



## 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.*

**January 1, 2023 Lessons and Carols**

[www.trinityalameda.org](http://www.trinityalameda.org)

Stephanie Johnson, Pastor (510) 846-0883

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

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This service walks through the story of Creation, the Fall of God's people and their need for a savior, and finally leads us into the story of our Savior being born to us in Jesus, the Christ – Immanuel, God who is with us.

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**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

*Born Is the King*  
arr. Leila Viss ©2020. Used with permission.

## ✠ GATHERING ✠

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

## ↑GATHERING *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* #270

- 1 *Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

### Refrain

*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"*

- 2 *Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! Refrain*

- 3 *Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth. Refrain*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

## ↑GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## ↑LITANY

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

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its  
joy;

**they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.**

For 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.**

## ↑PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your  
light into our world has brightened weary hearts  
with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower  
us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

## ✠ WORD ✠

## ↓FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

## ↓FIRST CAROL 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime #284

- 1 *'Twas in the moon of wintertime  
when all the birds had fled,  
that \*God the Lord of all the earth  
sent angel choirs instead;  
before their light the stars grew dim,  
and wond'ring hunters heard the hymn:*

### Refrain

*Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria!*

- 2 *Within a lodge of broken bark  
the tender babe was found;  
a ragged robe of rabbit skin  
enwrapped his beauty round;  
but as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
the angel song rang loud and high: Refrain*

- 3 *The earliest moon of wintertime  
is not so round and fair  
as was the ring of glory on  
the helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt  
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. Refrain*

- 4 *O children of the forest free,  
the angel-song is true;*

*the holy child of earth and heav'n  
is born today for you.  
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,  
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy. Refrain*

Text: Jean de Brébeuf, 1593-1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872-1960, alt.  
Text © 1927 The Frederick Harris Music Company. All rights reserved.

↓SECOND LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

↓SECOND CAROL *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #279

- 1 *O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.*
- 2 *For Christ is born of Mary,  
and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king,  
and peace to all the earth!*
- 3 *How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but, in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.*
- 4 *O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Immanuel!*

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

↓THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

↓THIRD CAROL *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* #265

- 1 *The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady." Gloria!*
- 2 *"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,*

*all generations laud and honor thee;  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady." Gloria!*

- 3 *Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy  
name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

- 4 *Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever  
say:  
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!*

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

↓FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

↓FOURTH CAROL *Peace Came to Earth* #285

- 1 *Peace came to earth at last that chosen night  
when angels clove the sky with song and light  
and God embodied love and sheathed his might--  
Who could but gasp: Immanuel!  
Who could but sing: Immanuel!*
- 2 *And who could be the same for having held  
the infant in their arms, and later felt  
the wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled--  
Who could but sigh: Immanuel!  
Who could but shout: Immanuel!*
- 3 *You show the Father none has ever seen,  
in flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pains,  
in bread and wine you visit us again--  
Who could but see Immanuel!  
Who could but thrill: Immanuel!*
- 4 *How else could I have known you, O my God!  
How else could I have loved you, O my God!  
How else could I embrace you, O my God!  
Who could but pray: Immanuel!  
Who could but praise Immanuel!*

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919 Text © 1984 Concordia Publishing House

↓FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2: 8-20

↓FIFTH CAROL *Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies*  
#280

- 1 *Midnight stars make bright the skies,  
Bethlehem in slumber lies:  
glist'ning heav'n sends forth a great light,  
shepherds see a wondrous sight!  
Angels ranks in chorus sing.  
Silken sounds from heaven ring.  
Frightened shepherds hear them say:  
"Christ is born on earth today!"*

## Refrain

*Glory be to God on high,  
blest are all beneath the sky.*

- 2 *Midnight slumber lies o'er all,  
one lone bright lamp lights the stall.  
Choose old clothing, wrap him warmly,  
manger shall his cradle be.  
Born to save us from our sin,  
Word made flesh, our lives to win,  
came to earth from heaven's throne,  
mortals' sin to bear alone. Refrain*

Text: Jing-qi Yang, 1912-1966; tr. Mildred A. Wiant, 1898-2001 Text © 1977  
Chinese Christian Literature Council Ltd., Hong Kong, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.*

- 3 *Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950  
Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc.

## ↓SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 2: 1-11

### ↓SIXTH CAROL *What Child is This* #296

- 1 *What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!*
- 2 *Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!*
- 3 *So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!*

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

## ↓SEVENTH LESSON

John 1: 1-14

### ↓SEVENTH CAROL *Love Has Come* #292

- 1 *Love has come—a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*
- 2 *Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.*

## ↑ 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.

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

*A brief silence.*

Merciful God, broaden the church's hospitality and welcome. Open our hearts to any in need of refuge and help, especially those who are persecuted. Prosper the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Life-giving God, restore the health of the soil, the seas, and the air. Increase the joy and praise of all living things. In the coming year strengthen local, national, and international efforts to prevent further harm to the environment. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Liberating God, deliver your people from cruel oppression. Increase justice in every nation and keep the dream of freedom alive. In this new year bring the blessing of peace and put an end to violent conflict throughout the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Uplifting God, raise all who are bowed down by trouble and need, especially individuals and families living in poverty. Today we pray especially for *Don Sherratt, Elena Sweet, 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.** Protect and nurture all children. Sustain those who parent, teach, and care for the young. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the priesthood of all believers; St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church in Alameda, 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 Rachel Hanson as she celebrates her birthday this week. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Abiding God, accompany this community in the coming year. Increase our love for one another and the neighbors we serve. Enrich our worship and deepen our faith. Sustain our pastor and all who minister in your name.

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*

Loving God, the holy innocents who perish in every generation are safe in your keeping. We give you thanks and praise for the all the faithful who have gone before us into everlasting life with you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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

Glory to God in the highest!

Come to the table of peace.

**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. **God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers**

of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

↑ BLESSING

God bless you and keep you, ✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

↓ ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑ HYMN *Jesus, What a Wonderful Child* #297

*Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.*

*Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;  
new life, new hope the child will bring.*

*Listen to the angels sing:*

*"Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring!*

Text: African American traditional, alt.

↑ DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

↓ POSTLUDE