



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1323 Central Ave, Alameda CA (510) 522-5220
Anchored in Faith. Serving Our Neighbor. Singing God's Praise.

Mission: To be a caring and diverse community of people who know and share the love of God through Jesus Christ.

Third Sunday of Advent December 11, 2022

www.trinityalameda.org
Rev. Stephanie Johnson, Pastor (510) 846-0883
Rev. Craig Minich, Pastor: East Bay Lutheran Youth Program
Rev. Ned O'Donnell, Pastor: Lutheran Ministry to Nursing Homes

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

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. You are received as a friend . . .*

- *just as you are, created by God.*
- *whatever your color, culture and customs, your age, abilities, sexual orientation or gender identity.*
- *wherever circumstances find you... in the midst of change or challenge or pain, in need of strength and hope, or in search of spiritual fullness and friendship.*
- *whether you are a new visitor or an old friend, have no church home, have doubts or do not believe, or want to follow Christ and pursue peace and justice in Christ's name.*

You are embraced as an expression of the diversity and beauty of the creation God has given us.

You are welcome here!

The presence of children is a gift to the church and a reminder that our congregation is growing. Please welcome our youngest brothers and sisters and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

✠ THE SERVICE ✠

PRELUDE *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*
with Fauré's *Pavane*
Arr. Leila Viss ©2018

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

↓ LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

God of Hope, thank you for the unexpected messengers you place in our lives. As we look ahead with joyful anticipation for your coming, give us the discernment and patience to pause and see how you are showing up now, every day, in ways big and small. God of the wilderness: **embolden us to shine your hope into all the world.**

God of Hope, as we light this third candle, open our hearts to recognize the seeds of hope you sow in our lives and in the world, especially when despair seems to prevail. May we give the gift of rediscovered hope and joy to our neighbors near and far. God of the wilderness: **embolden us to shine your hope into all the world.**

God of Hope, today we remember our siblings in Guatemala. May your love continue to bloom in the people of Guatemala through doctors, nurses and clinic staff. As vegetables root deep into the earth, may your joy produce roots that lift their hearts and spirits above the challenges of the day. God of the wilderness: **embolden us to shine your hope into all the world.**

God of Hope, thank you for all the ways you lead and guide us each day. We often long for a sign from you to show us the way. Give us discerning hearts to recognize and welcome your messengers, even and especially when they make us uncomfortable. Give us wisdom to recognize you in one another, and to see your Kingdom bursting into the world around us when we least expect it. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One we long for in this season of hope. **Amen.**

(The first, second and third candles are lit)

↑HYMN *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*
#ACS 901

- 1 Now the heavens start to whisper,
as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen
to the stirring, faint within:
seed of promise, deeply planted,
child to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline,
hearts grow soft to welcome him.**
- 2 Heavy clouds that block the moonlight
now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness
shines the hope of coming day.
Christ, the morning star of splendor,
gleams within a world grown dim.
Heaven's ember fans to fullness;
hearts grow warm to welcome him.**
- 3 Christ, eternal Sun of justice,
Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
come to bless with fire and fragrance
hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger,
in the outcast, hid from view;
Child who comes to grace the manger,
teach our hearts to welcome you.**

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↑GREETING

The joy of our Lord Jesus Christ, the compassion of God and the creative power of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

↑PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, **and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Please find today's texts in the
announcement insert of the bulletin.

↓ FIRST READING **Isaiah 35:1-10**

At the conclusion of the reading:

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

↓Psalm *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness* #251

This week's psalm is the Magnificat, or Mary's Song, from the Gospel of Luke rather than the Book of Psalms

- 1 *My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;
I sing my Savior's praise!
You looked upon my lowliness,
and I am full of grace.
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age
this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me,
and holy is your name.*
- 2 *To all who live in holy fear
your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm you dash the proud,
their scheming hearts expose.
The ruthless you have cast aside,
the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled with all good things,
the rich sent off unfed.*
- 3 *To Israel, your servant blest,
your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made
their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One,
give honor to the Word,
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,
one God, by all adored.*

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

↓SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

At the conclusion of the reading:

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

↑GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

↓SERMON

↓CHOIR *We Are Waiting for Jesus*

Text and music by John Helgen, b. 1957

↑ APOSTLES' CREED

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Let us profess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

- I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

You may choose to sit or stand as you are comfortable.

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict (*regions in turmoil may be named*). Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss. Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. Today we pray especially for *Elena Sweet, the family of Betsy*

Maloney, Tim Bangert, Constance & Stephen Mann, Barry Toomajian, Richard Roth, David Johnson, Alan Petersen, Brad Wentz, Vincent Maloney, George Lyon, Sandra Schleske, Annalise Simmons, Helen Pedersen, Ann Kenyon, Tricia, Pam Clisham, Deanna Madarasz, Craig Anderson, Pastor Craig, Marilyn, Michael Rasmussen, Hilke de Arce, Jackson Bohm, Buddy and Sherri Scott, Nancy Stich, Patricia Runo, Gail Cromack, Kate Ganschow, Geoff Kline, Michael Lamb, Maddy Pearce, Willie Prewitt, Christine Winberg and Dorothy Wingire. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the priesthood of all believers; Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Berkeley, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda, the Lutheran Ministry to Nursing Homes, our Sunday School, and the East Bay Lutheran Youth Program. We give thanks for the fullness of the life of Martin Kelly as he celebrates his birthday this week. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

At this time, you are invited to pray the prayers of your heart, either silently or aloud.

A moment is offered for prayers from the congregation

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

✠ MEAL ✠

↑ SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

The offering baskets will not be passed through the congregation at this time. Please place your offering in the basket placed on the stand in the middle aisle of the sanctuary.

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING

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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

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Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, in the highest.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho-sanna in the high-est.

↑ 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

Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God, who has come to save you.

Thanks be to God!

↓DISTRIBUTION

↓LAMB OF GOD

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*Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.*

↑POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and give you peace.

Amen.

↑PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Faithful God, in this meal you have
remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth
in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the
day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future, coming to
birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

↑BLESSING

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

↓ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑HYMN *People, Look East* #248 vs.1&4

- 1** *People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.*
- 4** *Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

Text: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1881-1965

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↑DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *People, Look East*

(Tune: Besancon, French carol) Arr. Charles Callahan b. 1951
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