

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1323 Central Ave, Alameda CA 510-522-5220

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



December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

www.trinityalameda.org

Stephanie Johnson, Pastor (510) 846-0883

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.

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

↑ HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

283

↑ WELCOME

↑ 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 Savior, 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)

All Earth is Hopeful

Pastor Stephanie Johnson

✠ 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.

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

↓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;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
- ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- ⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**
- ⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.
- ¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**
- ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- ¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**
- ¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

↓NEW TESTAMENT READING

Titus 3:4-7

⁴When 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.

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

↓GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Love Has Come

#292 vs. 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.*

↓GOSPEL

Luke 2:1–20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

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

↓GOSPEL RESPONSE

Love Has Come

#292 vs. 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.

↓SERMON

↓SPECIAL MUSIC

9:30am- Choir: *What Strangers Are These?* Old Scottish Carol, arr. Dan Forst, ©2013 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

5:00pm- Jean Abbe: *In Bethlehem* written by Jean Abbe

↑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: Hear us, O God.

Congregation: Your mercy is great.

✝ MEAL ✝

↓OFFERING

On Christmas Night

Tune: *Sussex Carol*, English traditional, arr. Starr Brown ©2023

↑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.**

↑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

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

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.

↓COMMUNION MUSIC

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

#288

↑ POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **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.

✠ SERVICE OF LIGHT ✠

↑ CANDLE LIGHTING

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

*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

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

↑ HYMN

Joy To The World

#267

↑ DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.

↓ POSTLUDE

O Come All Ye Faithful

arr. Gordon Young, 1919-1998 ©1970 Theodore Presser Co.



**In lieu of purchasing poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary,
donations will be made to Lutheran Disaster Relief dedicated to the crisis in the Holy Land
from the following people:**

- ❖ Meg Brogan *in memory of Petite Brogan, Jim Brogan, and Lydia Lo*
- ❖ Starr Brown *in honor of my family*
- ❖ The Burnafords *in honor of all those who find no room at the inn*
- ❖ Kaye Fitzsimons *in honor of my family; in memory of Jane*
- ❖ Jessica Fleischman & Jason Hayes *in honor of our Trinity family*
- ❖ Ken & Candace Gutleben *in honor of our grandchildren*
- ❖ Marvera Kline *in loving memory of Geoffrey Kline*
- ❖ John Kofranek *in honor of Fran & Tony Kofranek*
- ❖ Demeter Lamb *in memory of George Lyon*
- ❖ The Morrison/Pearce family *in memory of our fathers; Clive Morrison and Larry Pearce*
- ❖ Marilyn Ohm-Smith *in memory of those who have died in this year's world conflicts*
- ❖ Joanne Robinson *in honor of my grandchildren*
- ❖ Margie Sherratt *in loving memory of Don Sherratt*