



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 7, 2024

Epiphany Sunday

www.trinityalameda.org

Stephanie Johnson, Pastor (510) 846-0883

The feast of Epiphany ("manifestation") concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people.

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 *An Epiphany Prelude, Op. 32, No. 6*
(based on *Wie schön leuchtet* and *Morning Star*)
Arr. Charles Callahan, b. 1951
©1992 MorningStar Music Publishers

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

↑ CALL TO WORSHIP

The star shone bright in the Bethlehem sky.

We too have a star to guide us.

The shepherds ran to see the babe.

We too have a star to guide us.

The magi knelt at the child's feet.

We too have a star to guide us.

Christ shines with God's own truth and light.

We too have a Star to guide us.

↑ GATHERING *Jesus, the Light of the World* ACS #914

**1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
Jesus, the Light of the world;
"Glory to the newborn king,"
Jesus, the Light of the world.**

Refrain

***We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,
come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the Light of the world.***

**2 Joyful, all you nations, rise;
Jesus, the Light of the world;
join the triumph of the skies;
Jesus, the Light of the world. Refrain**

**3 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Jesus, the Light of the world;
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Jesus, the Light of the world. Refrain**

**4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Jesus, the Light of the world;
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Jesus, the Light of the world. Refrain**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, stanzas;
George D. Elderkin, 1845-1928, refrain

↑ 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.

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of mystery,
**in the darkness of our world your light shines with
grace and truth. Open the eyes of our hearts
to the glory of your love. Speak your word of truth
and joy. May the mystery revealed in Jesus
draw us closer to you. May the wonder of your love
fill us with wisdom and peace. As we rejoice in your
presence, teach us to seek justice and righteousness.
Fill our hearts to overflowing with your joy, your
glory, your hope. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

- ¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- ²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
- ³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses'
arms.
- ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to
you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

↓ Psalm 72:1-7 10-14

- ¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
²**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the
people, and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**
⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the
moon shall be no more.
¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay
tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**
¹¹May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.
¹²**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in
distress, the oppressed, and those who have no
helper.**
¹³He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.
¹⁴**From oppression and violence he redeems their
lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.**

↓ SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.
⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of

God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

↑ GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."
⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

↓ SHARING THE STORY

Humphrey's First Christmas

by Carol Heyer

↓ SHARING OUR STARS

↓ NEW STARS

↓CHOIR

Star Medley

(Brightest and Best of the Stars, As with Gladness Men of Old, Bright and Glorious Is the Sky)

↓STAR PRAYER

Let us pray.

God, we acknowledge that we are not always ready to receive your best gifts for us. You have given us an epiphany word in order that our searching will bring us to you.

It is often our habit to turn aside, stumble over, or even reject experiences and encounters that we later understand to have been precious gifts.

Help us to be open to the gift that you offer us now through our star words. We acknowledge that we do not fully understand what this word might mean for our faith, but we receive it from you with gratitude and pray that your Spirit will enable us to live into our word with intention and faithfulness.

Amen.

↑APOSTLES' CREED

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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.

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence.

Humble the hearts of your faithful people, that we seek to be servants of your gospel and witnesses to your mysteries. Give us boldness in faith, that we make the good news of Christ's birth known to all people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Establish justice on earth for all its inhabitants. Lead us to protect fragile ecosystems and endangered species. Empower the work of all who research, engineer, and make accessible alternative and renewable sources of energy. Make us careful stewards of your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nations shall come to your light and kings to your dawning. Remove corruption and fear from the hearts of leaders and authorities. Lead governments to expand policies and resources that care for refugees and all migrants. Strengthen the work of resettlement agencies. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Defend the cause of all who are in need, all facing poverty, and all who are oppressed. Come quickly to those who feel that their lives and livelihoods are fragile. We pray especially for *Krista LaBel, Ryan Simpson, Elizabeth Madaras, RuthAnne Ladue, 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*. Give them strength and lead them forth with hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As the magi offered gifts to the Christ child, empower us to give generously. Prosper the work of ministry partnerships in our community especially for Dine and Connect, the seasonal warming shelter, Alameda Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, Alameda All Faiths Coalition, Operation Dignity, Village of Love and Building Futures. Together, help us share what we have to ensure that our neighbors have enough food, resources, and opportunities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the Strategic Exploration Team, the priesthood of all believers, Twin Towers United Methodist Church in Alameda, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We pray

for the lives of Viki Jacobson and Aaron Norboe as they celebrate their birthdays this week. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have redeemed the lives of your faithful departed. Through the love of Christ, gather us into one body with them, and reveal to us the mystery hidden for ages in the One who created all things. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace. **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.

↑ 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.
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.*

↑ 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 *The First Noel* #300 vs, 3, 4, 5

**3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. Refrain**

Refrain

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

**4 This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. Refrain**

**5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. Refrain**

Text: English traditional

↑ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be light for the world.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *We Three Kings*

Tune: Kings of Orient

Arr. Paul Manz, 1919-2009 ©1992 Morning Star Music Publishers

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THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY:

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 1/8 *Dine & Connect hosted at Trinity*
 9:30am Craft Group
Tues 1/9 7:30am Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 1/10 10:00am Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)

SIGN-UP SHEETS for Coffee Hour and the Midway Shelter Meal are available in the church entryway. Please consider signing up to provide a light coffee hour one (or more) Sundays or to provide all or part of a 4th Sunday Midway Shelter Meal. Please see Jessica with any questions about either of these activities.

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