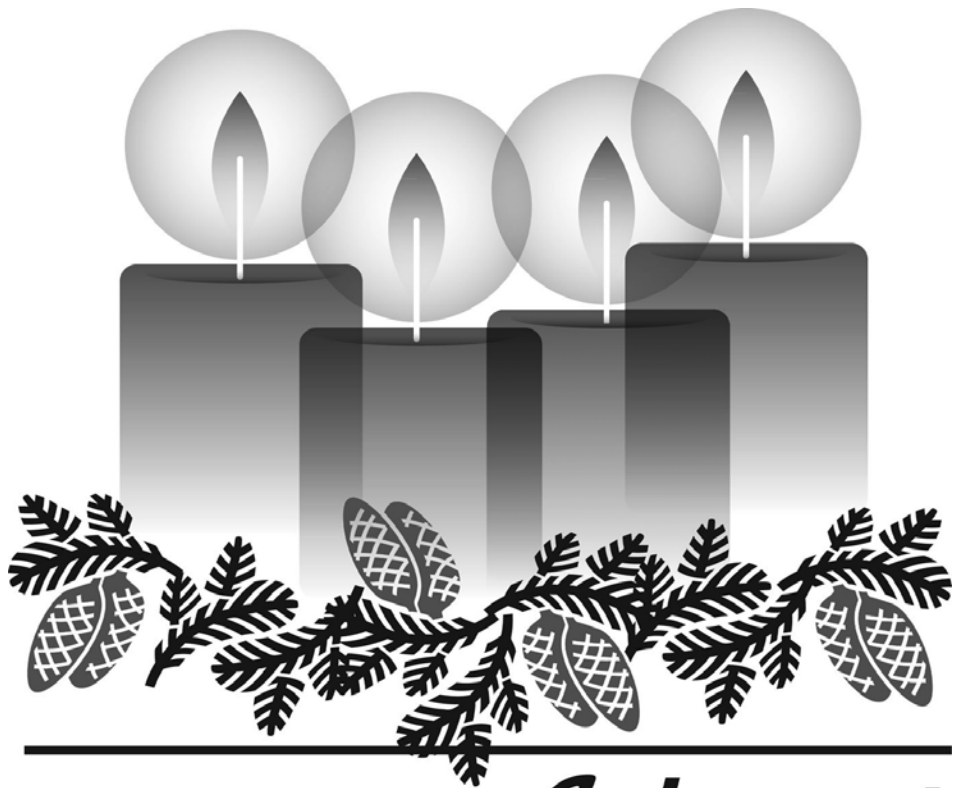


Love



FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

December 23, 2018

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

December 23, 2018
8:45 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

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the readings remind us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

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, 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.

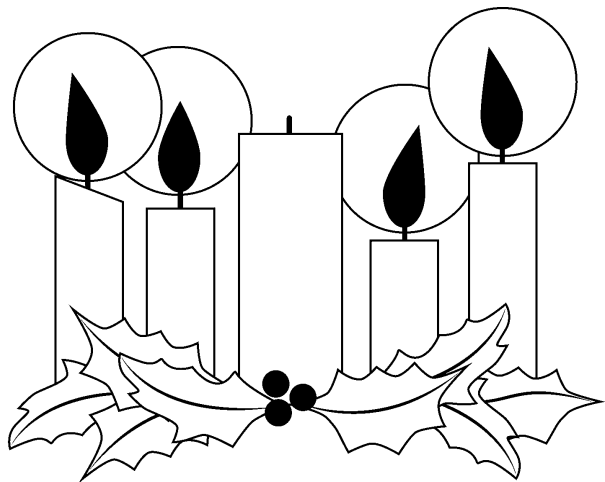
Silence is kept for reflection.

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.



LITANY . . . Hope for God’s Love

L: During Advent we see God’s love for us embodied in our Savior’s birth.

All: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

L: Advent calls us to love others with patience and kindness.

All: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

L: Advent calls us to be slow to anger and quick to forgive.

All: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

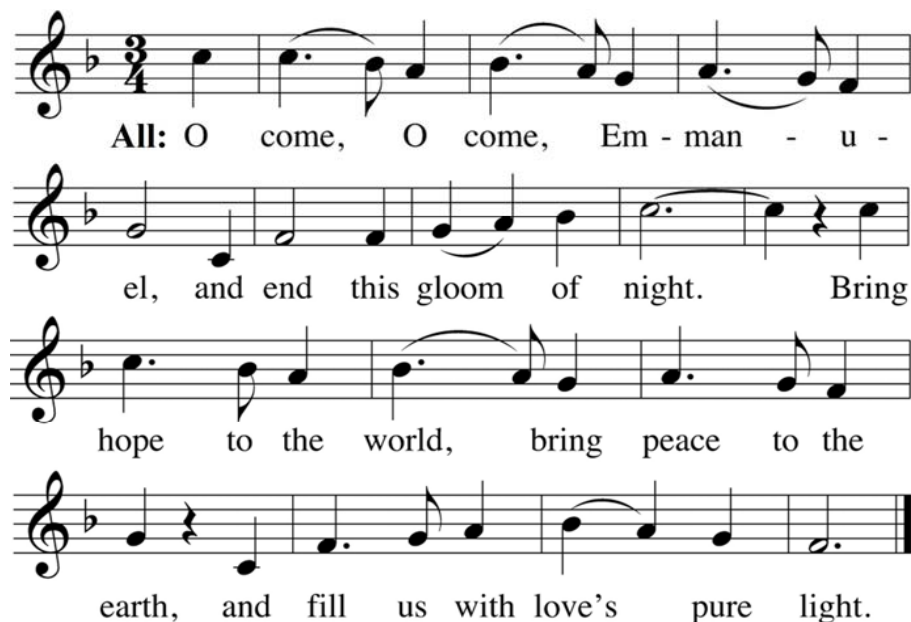
L: Advent reminds us that Christ commanded us to love as he loved.

All: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Candles are lit

*P: This morning we light **four candles**. The first candle represents hope. The second candle reminds us of peace. The third candle shines with joy. Today's candle is the candle of love. This candle reminds us that God so loved the world that he sent his only son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have life everlasting.*

All: Today we celebrate God's gift of love and remember that we have been commanded to love others as God loves 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 are reminded that "Love came down at Christmas – love amazing, love divine."

All: You loved the world enough to send your Son, and now it's up to us to love others as you loved us. Remind us that Christ is our light, and the true source of infinite, everlasting, pure love. 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 Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

vs. 1, 3

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!
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.
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—
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.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

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 binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, 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 . . . Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of
the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

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 1:39-55

We are presented with Elizabeth, John’s mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth’s inspired greeting and Mary’s song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN’S TIME . . . Pastor Tim

Please Stand

**As soon as I heard
the sound of
your greeting,
the child
in my womb
leaped for joy.**

Luke 1:44, NRSV



HYMN OF THE DAY . . . “Canticle of the Turning” vs. 1, 2

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 . . .



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



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to



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



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



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.

Be Seated

MESSAGE . . . Choir Sermon-in-Song

Christmas: A First-Person Perspective

“Breath of Heaven”

“Guard Him, Joseph”

“Star of Wonder”

“Sing Gloria”

“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”

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 . . . “Carol for Advent” – Kathleen and Michael Keating

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. Faithful Lord, you keep your promises. Move your church to sing like Mary and rejoice like Elizabeth. Teach us to sing of your faithfulness all our days. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Ancient of Days, with joy you danced over the waters and birthed creation. Give us joy in caring for the soil beneath us, the water around us, and the sky above us. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Good Shepherd, you feed your flock. Fill the hungry with good things. Lift up the lowly. Accompany the refugee. Comfort the lonely. Heal the sick. Send us in haste to surround them with your love. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Love Incarnate, you are with us at the manger, on the cross, and on the resurrection road. Walk with all who live with depression, grief, or heartache in this season. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

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

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

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

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 . . . "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Text: Liturgy of St. James - Tune: French folk tune - Cranberry Book #490



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav' n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"



COMMUNION HYMN . . . “Savior of the Nations, Come”

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, Martin Luther - Tune: J. Walter
Cranberry Book #263



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

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

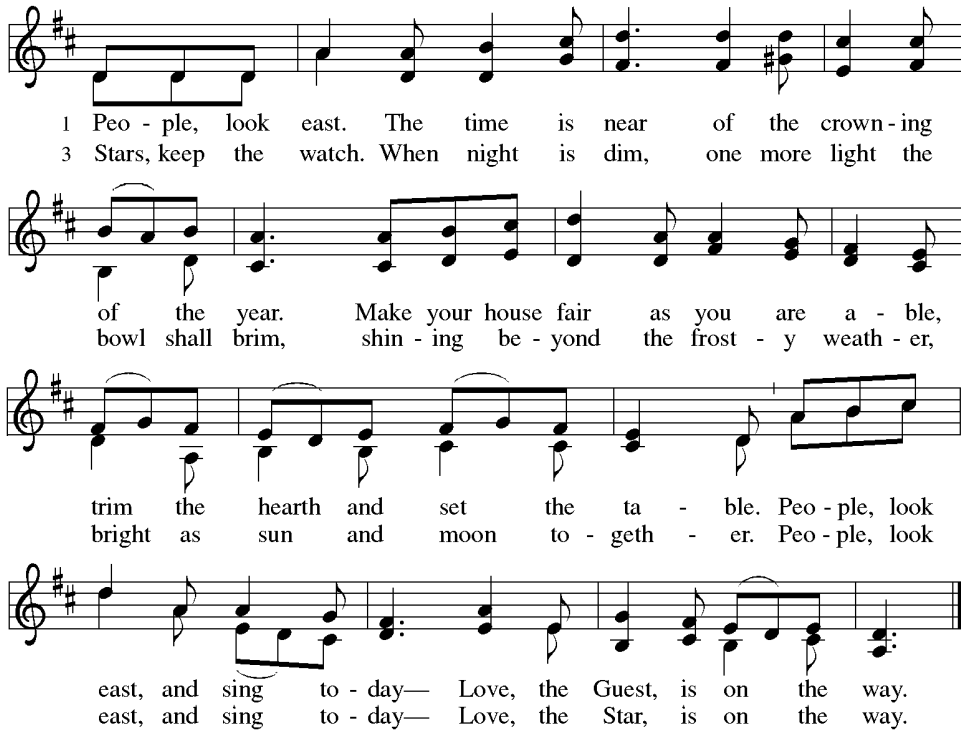
BENEDICTION . . . tune: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

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, 3

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



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way.

All: Thanks be to God.



All are invited to celebrate
Christmas Eve with us at our
candlelight services tomorrow evening
at 5 pm and 9 pm.



“Love’s Pure Light” Candle Lighting Ceremony
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