



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.

First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2024

www.trinityalameda.org

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

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 ✠

WELCOME

the grace and forgiveness of God through ✠ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

↓ ANNOUNCEMENTS

↓ **PRELUDE** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
(with Pavane by Gabriel Fauré)

Arr. Leila J. Viss © 2018 Leila Viss

✠ 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: Peace Candle

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Light the first candle.

↑ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive

↑ HYMN *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* #242

1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.

Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.

Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together, he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.

2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing, his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing; music to heal the broken soul and hymns of lovingkindness, the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.

3 In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing, as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring. Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder, the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.

4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless. Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story; may God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Text © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL

↑ 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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. **By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

↓ FIRST READING Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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

↓ Psalm 25:1-10

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are

treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I
trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my
transgressions; remember me according to your
steadfast love and for the sake of your
goodness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰ **All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and
faithfulness to those who keep your covenant
and your testimonies.**

↓ SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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 Luke 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 21st
chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then

they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

↓ SERMON

↓ **CHOIR** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Joseph Running
©1995 MorningStar Music Publishers

↑ 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.

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God’s presence.

A brief silence.

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of change, you accompany us through life’s transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering, especially *Anita Burnaford, Anna Streissguth, Starr Brown, Janette McChesney, Mary Waller, 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, 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.* In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the ministries of your Word, for Trinity Church Council, the Strategic Exploration Team, the priesthood of all believers, United in Grace Lutheran

Church in Vallejo, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. We pray for the fullness of the lives of Richard Domholt and Ginny Ostergren as they celebrate their birthdays this week. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy, **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

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **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 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. 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, 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

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to 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,
we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of
salvation. We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace. We thank you for
showering us with mercy, for sending us into the
world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed
the hungry in your name. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

↑ BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness
and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠
bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN *All Earth Is Hopeful* * #266

- 1** *All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.*
- 2** *People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this
earth.*

3 *Mountains and valleys will have to be
prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and
grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in
haste!*

4 *We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.*

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
Spanish text © 1993 and English text
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↑ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Now Thank We All Our God*

Tune: *Nun danket alle Gott*, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662
Arr. Leila J. Viss © 2017 Leila Viss

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* Denotes a selection from the 2024 favorite hymns list.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 38

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 12/2 9:30am Craft Group
Tues 12/3 7:30am Tuesday Morning Bible Study (meets on Zoom)
Sun 12/8 9:30am Sunday Worship- Guest Pastor Dee Emmert

PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR NAMETAGS.

WE ARE ADOPTING SENIORS through Meals on Wheels for the holidays again this year. Please see the insert in today's bulletin to learn how you can participate. *There are still a little more than half of the wishes left to be granted.* Please remember to bring your wrapped gifts to worship next Sunday or contact Jessica if you would like wrapping services or your gift picked up.

COPIES OF "ADVENT STUDY 2024" are available in the church entryway. Provided to us by the ELCA World Hunger program, it is a walk through the Sundays in Advent. Please take one for yourself and one for anyone you think would enjoy this booklet- we have plenty to share!

REMINDER: STEWARDSHIP PACKETS ARE DUE next Sunday, December 8th. The Stewardship and Finance Committees thank you for returning your pledge cards and Time and Talent forms so that they can complete planning for 2025.

THE CHILDREN'S THEATER GROUP, TOMORROW YOUTH REPERTORY (TYR) is hosting the fall/winter production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast here at Trinity. The shows are free to the public and TYR would love to see some Trinity folks in attendance! We are pleased to welcome them back to Trinity- here are the dates and times of performances (no reservation required):

Sundays: 12/8- 3:00pm & 6:30pm; 12/15- 3:00pm

Fridays at 7:00pm: 11/22; 12/6; 12/13

Saturdays, 3 shows a day at 12:00pm, 3:00pm and 7:00pm: 12/7 & 12/14

(No shows Thanksgiving weekend)

Here's a little info about this vital youth non-profit organization:

"Tomorrow Youth Repertory was started in the summer of 2011 when Jordan Best, Amy Marie Haven, and Tyler Null met to discuss joining forces to offer weekly youth theater classes and productions. Operating for the first year as a sub-program of Alameda Children's Musical Theater, and then becoming an independent non-profit in 2012, Tomorrow Youth Rep has been tireless in its pursuit of youth theater opportunities, offering multiple classes and camps to serve all experience levels, and serving hundreds of students. Tomorrow Youth Repertory prides itself on its ability to offer a full theater experience for young actors, and for providing individual attention for every student — whether they have been acting and singing for ten years, or they've never been on stage before in their life...Tomorrow Youth Repertory currently runs several weekly theater production classes every fall and spring, at a variety of locations in Alameda. With each production the kids get to perform their show for friends and family, with lights, sets, costumes, and the full magic of theater."

You can find out more about them by visiting tomorrowyouthrep.org.

Assisting in Worship:

This morning:

Assisting Minister: Sherri Bangert
Reader: Mary Kay Wentz
Greeters: Kathy & Stan Booker
Children's Attendant: Mary James
Coffee Hour: Pete's 100th Birthday Celebration
Altar Guild: Marvera Kline

Next Sunday, 12/8

Guest Pastor: Dee Emmert
Assisting Minister: Ray Wentz
Reader: Mark Schoenrock
Greeters: Marvera Kline
Children's Attendant: Karol Luque
Coffee Hour: Jessica Fleischman & Karol Luque
Altar Guild: Joanne Robinson

Next Week's Scripture Readings:

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

For Pastoral care during this time before we have an Interim Pastor, Pastor Ned O'Donnell had kindly agreed to provide this to us. He can be reached at (415) 652-0427 or via email at pastorned@live.com.