

# Joy



THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

**December 16, 2018**

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

December 16, 2018  
8:45 AM Service – Advent III  
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity  
Church: (510) 793-6285  
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

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

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

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## WELCOME TO THE STORY

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*The presence of the Lord “in your midst” in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with his winnowing fork in his 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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## A Story that Invites Us

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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, 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.*

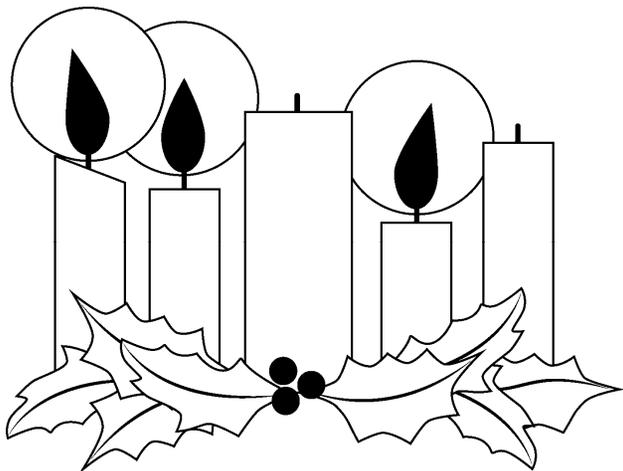
Silence is kept for reflection.

*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.

## LITANY . . . Hope for God’s Joy

L: In this season of Advent, we celebrate with joyful hearts.

**All: Christ is our light and the source of our joy.**

L: We count our blessings, and give thanks for God’s goodness and grace.

**All: Christ is our light and the source of our joy.**

L: We strive to search for the good in neighbors near and far.

**All: Christ is our light and the source of our joy.**

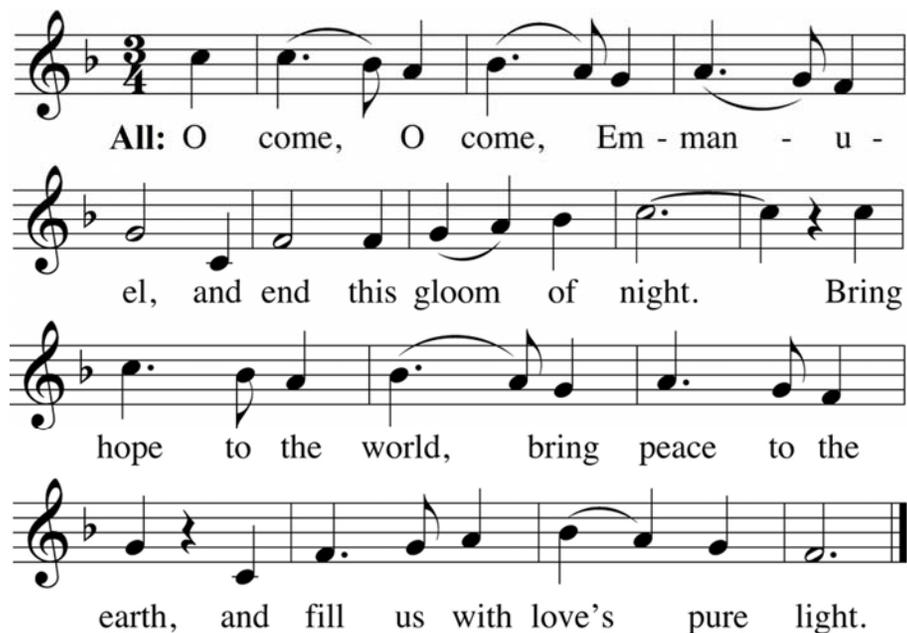
L: We remember that God has promised us full and joyful lives.

**All: Christ is our light and the source of our joy.**

Candle is lit

*P: This morning we light **three candles**. The first candle of hope. The second candle of peace. Today we light the third candle of joy. This candle reminds us that we have reason to be joyful, even in the midst of strife. We remember that the angel proclaimed Christ's birth as "Good news of great joy, to all people."*

**All: We celebrate today with joyful hearts and commit ourselves to spreading that joy to the world around us.**



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 continue our Advent journey we ask that you open our eyes to the beauty and goodness around us, and fill our hearts with grateful joy.*

**All: Remind us that Christ is our light and the source of all joy, and that we are here to serve you and to spread that joy to others. 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 . . . "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!" vs. 1, 3, 5

Text: Latin hymn – Tune: William H. Monk - Cranberry Book #246



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we  
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, come with par - don  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther  
hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,  
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,  
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it  
all you chil - dren of the day!"  
one and all, to be for - giv'n;  
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

## **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 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.**

Be Seated

## **CHOIR ANTHEM . . . “African Advent Carol”**

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### **The Story that Shapes and Forms Us**

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## **FIRST READING . . . Zephaniah 3:14-20**

*The prophet Zephaniah’s message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God’s salvation is at hand.*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

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

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

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 as on a day of festival.

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

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.

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.

## **SECOND READING . . . Philippians 4:4-7**

*Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns, with the hope they will experience God’s joy and peace.*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**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 third chapter.*

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL . . . Luke 3:7-18**

*John the Baptist heralds the mighty one “who is coming.” John teaches that preparation for God’s reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.*

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. 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. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

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

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 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 thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 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.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*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 . . . “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

vs. 1, 3

Text: Paul Gerhardt - Tune: Johann Crüger - Cranberry Book #241



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.

Be Seated

MESSAGE . . . *Pastor Tim*

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### A Story that Feeds Us

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#### 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 . . . “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” –  
*Carmen Blair & 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: As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation. For choirs, hymn writers, musicians, and singing, we give you thanks, Holy One. Fill us with your song of joy. Open us to proclaim your glory in our singing, speaking, and silence. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: For peace to ring out in our hearts and in our homes; for mercy and forgiveness to reign in every community; for war to cease and hunger to end. Give us this joy now, Holy One. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: For those who are oppressed; for soldiers and veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and their families; for neighbors who have no access to medical care; for those who are ill and those who mourn. Fill them with your peace. 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.**

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### A CAROL SETTING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

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**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 . . . "The King Shall Come"

Text: John Brownlie - Tune: A. Davisson - Cranberry Book #260



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

## COMMUNION HYMN . . . "All Earth Is Hopeful"

Text & Tune: Alberto Taulé - Cranberry Book #266



- 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
- 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
- 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
- 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All our  
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
Je - sus is with us, and

ev - er sets us free.

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

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A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

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**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 . . . “Fling Wide the Door” vs. 1, 4**

Text: Georg Weissel - Tune: J. A. Freylinghausen – Cranberry Book #259

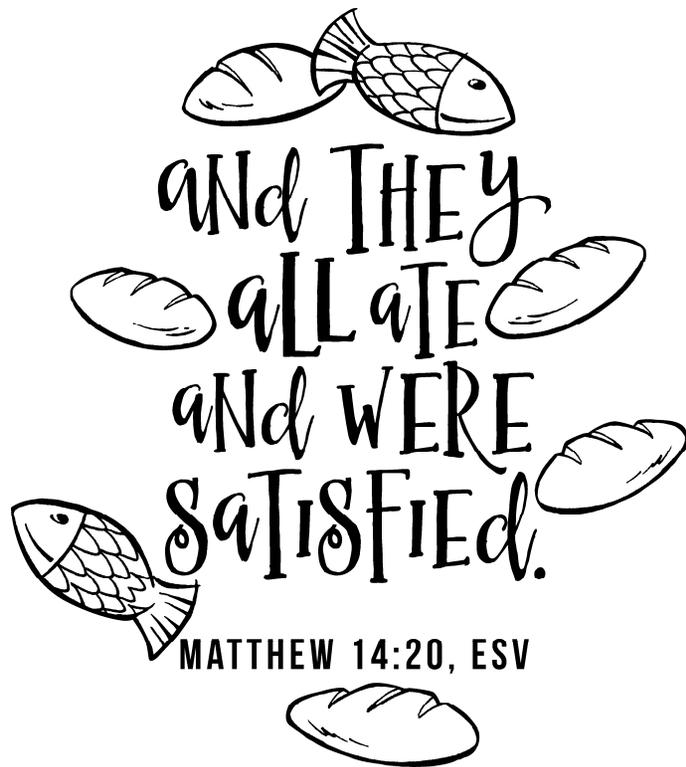
1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry  
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen  
comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the  
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -  
Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion  
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly  
to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and  
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We  
praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.  
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

**DISMISSAL**

**L: Go in peace. Prepare the way.**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

# Please stay for Bryan's BBQ Brunch after the service!



"Love's Pure Light" Candle Lighting Ceremony  
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