



4th Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

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

December 24, 2017
10 AM Service – Advent IV
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

God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

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 4

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 Love*

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

All: God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

L: When we longed for the silence to be broken,

All: God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

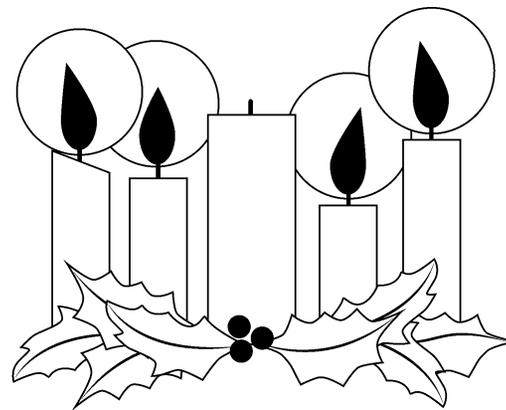
L: When we longed for the light that shines in the darkness,

All: God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

L: When we longed for the peace that surpasses understanding,

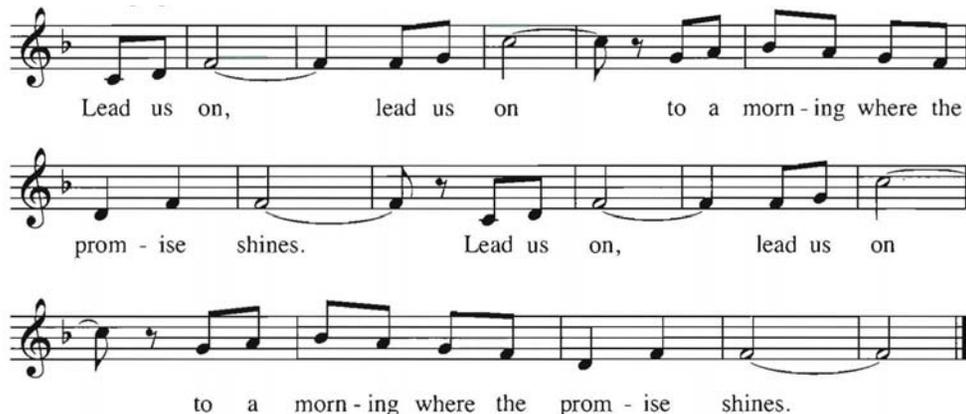
All: God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

Candles are lit



*P: Today we light four candles. The **first candle** is the light of hope granting strength to the weary. The **second candle** is the light of peace that surpasses our understanding. The **third candle** is the light of joy that touches the depths of our soul. The **fourth candle** reminds us of the light of God’s love poured out in the person and work of Jesus Christ.*

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: God of grace, you so loved the world that you gave your one and only Son to all who believe. Jesus is the true gift of Advent, shining forth your glory and grace.

All: As the light has grown brighter through the season, we pray that you would shine forth the promise of your hope, peace, joy and love within our lives and within our world. 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 . . . “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” vs. 1, 4

Text & Tune: Marty Haugen - Cranberry Book #242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though
an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall
soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.
Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less
geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and
lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

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 your power, Lord Christ, and come.

All: With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world,

for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Be Seated

The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

READING . . . Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

L: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION . . . tune: “Angels We Have Heard on High”

**All: Lord, to whom else shall we go
Words of deathless life to know?
Not by bread alone we live,
But by ev’ry word You give.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL . . . Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people (Mary) from little-known places (Nazareth). This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in his gospel.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN’S TIME . . . Pastor Tim

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY . . . “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” vs. 1, 2

Text & Tune: Basque carol - Cranberry Book # 265

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 “All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!

Be Seated

MESSAGE . . . Choir Sermon-in-Song

***A Reformation 500 Christmas:
Christmas Songs with Words by Martin Luther***

- “Good Christian Men, Rejoice”
- “We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth”
- “Savior of the Nations, Come”
- “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”
- “All Praise to Thee”

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 . . . “Winter Snow” – Tristan Stevenin
Bethany Stevenin, Terri MacFarlane 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. Your eternal reign has come into the world. Give us ears to hear your call to serve your kingdom, and send us out to those who are hurting and in need of good news. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: You bring down the powerful and raise up the lowly. Where war rages, shatter hatred with forgiveness and peace. Where fear rules, make your all-powerful and eternal presence known. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: You remember us with mercy, Lord, as you have done for all generations. Fill us, comfort us, strengthen us, and enlighten us. Make your will known to all in need. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: You called Mary to bear your Son. We pray for pregnant women, for mothers and fathers of infants and small children, and especially for couples who bear the pain of infertility, miscarriage, or stillbirth. 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

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 is 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 . . . “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

Text: *With One Voice* - Tune: English folk tune - Cranberry Book #251



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.



COMMUNION HYMN . . . “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Text: *Psalteriolum Cationum Catholicarum* - Tune: French processional
Cranberry Book #257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

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!

Be Seated

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

BENEDICTION . . . tune: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

L: Now may the good Lord bless and keep,
His love in you increase;
Lift up His face with shining grace,
And grant eternal peace.

**All: To Father, Son and Spirit,
Eternal One-in-Three,
Be thanks and praise through all our days
And to eternity!**

SENDING HYMN . . . “People, Look East” vs. 1, 4

Text: Eleanor Farjeon – Tune: French carol – Cranberry Book #248



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE . . . “O Christmas Tree” – Instrumental Group

**All are invited to celebrate
Christmas with us this evening
at either 5 pm or 9 pm.**



“Where the Promise Shines” Candle Lighting Ceremony
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