



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.

Second Sunday of Advent December 3, 2023

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

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

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 Recitative: *Comfort Ye My People*
Air: *Every Valley Shall Be Exalted*
From *Messiah*, G. F. Handel, 1685-1759
Geoffrey Burnaford, tenor

✠ 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 gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

Amen.

Light the first and second candles.

↑HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
#257 vs. 1,6,7

1 *O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.*

Refrain

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

6 *O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. Refrain*

7 *O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

↑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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. **By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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 40:1-11*

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our

God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

↓ **Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13** (read responsively)

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you
speak peace to your faithful people and to those
who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who
fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and
righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land
will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall
prepare for God a pathway.**

↓ **SECOND READING**

2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,' "

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓SERMON

↓CHOIR *We Are Waiting for Jesus*

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957 Text © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

↑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.

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. We pray especially for those in the Holy Land, Ukraine and their Russian neighbors, and Sudan. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Today we pray especially for *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.* 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 Joseph 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 Richard Domholt and Ginny Ostergren as they celebrate their birthdays this week. 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 you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. 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 Pastoral Symphony from *Messiah*
G.F.Handel

↑ 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 *Hark, the Glad Sound!* #239

- 1 *Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.*
- 2 *He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.*
- 3 *He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.*
- 4 *Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.*

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

↑DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Hark, the Glad Sound!*

Tune: *Chesterfield*, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

Arr. Paul Manz, 1919-2009

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THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 31

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 12/4	9:30am	Craft Group
Tues 12/5	7:30am	Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
	10:00am	Music & Worship Committee (meets on Zoom)
Wed 12/6	10:00am	Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Sat. 12/9	2:00pm	Bishop Jeff Johnson's Installation (St. Matthew Lutheran, Walnut Creek)

TRINITY'S "ADOPT A SENIOR" HOLIDAY DRIVE The deadline for bringing back wrapped gifts and monetary donations is today. If you haven't returned your items to Trinity, please see Jessica to coordinate pick-up of your gifts.

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. This morning after worship, 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.

THIS MORNING AFTER WORSHIP, 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.

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.

"WE ARE OAKLAND" BENEFIT CONCERT, hosted by Trinity Oakland, will take place on Friday, December 8th at 7pm. This semi-annual event at Trinity Oakland features lots of local musical talent and includes a wide range of music. Admission is free, but a free-will offering will be collected. All monies raised will be donated to the Alameda County Community Food Bank. Please visit WeAreOaklandConcert.com for more information. Trinity Oakland is located at 650 Alma Ave.

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