



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.*

First Sunday of Advent November 26, 2023

www.trinityalameda.org
Rev. Stephanie Johnson, Pastor (510) 846-0883

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

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 ✠

CHOIR *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
Words: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Music: Joseph Running
©1995 MorningStar Music Publishers

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

↓ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

PEACE CANDLE

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.
You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

Amen.

Light the first candle.

↑HYMN *Creator of the Stars of Night* #245 vs. 1,4

- 1** *Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all,
we pray you hear us when we call.*
- 4** *Come in your holy might, we pray,
redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below
from all assaults of our dread foe.*

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal 1940*, alt.
Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing Incorporated.

↑GREETING

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

↑CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Glory to God* p. 185 (Refrain)

*Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.*
*Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory. (Refrain)*
*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;*

*you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer. (Refrain)*

*For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
Amen. Amen.*

(Final refrain)

*Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.*

↑PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. **By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our
iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

↓ **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19** (read responsively)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a
flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon
the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and
Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to
help us.**

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and
we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger
fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon
us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face
shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

↓ **SECOND READING** **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because
of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ
Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in
him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just
as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened
among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any
spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord
Jesus Christ.

⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that
you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus
Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into
the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

p. 188

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

Al-le-lu-ia... al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia,

Al-le-lu-ia... al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

↑ **GOSPEL**

Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th
chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ²⁴"In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in
clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will
send out the angels, and gather his elect from the
four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends
of heaven.

²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its
branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves,
you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you
see these things taking place, you know that he is
near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this
generation will not pass away until all these things
have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will not pass away.

³²"But about that day or hour no one knows,
neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only
the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not
know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man
going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts
his slaves in charge, each with his work, and
commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know
when the master of the house will come, in the
evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,
³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes
suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep
awake."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓SERMON

↓HYMN *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

#247 vs. 1, 2, 4

- 1 *Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.*
- 2 *Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.*
- 4 *Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.*

Text: Geon-yong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
Text © Geonyong Lee.

↑APOSTLES' CREED p. 105

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.

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. We pray especially for those in the Holy Land, Ukraine and their Russian neighbors, and Sudan. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief, especially *the family and loved ones of David Bonino, Jerry Stich, Kelly Rager, Sister Pat Nagle, Jeremy Dude, Judy Lamb, Bernadette Hunsaker, Peter Dow, Jane McDermott, Mary Goglio, Wes & Marla Anderson, Constance Farber, Alan Petersen, Annalise Simmons, Helen Pedersen, Ann Kenyon, Tricia, Pam Clisham, Deanna Madarasz, Craig Anderson, Pastor Craig, Michael Rasmussen, Jackson Bohm, Nancy Stich, Patricia Runo, Gail Cromack, Kate Ganschow, Michael Lamb, Maddy Pearce, Christine Winberg and Dorothy Wingire.* Deliver all in any need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the Strategic Exploration Team, the priesthood of all believers, Saint Barnabas Roman Catholic Church in Alameda, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We pray for the fulness of the lives of Pete Petersen, Dave Wingire, Susan Bell, Lindsey Moder and Maddy Pearce as they celebrate their birthdays this week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God, **receive 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

You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

✠ MEAL ✠

↑SHARING THE PEACE

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

↓OFFERING

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING

p. 190

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

p. 190

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, 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 in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

↓INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.
Thanks be to God!

↓DISTRIBUTION

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. The cup we serve is non-alcoholic. **Gluten-free wafers 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.*

↓LAMB OF GOD

p. 191

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

↑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. Generous God,
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

↑BLESSING

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ
sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit
✠ remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

↓ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑SENDING *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

#244 vs. 1, 4

1 *Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.*

4 *Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!*

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

↑DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Haf trones lampa färdig*

Swedish folk tune Arr. Paul Manz, 1919-2009

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THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 40

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 11/27	9:30am	Craft Group
Tues 11/28	7:30am	Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 11/29		<i>No Women's Bible Study during the month of November</i>
Thurs 11/30	7:30pm	Council Meeting (meets on Zoom)

KATIE EVANS IS PREACHING AT TRINITY THIS MORNING. Part of her requirement for her preaching class is to have feedback from the congregation on her sermon. Please pick up a "Congregational Feedback Form" from the table in the church entryway and fill out the form for Katie. She will collect responses after worship this morning. Please see Katie with any questions.

TRINITY'S "ADOPT A SENIOR" HOLIDAY DRIVE This year this Mission & Service Committee has a change to our annual adopt a family program. In years past we have worked to help make holidays bright for children in local transitional housing. This year, the places that we have worked with in the past are being cared for by other generous donors. Trinity will instead take part in Alameda's Meals on Wheels "Adopt a Senior" program, granting specific wishes to very low-income seniors right here in Alameda. Please see the giving tree in the church entryway and pick up a tag to purchase one specific item for a senior. There is an information sheet with instructions for you to take home. Please remember to fill in your name on the master sheet after you grab your tag. You may also contribute financially by placing your offering in the offering plates, or by donating \$25 gift cards to Trader Joe's, Safeway or Target to be given to each gift recipient. ***The deadline for bringing back wrapped gifts and monetary donations is NEXT Sunday, December 3rd.*** Please see Jessica with any questions.

ASANTE NETWORK has dissolved as a non-profit and we are no longer having African Bazaars, but we still have some of the hand crafted products. On Sunday December 3rd, Kathy and Stan will display the items we have left in the Parish Hall. In appreciation of Trinity's support over the years, all items will be free of charge. Come pick-up some early Christmas gifts or just some items for yourself. Please see Kathy or Stan with any questions.

NEXT SUNDAY, December 3rd, Katie Evans will give a presentation during Coffee Hour on climate justice and faith. She will give information from the ELCA Climate Summit, the Lutheran World Federation Assembly and will share information about a GreenFaith Bay Area group that she is helping to start and that we can all join. Please plan to come hear Katie's presentation after worship.

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE Our annual Stewardship drive is wrapping up. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please send it in to the office this week. If you need a new card/packet, please contact Jessica.

SAVE THE DATE! We will celebrate our Stewardship Drive with a light brunch following worship on December 17th. We hope you will plan to join us for this time of fellowship! The congregation is invited to bring a plate of cookies or other dessert to share.

Visits from Pastor Stephanie

If you would appreciate a visit from Pastor Stephanie, she is available by phone, text or email to make an appointment. She is happy to visit with you in your home, at her office, or a location of your convenience.

Pastor's Office Hours

Mon-10:00-Noon; Tues. 9am-Noon; Thurs.-10:00-Noon

You can reach Pastor Stephanie on her cell phone at (510) 846-0883