



# 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 10, 2023

[www.trinityalameda.org](http://www.trinityalameda.org)  
Rev. Stephanie Johnson, Pastor (510) 846-0883

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"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

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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

Chorale Prelude on  
*Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen*  
German carol Johannes Brahms, 1838-1897

## ✠ 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

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand. **Amen.**

*Light the first, second, and third candles.*

### ↑ HYMN *People Look East* #248 vs. 1, 3, 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.*
- 3 *Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Star, 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  
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

### ↑ 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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## ✠ WORD ✠

### ↓ FIRST READING *Isaiah 64:1-4, 8-11*

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the  
oppressed,

to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

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

↓ **Psalm 126** (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.  
<sup>2</sup>**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**  
<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.  
<sup>4</sup>**Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.**  
<sup>5</sup>Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.  
<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

↓ **SECOND READING**      **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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**      **John 1:6-8, 19-28**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.      **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah."

<sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"  
as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

<sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

## ↓SERMON

### ↓CHOIR *No Wind at the Window*

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949 Text © 1992 WGRG,  
Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

### ↑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.*

Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need, especially *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.* Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. 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 Philip Neri Roman Catholic Church in Alameda, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We pray for the fullness of the life of Martin Kelly as he celebrates his birthday this week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. 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*

With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. 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.**

## ↓BLESSING THE DEPARTURE OF SEMINARIAN

## ✠ MEAL ✠

### ↑SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### ↓OFFERING *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

(with "Pavane" by Gabriel Fauré)

arr. Leila Viss ©2018 Leila Viss, 88pianokeys.me

### ↑ 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

↑HYMN *Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus* ACS #904

- 1 *Come to be our hope, O Jesus,  
come to set your people free.  
From oppression, come, release us,  
grant us your true liberty.  
Come, release from ev'ry prison  
those who suffer in our land.  
In your love we find the reason  
still to live and understand.*
- 2 *Come to build your new creation  
through the road of servanthood;  
give new life to ev'ry nation,  
changing evil into good.  
Come and open our tomorrow  
for your joyful reign so near.  
Take away all human sorrow;  
give us hope against our fear.*

Text: Jaci Maraschin, 1929–2009, Portuguese and English;  
Spanish tr. Jorge Rodríguez Text © 1987, 1989 World Council of Churches

↑DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*People, Look East*

Tune: *Besançon*, French carol Arr. Charles Callahan, b. 1954  
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## THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 46

### IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 12/11	<i>Dine &amp; Connect hosted at Trinity</i>
	9:30am Craft Group
Tues 12/12	7:30am Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 12/13	10:00am Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Sun. 12/17	10:30am Stewardship Brunch after Worship

**STEWARDSHIP BRUNCH NEXT SUNDAY** We will celebrate our Stewardship Drive with a light brunch following worship next Sunday. 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.

**THANK YOU!** Together we fulfilled 37 individual wishes for 6 seniors that are part of the Meals on Wheels program in Alameda. All of the items requested were practical or special splurges that these folks see very little of in their daily lives. Most of the recipients of these gifts feel isolated and lonely during this season especially, and the leaders of this yearly holiday drive tell us that these folks are moved to tears by the generosity of their community. The Mission and Service Committee thanks you for helping to make the holidays special for our neighbors.

**ELCA GOOD GIFTS** Looking for a gift to give to someone who has everything? Consider a gift that keeps on giving! There are ELCA Good Gifts catalogs on the round table in the narthex. Consider purchasing bees or a pig or some chicks in a loved ones honor. The ornaments hanging on the tree are for you to take and give to the person you purchase in honor of. Please see Kathy Booker or Mary James if you have any questions about ELCA Good Gifts.

### 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

