

Christ Is Born!



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017

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

December 24, 2016
5 pm and 9 pm – Christmas Eve
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

*“Joy to the world, the Lord is come . . .”
With joy we greet you in the name of Christ.
Your presence helps add to the happiness of Christmas.
Welcome one and all!*

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

[5pm & 9pm] *“He Is Born” – Michael Keating and Leilani Camara*

GATHERING WORDS

P: Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy.

All: To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

P: This will be a sign for you; you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace! Let us go now to Bethlehem.

WELCOME

Please Stand

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING . . . “Where the Promise Shines” – Christ candle

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 Arrival

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

All: Joy to the world, the Savior Reigns!

L: Tonight, we long to worship the newborn king.

All: Joy to the world, the Savior Reigns!

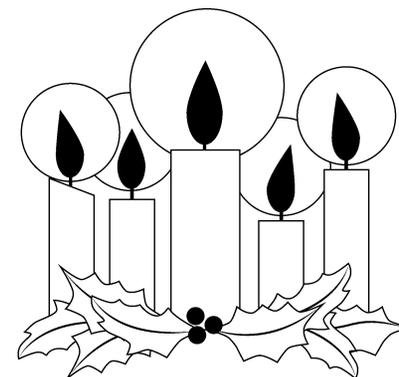
L: Tonight, we long to hear the good news proclaimed by the angels.

All: Joy to the world, the Savior Reigns!

L: Tonight, we long to receive the promise foretold.

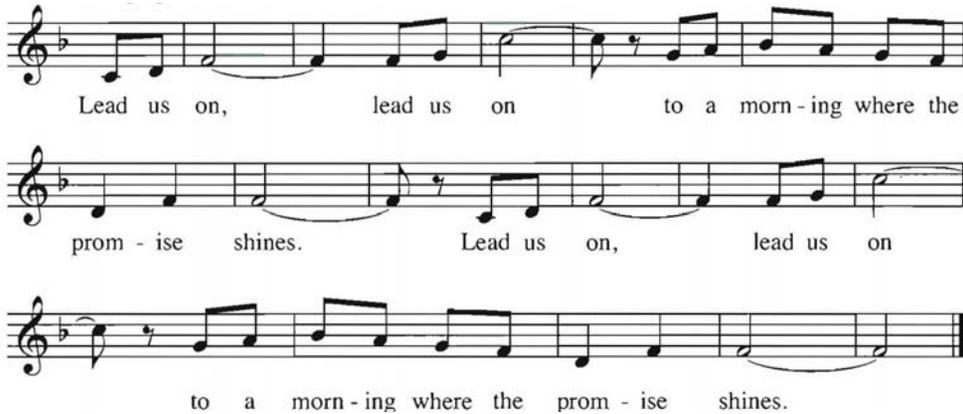
All: Joy to the world, the Savior Reigns!

Candles are lit



*P: Tonight we light all the candles. The **first candle** ignites the thrill of hope in the hearts of weary people. The **second candle** shines peace that surpasses understanding into a conflicted and confused world. The **third candle** expresses the joy of fulfilled promises and the anticipation of those yet to come. The **fourth candle** shines with grace and new life in God's unconditional love. Tonight, we light the **Christ candle** in celebration of our Messiah's birth. As God's promises continue to shine, we echo the words shared through the ages – Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!*

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 God, in the wonder of this night we hear the Christmas proclamation. The cry of "Come, O Come Emmanuel," has become "Joy to the World!"

All: Like the shepherds on that starry night when in a moment of majestic humility, may we now come to worship Christ the newborn king. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In the midst of a silent night sky, a star beckons:

All: Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

L: In the midst of a tranquil field, an angel proclaims:

All: Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

L: In the midst of our loneliness and pain, God calls:

All: Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

L: With the promise of new life, Christ whispers:

All: Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

ENTRANCE HYMN

[5pm & 9pm] "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful" vs. 1, 3 . . . Green Book #45

INVOCATION

P: God of light and love,

All: shine upon us this Christmas Eve and in the year ahead.

P: Guide us out of darkness and into your joyous light.

All: May our lives reflect your glorious love, that others may see your Christmas Spirit in us, each and every day of our lives. Amen.

GREETING

P: The grace and loving-kindness of our Savior Jesus Christ, word made flesh, born of the Virgin Mary, is with you all.

All: And also with you.

Be Seated

HYMN

[5pm & 9pm] "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" vs.1, 2 . . . Green Book #60

A CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

L: O wondrous God of the stars,

All: we come tonight with breathless wonder, to see the babe who will change our lives.

L: We hear the names Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace,

All: and we are in awe.

L: You have touched the earth this night with your unconditional love.

All: Touch our hearts and minds and souls, that we may never tire of this story, or take it for granted.

L: Make this night holy again.

All: Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

[5pm] *“O Holy Night” – Art Kuhlmann, Dean Sieglaff,
Bethany Stevenin and Leilani Camara*

[9pm] *“Still, Still, Still” - Choir*

Please Stand

L: Don't be afraid! Look! Listen!

All: God brings us good news, wonderful news for all people in the words of Christmas.

L: The Christmas reading is from the second chapter of Luke

All: Glory to God in the highest heaven.

THE CHRISTMAS READING . . . *Luke 2:1 – 20*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended

from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

L: A Savior has been born to you.

All: Glory to God in the highest heaven.

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S TIME . . . *Pastor Tim*

Please Stand

HYMN

[5pm] “*Go Tell It on the Mountain*” vs. 1, 2 . . . Green Book #70

[9pm] “*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*” vs.1, 2 . . . Green Book #54

Be Seated

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE . . . *Pastor Tim*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

L: Christ comes to babies, angels and shepherds, sages and kings, old and young. This ancient story comes with promises of peace and love for all.

All: May our offering be a sign of peace and love as we share our gifts with God.

THANKFUL OFFERING

OFFERING

[5pm & 9pm] “*Once in Royal David’s City*” – *Instrumental Group*

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: God with us:

All: You came as a baby to a manger.

L: You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.

All: You come again in bread and wine.

L: Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

All: And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS

L: This night the eternal Word of God is born in us. We pray for Christ’s light of life to take flesh in the church, the creation, and all people of God. We bring to the manger our longing for the visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ, that undivided it proclaim the one whose birth brings good news of glad tidings to all people. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: We bring to the manger a vision of the reign of the Prince of Peace, that the nations, tribes, and peoples of this world will see and cherish in each other the very image of Christ, whose scepter is mercy and whose judgment is love. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: We bring to the manger concern for those who have no place to lay their heads this night and for those who dwell in the shadow of loneliness, despair, illness, or death. We come begging that the child for whom there was no room will open the doors of our hearts to the needs of our neighbors and ourselves. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: We bring to the manger the hopes and dreams of all the years, that with Mary and Joseph, angels and archangels,

saints and martyrs, loved ones of every time and every place, our prayers and praises join in a common song uniting heaven and earth in a single peace. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.

All: Amen.

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: Creating God, in the beginning was the Word. You spoke the Word and the world came into being. The Word you spoke was hope. The Word you spoke was justice. The Word you spoke was love. Throughout the years the prophets echoed your Word, promising a child who would bring light to our darkness, a child who would bring endless peace to our world of violence. With joy we 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 fullness of time, you sent your Word to us. A child was born in a stable. A star shone, leading the world to the child. Angels came to shepherds with good news and songs of praise.

All: There was great joy for all people, for Jesus Christ was born: Savior of the world, hope of the nations, light for all creation.

P: The baby grew into a man who healed the sick, reached out in compassion. Taught your ways, and proclaimed your truth. On his last night with his friends, he gave us one more gift – the gift of a meal for remembering; the gift of a meal for hope and joy. And so, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, sharing the nourishment of body and spirit. He said to them: “Take, eat and remember. I am Emmanuel, God with you.” After supper Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, and shared it with his friends. He said to them: “Drink this. This is a cup of blessing, a cup of forgiveness. This is God’s gift, offered in love.” And so, we ask your blessings on these ordinary things: gifts of the earth, gifts of the bread and fruit of the vines.

All: Make them be for us Jesus Christ, gift of love, Emmanuel, hope of the nations.

P: Send your Spirit upon us this night, that we may be the faithful body of Christ, sharing the gift of your love with grateful hearts and joyful minds.

All: Bless us this night and forevermore.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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: Joy to the world! Our Savior has come.
All: Let every heart receive our Redeemer!

Be Seated

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Holy Communion is open to all.
Walking communion is down the center aisle.
Please receive the elements and return to your seat.
Grape juice is white, wine is red.
If you desire communion brought to you, please let an usher know.

COMMUNION HYMNS

[5pm & 9pm]

- “The First Noel”* Green Book #56
- “O Little Town of Bethlehem”* Green Book #41
- “What Child Is This”* Green Book #40

Singing Bowl

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: On this night, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us.
All: As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people.

P: Let the gladness of this meal have no end
All: as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING . . . tune: “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

**All: Lord, let Your servants go in peace,
Your Word had been fulfilled:
Our eyes have seen the Light increase
Which for the world You willed,**

**For Israel’s Light, the promised One,
Now shines for all to see.
To God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Be praise eternally!**

Be Seated

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

P: The God who said, “Let there be light,” has caused light to shine in our hearts.
All: That light is the glory of God reflected in the face of Jesus Christ.
L: As our candles are a sea of light lit from the one light of Christ, so may we the people of God reflect Christ’s light and love in this world.
All: Amen. May it be so.

The pastor lights candle from the center candle.
Ushers light their candles from the pastor’s candle,
then light the candle of the worshiper next to the aisle.
The lit candles should NOT be tipped –
tip the *unlit* candle when lighting from a neighbor’s candle.

DURING CANDLE LIGHTING

[5pm] - *“One Small Child”* – Dean Sieglaff and Arnold
Kuhlmann

[9pm] *“Candle Carol”* – Choir

HYMN . . . *“Silent Night”*

All: Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace,

Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight;

Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heav’nly hosts sing, alleluia!

Christ, the Savior, is born!

Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night!

Son of God, love’s pure light

Radiant beams from your holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at your birth,

Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

LITANY

P: God of light, you shine in the deepest darkness.

All: Christ is born!

*L: Praise God that the light of our Savior shines so
brilliantly in the darkness.*

All: Christ is born!

*P: Arise! And, may the light of Christ radiate through us to
our needy world.*

**All: In God there is no darkness! Christ is born!
Alleluia! Amen!**

BLESSING

*P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the
obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness
of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the
peace of the Christ Child. God bless you now and
forever.*

All: Amen.

Please Stand

SENDING OUT HYMN

[5pm & 9pm] *“Joy to the World”* vs. 1, 2 . . . Green Book
#39

COMMISSIONING

L: A child has been born for us.

All: God’s grace has been given to us.

*L: From a stable in Bethlehem our savior has come. We
have seen the glory of the Lord,*

**All: revealed in the face of the Christ child. We can
hardly contain our amazement.**

*L: Tell the world. Treasure the story. Ponder it in your
heart.*

**All: We will glorify and praise God, for all we have
heard and seen!**

L: Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ has come!

All: Glory and praise to God, Merry Christmas!!

POSTLUDE

[5pm & 9pm] *“Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow”* – Carmen
Blair, Dean Sieglaff and Leilani Camara

Special Thanks to . . .

Those who helped decorate the church this Christmas Season;
Those who helped with tonight's worship experience;
Those whose musical talents enriched our services;
YOU for sharing your evening
at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

**We hope to see you at our Single Service on December 31st
at 10 am with Brunch to follow!**

We invite you to join our regular Sunday Services.

Regular service schedule resumes January 7th.

8:45 am for our 21st Century Traditional Service

10 am for Sunday School

10:15 am for Adult Forum & Parenting Forum

11 am for the Service of Living Praise

(Childcare provided at both services)



The Poinsettias decorating our sanctuary are given to the Glory of God by the following:

Pastor Tim, Debbie, Rachel & Jacob Huff - *in honor of
families and friends*

Tammy & Arnold Kuhlmann – *in honor of
our family and friends*

Ryan, Erika & Shawn Lullo – *in memory of
John & Barbara Lullo*

Arthur & Cheryl Kuhlmann – *in honor of our family*

Cheryl Hall – *in memory of Gary Hall*

Judi & Delbert - *in honor of Del Beumer & Kim Page*

The Miedemas – *in honor of Opa*

Carmen Blair – *in memory of Ed Blair*

Carmen Blair – *in memory of Aaron Krantz*

Michael, Ellen Rebecca, Anthony, Cassie & Katarina
– *in memory of Susan Morgan*

John & Faye Williams – *in memory of parents*

Tim, Debbie, Jacob, Rachel – *in honor of
Holy Trinity Faith Community*

The MacFarlanes – *in honor of our many friends*

Terri MacFarlane – *in memory of Mom, Dad & grandparents*

Kate Mills – *in honor of peace*

Keith Hillesland & Richard Taylan – *in memory of
Harold Hillesland*

Leilani Camara – *in memory of Roger & Lani Lumibao*

Dean Sieglaff – *in honor of Ron & Barb Sieglaff*

The Anderson Family – *in memory of
Elmer & Violet Anderson, Ralph & Marilyn Wieters
and Vern Van Dusen*

Terry & Kathie Lindman – *in memory of our parents*

Hazel & Stanley Erickson and June & Bob Lindman

Terry & Kathie Lindman – *in honor of our family*

Bertha VanDusen – *in memory of Vern*