



3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Road
Fremont, CA 94536
Church: (510) 793-6285

December 17, 2017
8:45 AM Service – Advent III
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

Welcome! Enter with Prayer, Worship in Awe, Leave to Serve.

All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

WELCOME TO THE STORY

Isaiah makes clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

A Story that Invites Us

Singing Bowl

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

PRELUDE . . . *Leilani Camara & Michael Keating*

WELCOME

Please Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

All: Amen.

P: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of all time,

All: we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

P: Comfort, O comfort my people, says our God. In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

All: Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING . . . “Where the Promise Shines” - Candle 3

Choir: Where the world is waiting for an unknown day,
Where a voice, forgotten, cries “Prepare the way!”
Show us in a manger our redemption’s sign;
Bring us to a morning where the promise shines.
Lead us on, lead us on
To a morning where the promise shines.
Lead us on, lead us on
To a morning where the promise shines.



LITANY . . . *The Promise of Joy*

L: Advent is a time for God’s people to reawaken their longings.

All: Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

L: In the darkness. We long to see the light.

All: Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

L: In the silence, we long for a comforting word.

All: Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

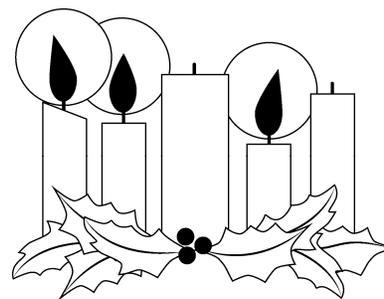
L: In hardship, we long for an act of love.

All: Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

L: In Christ, we celebrate and rejoice in the promise of joy.

All: Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

Candles are lit



*P: Today we light three candles. The **first candle** radiates the hope given through Jesus Christ. The **second candle** calls us to embrace and extend Christ’s peace to an unsettled world. The **third candle** extends the promise of joy to restless souls. Though darkness is present and earthly trials weigh heavy, the promise of Advent offers true joy that sustains a weary people.*

All:

Lead us on, lead us on to a morn - ing where the
 prom - ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on
 to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.

Choir: To a morning where the promise shines.

CANDLE LIGHTING CLOSING PRAYER

P: Gracious Lord, our Joy is found in you, for not only did you enter into this world, but you became the hope of the world.

All: From the cradle to the cross, you invite us to share in your victory. This is the fountain from which our joy flows. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Isaiah prophesies, "They will hammer their swords into ploughs." Christ is coming!

All: We await the coming of the One who brings peace.

L: Isaiah prophesies, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." Christ is coming!

All: We await the coming of the One who brings light to those who know darkness.

L: Isaiah prophesies, "A new king will arise from the descendants of David." Christ is coming!

All: We await the coming of the One who brings justice and integrity. Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Rejoice, rejoice!

OPENING HYMN . . . "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

vs. 1, 2

Text: Charles Wesley - Tune: W. Walker - Cranberry Book #254

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;
 from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;
 dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

GREETING

P: Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near! God is with you.

All: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God,

All: and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Be Seated

The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

READING . . . Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of the Lord, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

L: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL . . . John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us

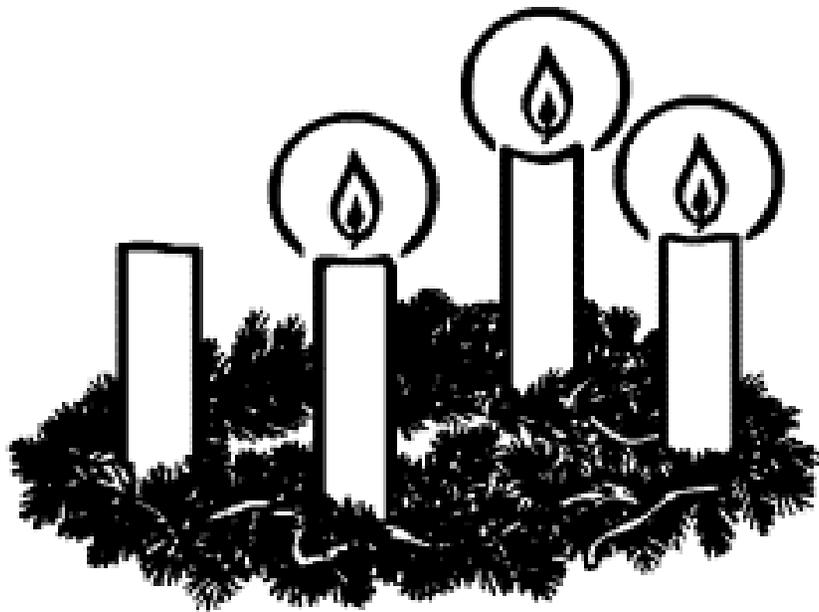
have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"
 as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to you, O Christ.



HYMN OF THE DAY . . . "Christ, Be Our Light" vs. 1, 2

Text & Tune: Bernadette Farrell - Cranberry Book # 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Be Seated

MESSAGE . . . Pastor Tim

A Story that Feeds Us

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: We have been told the days are surely coming. We have been given signs.

All: The Promised One is coming, and we wait in expectation.

L: We have a message to give the world, a message of promises about to be fulfilled. Our offering will enable this church community to proclaim this message as clearly as we can.

All: It also enables us individually to show our gratitude, even as we wait. Amen.

THANKFUL OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC . . . “*A Cradle in Bethlehem*” – *Keith Hillesland and Leilani Camara*

Please Stand

OFFERTORY RESPONSE . . . “*In the Bleak Midwinter*”

All: What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us.

All: Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God’s people. Guiding Lord, bless church leaders, volunteers, teachers, musicians, acolytes, deacons, pastors, seminarians, and those discerning a call to ministry. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Creating God, protect Earth’s wilderness, especially where the lands are isolated and unexplored. Watch over all living creatures who remain free from human exploitation. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Merciful God, comfort your children who are mourning, bind up the brokenhearted, and heal our wounds. We pray for those who are homeless or imprisoned, refugees, those who struggle with addiction or mental illness, and all in need. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Lord of justice, strengthen and increase the ministry of food pantries, meal service deliveries, employment training programs, and advocacy for equity among all classes and races. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of all, hear the prayers of our heart said either silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayers.

L: We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

A CAROL SETTING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

THE PREFACE . . . *tune: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”*

L: Oh, may the good Lord be with you.

All: And may the Lord be with you too.

L: Lift your hearts to God in praise.

All: To the Lord our hearts we raise.

L: Let us offer praises true.

All: It is fitting so to do:

Gratefully we sing to the Lord, our King!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: Lord God, we anticipate again the birth of your Son. As we stand on the threshold of the fulfillment of your greatest promise, we are in awe of the manner in which you have accomplished your purposes. You chose to lift up those whom the world regarded as poor, weak and powerless. You frustrated the efforts of those who considered themselves to be great and powerful. Guide us this Advent Season to deeper levels of commitment to your kingdom. Open our eyes to see new ways to love you and to serve you in this holy Advent Season. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and sing:

THE SANCTUS . . . tune: "From Heaven Above"

All: As light breaks forth, we sing Your praise

To you, Redeemer of our days,

For we have found in Jesus' birth

Good news of peace and human worth.

CONSECRATION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Risen Savior gave us:

All: 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 us 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.

FRACTION RITE

P: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

All: Let us enter into the joy of this feast.

Be Seated

The ushers will invite you forward
after the Lamb of God is sung

LAMB OF GOD . . . tune: "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"

**All: O Lamb of God who takes away
our sins, have mercy.**

**O Lamb of God who takes away
our sins, have mercy.**

**O Lamb of God who takes away
the sins of all the earth, we pray:**

**Jesus, grant us your peace, grant us your peace.
Glory be to God on high.**

Holy Communion is open to all.
Walking Communion will be down the center aisle.
Grape juice is white, wine is red.
If you desire communion brought to you,
please let an usher know.

COMMUNION HYMN . . . “Canticle of the Turning”

Text: Rory Cooney - Tune: Irish traditional - Cranberry Book #723

1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.

You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the

weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.

Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

COMMUNION HYMN . . . “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

Text: Wayne L. Wold - Tune: Yiddish folk tune - Cranberry Book #240

1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
 2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
 3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
 4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.

He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el. God ful - fills the prom - ise.
 He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Singing Bowl



Please Stand

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share.

All: Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

POST COMMUNION THANKS . . . *tune: "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"*

**All: Oh, thank the Lord and sing His praise,
What He has done proclaim!
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice
And proudly bear His name
Who leads His thankful people forth
His promises to claim.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

BENEDICTION

P: Watch out.

All: God is all around!

P: Pay attention.

All: Christ is coming soon!

P: Wake up and notice.

All: Christ is with us even now!

SENDING HYMN . . . "Hark, the Glad Sound" vs. 1, 4

Text: Philip Doddridge – Tune: Thomas Haweis – Cranberry Book #239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



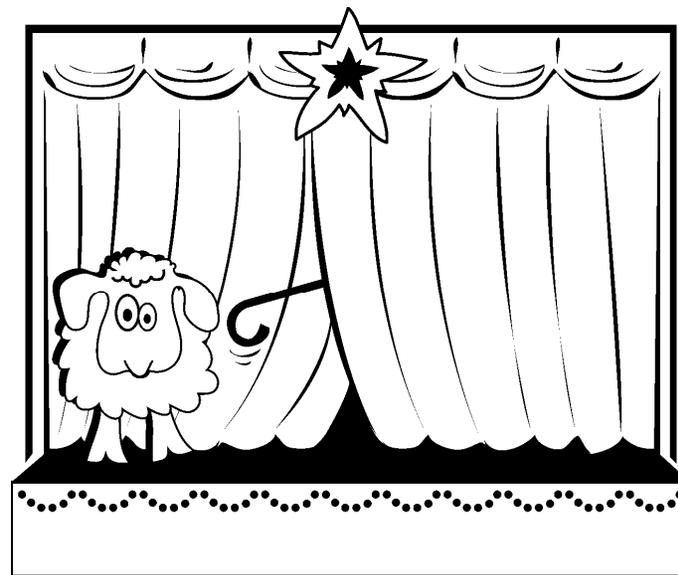
pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stay for the Sunday School Christmas Pageant at 10 AM



"Where the Promise Shines" Candle Lighting Ceremony
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