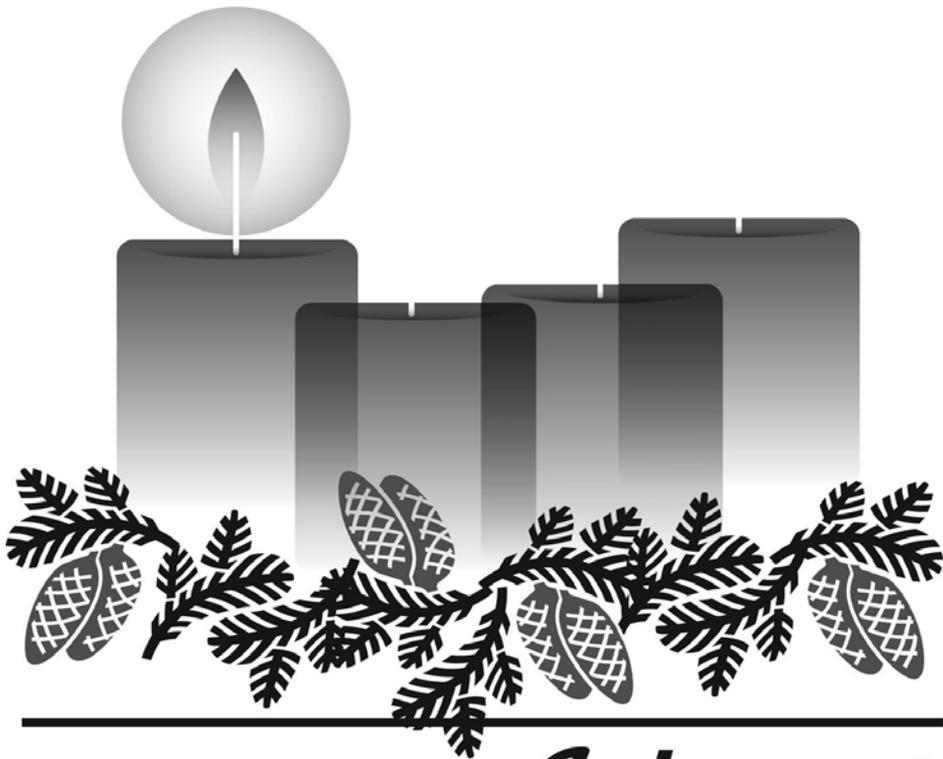


Hope



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

December 02, 2018

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

December 02, 2018
8:45 AM Service – Advent I
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Church: (510) 793-6285
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

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.” Our Lord’s 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 our Lord in word and supper.

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 . . . *Michael Keating*

WELCOME

Please Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

All: Amen.

P: Let us come before God in confession.

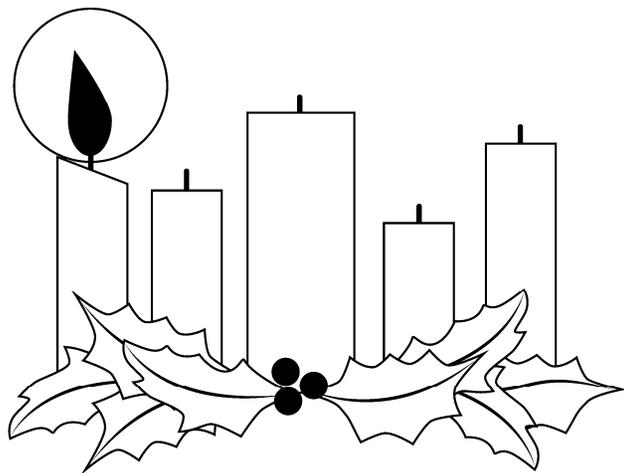
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: To you, O God,

All: we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

P: Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve.

All: We will stand up and raise our heads! The reign of God is near. Amen.



ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING . . . “Love’s Pure Light”

Choir: Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people’s everlasting light,
Jesu, Redeemer, Savior of all,
Hear thy servants when they call.

All: O come, O come, Em - man - u -
el, and end this gloom of night. Bring
hope to the world, bring peace to the
earth, and fill us with love’s pure light.

The musical score is written on four staves in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

LITANY . . . *The Promise of Hope*

L: In this season of Advent, we long for God’s presence.

All: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

L: In this season of Advent, we search for God’s truth.

All: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

L: In this season of Advent, we seek God’s guidance.

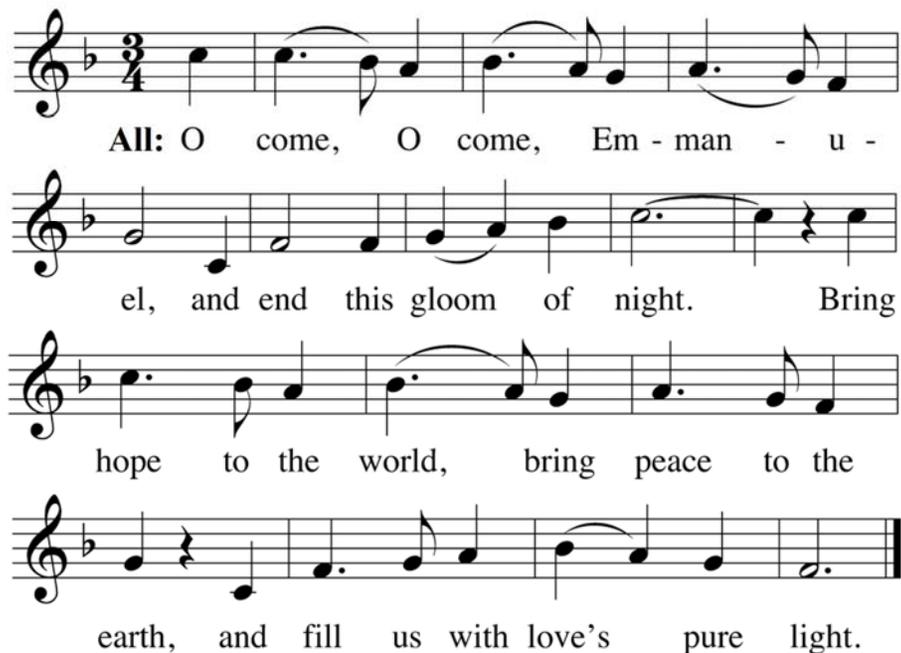
All: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

L: In this season of Advent, we remember God’s promise.

All: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

Candle is lit

*P: This morning we light the **first candle**, the candle of hope. This candle reminds us that God's promises give us reason to be filled with hope – hope for unity in a world of division, hope for healing in a world of pain, and hope for peace in a world filled with anger and strife. We remember that Christ is our light and the source of our hope.*



All: O come, O come, Em-man-u-el, and end this gloom of night. Bring hope to the world, bring peace to the earth, and fill us with love's pure light.

Choir: Bring hope and joy and peace,
And fill us with love's pure light.

CLOSING PRAYER OF CANDLE LIGHTING

P: Gracious God, as we begin our Advent journey we thank you for the gift of your Son, and for sending hope into a world filled with dread.

All: Help us remember that we are your people, and because of your promises we have every reason to be hopeful. Take away our doubt and fear, and remind us that Christ is our light, and the true source of hope. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The coming of our Lord is near, and we wait in joyful expectation.

All: Draw close, Lord Jesus Christ, shed your light on all that is filled with darkness.

L: The coming of our Lord is near, and we wait with hope-filled hearts.

All: Draw close, God's beloved Son, teach us the wonder of your all-embracing love.

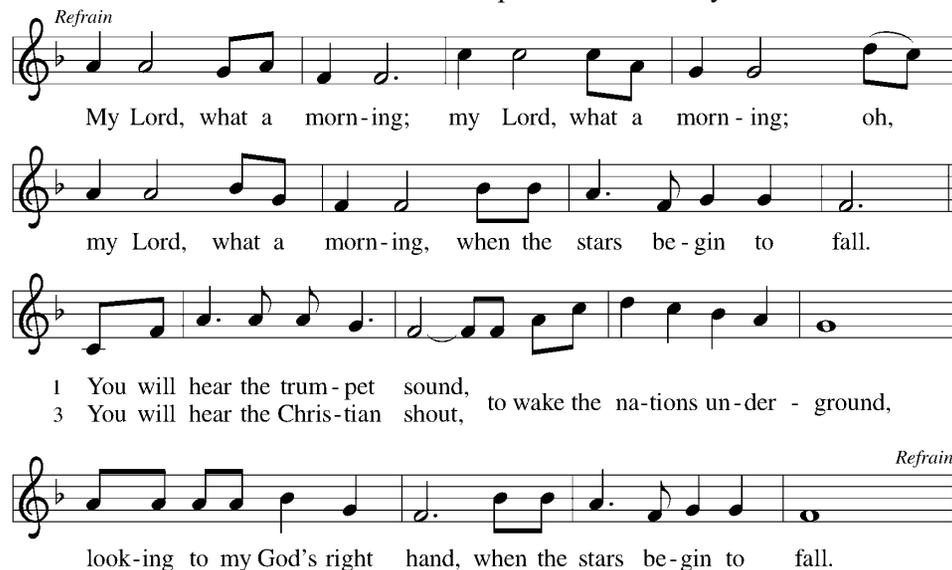
L: The coming of our Lord is near, and we wait for God's redeeming presence.

All: Draw close, Savior of all creation, our hearts ache for justice, our minds long for holiness, our spirits seek for unity.

L: The coming of our Lord is near, and we wait attentive to the signs of his coming.

All: Draw close, Lord Jesus Christ, God beyond imagining, fully God yet truly human, draw close. Amen.

OPENING HYMN . . . "My Lord, What a Morning" vs. 1, 3 Text & Tune African American spiritual - Cranberry Book #438



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,
my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.

1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

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. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins,

All: 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.

Be Seated

CHOIR ANTHEM . . . “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

FIRST READING . . . Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

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. 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. 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.”

SECOND READING . . . 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy’s report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

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

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 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. 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.

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 twenty-first chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL . . . Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God’s purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God’s people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God’s promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] “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. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

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

“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, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN’S TIME . . . Libby Deaton

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY . . . “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.

Be Seated

MESSAGE . . . Libby Deaton

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 . . . “Angels We Have Heard on High”
- 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: 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: As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation. Equip your church, merciful God. Secure our roots in the soil of your eternal word. Ease our worries and remove our shame. Grow our faithfulness and let your steadfast love blossom among us. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Grow peace within us, abundant God. Raise up leaders in every community grounded in your justice and mercy. Increase their love for all people. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Increase our joy, wondrous God. Plant thanksgiving in our hearts and multiply the good fruit of our outreach ministries and creation care programs. Guide us in our service to local and global neighbors. 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: Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and 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.
Grape juice is white, wine is red.
If you desire communion brought to you,
please let an usher know.



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*



COMMUNION HYMN . . . “What Feast of Love”

Text: Delores Dufner - Tune: English ballad – Cranberry Book #487



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

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



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 . . . *"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"* vs. 1, 4

Text: Laurentius Laurenti – Tune: Swedish folk tune – Cranberry Book #244

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;
the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.
The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see
Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way.

All: Thanks be to God.



"Love's Pure Light" Candle Lighting Ceremony
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