓ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Angels from the Realms of Glory* #275
vs. 1 & 2

1 *Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and
worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

2 *Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and
worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4

↓ **GOSPEL** Luke 2:1–20

In 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.

↓ **GOSPEL RESPONSE** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

#275
vs. 3 & 4

3 *Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and
worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

4 *All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and
worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

↓ **MESSAGE**

(5:00) *The Little Shepherd Girl: A Christmas Story*

Pastor Stephanie Johnson
by Juliann Henry

↑ **HYMN**

Away in a Manger

#277

↑ **NICENE 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 our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly
human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

↑PRAYERS

(The congregation is encouraged to take the position which is most prayerful to you.)

Prayer Leader: Incarnate God,
Congregation: hear our prayer.

✠ MEAL ✠

↓OFFERING (5:00)

Child of God

Spiritual
arr. Emily Crocker
by Pietro N. Yon

(9:00)

Gesu Bambino
Alex Luque, soloist

Please join us on the refrain:

***O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.***

↑OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God with us:

**You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.
You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing
ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of
others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.**

↑GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

↑PREFACE FOR THE DAY

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

↑HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

↑JESUS' WORDS OF INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

↑LORD'S PRAYER

You are invited to pray in the version or language of your choice.

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

Joy to the world, Christ has come, come and meet God's grace.
Thanks be to God!

↓DISTRIBUTION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

The cup we serve is non-alcoholic. Dip the bread into the cup (intinction).

Gluten-free wafers and a gluten free common cup are offered for those who have need. Please indicate your need to the pastor as you approach to receive the host.

If you do not wish to take communion you may come forward for a blessing or remain seated.

↓HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

***Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* #272**

***I am So Glad Each Christmas Eve* #271**

↑ POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep us in his grace.
Amen

↑ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God of wonder,
in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near.
As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. Amen.

✝ SERVICE OF LIGHT ✝

↑ CANDLE LIGHTING *(do not tip a lighted candle)* John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

↑ HYMN

***Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.***

***Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!***

***Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!***

***Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming
grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.***

✝ SENDING ✝

↑ BLESSING

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. May Almighty God, Creator ✝ Redeemer, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Hand-held candles are extinguished

↑ HYMN

Joy To The World

#267

↑ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

↓ POSTLUDE:

Ding Dong! Merrily on High
Starr Brown, Organ

arr. Charles Callahan b. 1951



POINSETTIAS ARE PROVIDED BY:

- ❖ Kathy Booker
- ❖ Meg Brogan *in loving memory of Petite Brogan and Lydia Lo*
- ❖ Starr Brown *in loving memory of Dale and Inez Ferrell*
- ❖ Kaye Fitzsimons *in loving memory of Ray Fitzsimons*
- ❖ Don & Mardy Groskreutz *to the glory of God*
- ❖ Karen Haines *in loving memory of Hazel Houge*
- ❖ Mary James *in loving memory of Rick James & in honor of Philip & Nicholle James*
- ❖ Bob & Ann Kenyon *in honor of Christmas*
- ❖ Geoff & Marvera Kline *in honor of Sheila Kline and in loving memory of Robert Kline and Martin & Vera Linnett*
- ❖ Jay & Judy Lamb *in loving memory of our parents*
- ❖ Nancy Leavitt *In loving memory of John Leavitt and Sharon Miller*
- ❖ The Luque family *in loving memory of Joyce Strempeke and Jessie Luque*
- ❖ Elizabeth Madaras *in honor of my children & grandchildren and in loving memory of my parents and Paul's parents*
- ❖ Joanne Robinson *in loving memory of Herb and Jeanne Justin*
- ❖ Don & Margie Sherratt *in honor of our newest grandson, Callum Branson*
- ❖ Mark White *in honor of Linda White and in loving memory of Lilly and Sally Villaral*