



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.

Blessing of the Animals October 6, 2024

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

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis of Assisi gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation. Often depicted as a lover of animals, annual commemorations of his Feast Day frequently include a special blessing of animals, as we will this morning.

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 ✝

↓ ANNOUNCEMENTS

↓ **PRELUDE** *All Things Bright and Beautiful*
Tune: *Royal Oak*, English tune, 17th C.
Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1875-1958

✝ GATHERING ✝

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

↑ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

↑ **HYMN** *Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom*
ACS #1064

- 1** *Earth is full of wit and wisdom, sounding God's delighted laugh, from the tiny roly-poly to the treetop-tall giraffe. All creation sings in wonder; even rocks and trees rejoice as they join the ringing chorus: echoes of our Maker's voice.*
- 2** *Earth is full of wit and wisdom, woven into harmony. Ev'ry creature has a purpose, ev'ry flow'r and bumblebee.*

Spider, human, redwood, gecko, monkey, chicken, mouse, and snake live within a single fabric: cloth that only God could make.

- 3** *Earth is full of wit and wisdom: penguin, platypus, and snail, cactus, sea slug, oak, and algae, from the microbe to the whale. In this great and strange creation, with a breath God gives us birth: born of soil to live as stewards, called to love and serve the earth.*

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979
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↑ 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.**

↑ **KYRIE** ACS p. 12
*O Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy.
O Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy.
Have mercy, O Lord. Have mercy, O Lord.*

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Source and sustainer of life, **we cherish the myriad works of your hands. Water, earth, and sky are yours, as are all their inhabitants, wild and tame. We thank you for creatures that nourish and serve us, befriend, enrich, entertain, and protect us. May we, who are made in your image, care for them well. And may your groaning yet wondrous creation rally and thrive, revealing to all who come after us your wise, redemptive, transfiguring love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✝ WORD ✝

↓ **FIRST READING** Genesis 1:1, 20-28

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²⁰And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in

the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

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

↓ Psalm 8

¹O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!—
²**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out
of the mouths of infants and children; you have
set up a fortress against your enemies, to
silence the foe and avenger.**
³When I consider your heavens, the work of your
fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in
their courses,
⁴**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful
of them, human beings that you should care for
them?**
⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.
⁶**You have made them rule over the works of your
hands; you have put all things under their feet:**
⁷all flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts of the field,
⁸**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**
⁹O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** ACS p. 14
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia. Christ is risen, ris'n indeed.

↑ **GOSPEL** Luke 2:4-7
The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd
chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

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

↓ SERMON

↓ **CHOIR** *A Place in the Choir*
Words and Music by Bill Staines
Choral setting by Ed Harris
©1987 Mineral River Music, Hope Publishing Co.

↓ BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

↑ **APOSTLES' CREED** ACS p. 17
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.

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

God of our ancestors, we give thanks for the church in all times. May we listen for the prophets of this age who bear messages that stir the church toward renewal and justice. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator of every creature on earth, direct our lives toward the renewal and sustaining of cattle, birds of the air, animals of the field, and those who share our homes. Reveal the ways we can work alongside creation for the health and well-being of all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, we give thanks that you are mindful and benevolent to even us, mere mortals.

Accompany us when hardness of heart gets in the way of justice between people and nations. Endow leaders with minds for justice and hearts for compassion. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Restoring Lord, grant healing and wholeness to those who are sick and suffering, especially *the family of JoAnn Lee, Gary Ward, Sally Petersen, Jeremiah Jacob Schultz, Nevi Zabilski, Saemi Ladue, Ginny Ostergren, Chuck Bangert, Ann Kenyon, Betty Ann Haskins, Matt Fleischman, Ginny Parsons, Lou and Stevie O'Connell, Ryan Simpson, Elizabeth Madaras, Jerry Stich, Sister Pat Nagle, Peter Dow, Jane McDermott, Mary Goglio, Marla Anderson, Constance Farber, Alan Petersen, Annalise Simmons, Helen Pedersen, Tricia, Pam Clisham, Deanna Madarasz, Jackson Bohm, Nancy Stich, Patricia Runo, Michael Rasmussen, Gail Cromack, Kate Ganschow, Michael Lamb, Maddy Pearce, Christine Winberg and Dorothy Wingire.* Work through medical professionals to diagnose, ease pain, and give life to all who seek their wisdom and experience. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the Strategic Exploration Team, the priesthood of all believers, St. Barnabas Roman Catholic Church in Alameda, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Unifying God, humans were created for relationship with the earth, its creatures, and one another. Forgive us when division threatens companionship, mutual support, and unity among us. May your love inspire us to build supportive communities of faith where all are cherished. God of grace, **hear 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

God of resurrection, you prepare a place in the kingdom through Christ's death and resurrection. We give thanks for the saints who have taken their place at your heavenly banquet. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever. **Amen.**

✠ MEAL ✠

↑ SHARING THE PEACE

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

↓ OFFERING

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING

ACS p. 20

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 God thanks and praise.

↑ PREFACE

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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

ACS p. 20-21

**Holy, holy, holy God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

***Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
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

Jesus welcomes you to this table.

Come, here is your God. **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

ACS p. 25

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

Grant us your peace. Amen.

↑ 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. Holy God,
you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

↑ BLESSING

God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN * *Now Thank We All Our God* #840

**1 *Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.***

**2 *Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.***

**3 *All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.***

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

↑ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Let All Things Now Living*

Tune: *The Ash Grove*, Welsh folk tune

Arr. Sherri Hansen

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* Denotes a selection from the 2024 favorite hymns list.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 42

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 10/7 9:30am Craft Group
Tues 10/8 7:30am Tuesday Morning Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Wed 10/9 10:00am Women's Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
7:00pm Music & Worship Committee (meets on Zoom)
Thurs 10/10 1:00pm Ukuleles with Ozzy
Fridays *Pastor Stephanie's Weekly Sabbath (day-off)*

COMING UP:

2nd Annual Oktoberfest Fellowship Dinner. Save the date! Saturday, November 2nd. 4:00pm. More details to come.

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13th DURING COFFEE HOUR, we will have an informational meeting about the Alameda Warming Shelter and Trinity Council's decision to participate as a partner Church for two weeks of hosting the Warming Shelter this winter season. The insert in today's bulletin is an overview provided to us by Christ Episcopal. Please read it over before our meeting next Sunday.

Have you read our online newsletter (Builder) this week? Here's a look at some information that you will find there that isn't in the bulletin announcements: (please be sure to click the link that says "view entire message")

- An Important Message from Pastor Stephanie
- Hosting the Alameda Warming Shelter
- Ways the ELCA can help us faithfully engage in civic life during an election year
- How to help victims of Hurricane Helené
- Upcoming Events at Trinity and around the Synod
- And much more!

If you aren't receiving the email newsletter in your email inbox and would like to be, please see Jessica to get that taken care of. Visitors who would like to receive our weekly email may sign-up by going to our website-trinityalameda.org, clicking the tab "About Trinity" and then clicking on "Newsletter" to submit your email address to begin receiving it. You may unsubscribe at any time.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS: Please see the back page of this bulletin to see if you have an assigned role for next week's Worship Service.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED! The Coffee Hour sign-up was misplaced during summer camp. Please see the replacement in the hall if you already had a date chosen or see if there is a date you can host coffee hour this fall.

Assisting in Worship:

This morning:

Assisting Minister: Demeter Lamb
Reader: Mary James
Greeters: Marvera Kline
Children's Attendant: Kaye Fitzsimons
Coffee Hour: Kristin Moeller & Gunther Hofmann
Altar Guild: Marvera Kline

Next Sunday, 10/13

Assisting Minister: Meg Brogan
Reader: Margie Sherratt
Greeters: Chuck & Sherri Bangert
Children's Attendant: Mary James
Coffee Hour: Margie Sherratt
Altar Guild: Joanne Robinson

Next Week's Scripture Readings:

Amos 5:5-7, 10-15
Psalm 90:12-17
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

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