



## 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 15, 2024

[www.trinityalameda.org](http://www.trinityalameda.org)

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Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

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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 ✠

## ↓ ANNOUNCEMENTS

#249 vs.1, 2, 5

## ↓ PRELUDE *Interlude on the Coventry Carol*

W. S. Lloyd Webber, 1914-1982  
© 1961 The Really Useful Group Ltd.,  
©1995 Oxford University Press

## ✠ 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

We praise you, O God, for this symbol of victory that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light these three candles, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*Light three candles.*

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

↑ HYMN *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!**
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.**
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won, whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite

## ↑ 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 preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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** **Zephaniah 3:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against  
you;

he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
“Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing  
<sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival.”

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

↓ **Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6**

<sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not  
be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my  
might, and has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup> **With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the  
LORD, call on God’s name; make known the deeds  
of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this  
name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup> **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done  
gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great  
in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

↓ **SECOND READING** **Philippians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

<sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The  
Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but  
in everything by prayer and supplication with  
thanksgiving let your requests be made known to  
God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all  
understanding, will guard your hearts and your  
minds in Christ Jesus.

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 3:7-18**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized  
by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to  
flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruits  
worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to  
yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for  
I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up  
children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at  
the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does  
not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown  
into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should  
we do?” <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, “Whoever has  
two coats must share with anyone who has none,  
and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup> Even tax  
collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him,  
“Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup> He said to them,  
“Collect no more than the amount prescribed for

you.”<sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup> So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

#### ↓ SERMON

↓ **CHOIR** *There Is a Longing in Our Hearts*  
(with congregation)

#### **Refrain**

***There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,  
for you to reveal yourself to us.  
There is a longing in our hearts for love  
we only find in you, our God.***

Choir:

1 *For justice, for freedom,  
for mercy: hear our prayer.  
In sorrow, in grief:  
be near; hear our prayer, O God. Refrain*

High voices

2 *For wisdom, for courage,  
for comfort: hear our prayer.  
In weakness, in fear:  
be near; hear our prayer, O God. Refrain*

Low Voices

3 *For healing, for wholeness,  
for new life: hear our prayer.  
In sickness, in death:  
be near; hear our prayer, O God. Refrain*

All

4 ***Lord, save us, take pity,  
light in our deepest night.  
We call you; we wait:  
be near; hear our prayer, O God. Refrain***

Text © 1992 Anne Quigley. Published by OCP, Portland, OR  
Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955

#### ↑ **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 who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. Today we pray especially for *Fern Stern, Larry Haskins, Anita Burnaford, Anna Streissguth, Starr Brown, Janette McChesney, Mary Waller, Sally Petersen, Jeremiah Jacob Schultz, Nevi Zabilski, Ann Kenyon, Betty Ann Haskins, Matt Fleischman, Ginny Parsons, Lou and Stevie O'Connell, Ryan Simpson, Elizabeth Madaras, 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.* Show your compassion and remember your people in 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, Alameda All Faiths Coalition, the Lutheran Church of Kagitumba in Rwanda and our Sunday School. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. 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 who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. 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 *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Tune: *Cranham*, by Gustav Holst, 1874-1934  
arr. Leila Viss, © 2024 LeilaViss.com

### ↑ 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 *Hark! The Glad Sound* #239 vs. 1, 3, 4

- 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.*
- 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. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE *Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying!*

Chorale Prelude on *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*  
by J. S. Bach, 1685-1750  
Geoffrey Burnaford, flute

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\* Denotes a selection from the 2024 favorite hymns list.

# THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AT TRINITY

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 41

## IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Mon 12/16 9:30am Craft Group  
Tues 12/17 7:30am Tuesday Morning Bible Study (meets on Zoom)  
Thurs 12/19 7:30pm Council Meeting (meets on Zoom)  
Sun 12/22 9:30am Sunday Worship- Guest Pastor Rebecca Swee

## PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR NAMETAGS.

**COMING UP-COOKIES AND CAROLS!** Please join us for an early afternoon of fun led by Gunther and Geoff on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall. We'll sing Christmas Carols and share cookies. This event is intended for the whole family- kids and adults alike. Please bring your favorite cookies to share/exchange. Please take a flyer or two from the entryway and share with anyone you think might be interested- the more the merrier!

**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!

**ALAMEDA WARMING SHELTER OPPORTUNITY:** Trinity is signed up for 3 days of providing to-go breakfast bags for the Warming Shelter guests while the shelter is being hosted at Trinity, and one dinner service. There is a sign-up sheet in the Hall if you would like to participate in providing a part of the items for the breakfast bags, or if you would like to participate in the meal on Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Please sign-up on the sign-up sheet. Jessica will follow up with each of the participants with more details.

**THE DECEMBER MIDWAY MEAL** needs some volunteers for next Sunday, 12/22. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you can provide a portion of the meal.

**OUR STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON** will take place after Worship next Sunday, 12/22. Please join us for a time of fellowship as we celebrate the many gifts you each bring to Trinity. The congregation is invited to bring a dessert to share.

## **Assisting in Worship:**

### **This morning:**

Assisting Minister: Mary James  
Reader: Mark Schoenrock  
Greeters: Ken & Candace Gutleben  
Children's Attendant: Kaye Fitzsimons  
Coffee Hour: Kathy & Stan Booker  
Altar Guild: Joanne Robinson

### **Next Sunday, 12/22**

Guest Pastor: Rebecca Swee  
Assisting Minister: Kaye Fitzsimons  
Reader: Ray Wentz  
Greeters: Joanne Robinson  
Children's Attendant: Mary James  
Coffee Hour: Stewardship Luncheon  
Altar Guild: Joanne Robinson

### **Next Week's Scripture Readings:**

Micah 5:2-5a  
Luke 1:46b-55  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-55

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](mailto:pastorned@live.com).