



Christmas
in July

July 19, 2020

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

July 19, 2020
7th Sunday after Pentecost
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

[Click here for a video of the full service.](#)

PRELUDE . . . “*What Child Is This?*” (with “*Christmas Time Is Here*” as introduction)

Favorite Hymn of Carmen Blair

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

INVOCATION

P: We have waited for a long time for your hope, your joy, your love to shine in the darkness of this world, Almighty God.

All: Even now, we await you. In our hearts, we still hope that your light will blaze forth, banishing the shadows of this world and guiding all the people back to you.

P: Yet you did not come into this world in a show of power and glory.

All: You did not shine forth for all of creation to behold.

P: A tiny spark – a newborn baby,

All: visible to parents and curious animals.

P: A host of angels – away from the populated areas,

All: singing to migrant workers.

P: A sparkling star –

All: guiding strangers to see what locals could not.

P: Open our hearts, merciful God, to the sparks of your presence still in this world.

All: Open our eyes, that we might behold your presence in the least likely of places, and among the least likely of people.

P: God with us, kindle your spark within us, that together we may shine forth your light, we might banish the shadows of this world, we might be the continuation of the Christmas miracle:

All: Emmanuel is in this world, God is with us, now and evermore.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God is telling a story in our lives. It's quite a story-

All: full of the promises God makes and our struggles to trust;

L: full of mystery and angels with surprising news;

All: full of hard endings and unexpected new beginnings.

L: Come, hear the story pay attention to the angels' message

All: in our hearts in this place and time.

L: Then join all creation in worshipping the God who tells it full of grace and truth;

All: who comes in Jesus, the Word made flesh, and makes our story holy.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign if the cross.

P: Precious Holy One, a brief look at the news shouts out that there are many dark places in our world.

All: Darkness through mindless violence and injustice

P: Darkness through frustration and horror

All: Darkness through grief and distress

P: Darkness through pain and disease

All: Darkness deep in the souls of those we love...

Silence for Reflection

P: Holy One, into these dark places, into those unnamed dark places, into the darkness of fear and loneliness, pour out your radiance, shower down your light, break through with pure brilliance, until the darkness is dispelled

All: and our hearts find peace, and the light of hope can shine forth again fresh and new with this new day. Hear our prayers, we pray. Amen.

LITANY

L: We continue with a Litany:

Let the love that shaped earth and heaven

All: dwell within us.

L: Let the love that created humanity

All: dwell within us.

L: Let the love that overcomes suffering and hatred

All: dwell within us.

L: Let the love that causes us to rejoice with loved ones

All: dwell within us.

L: Let the love that forgives and renews

All: dwell within us.

L: Let the love that brings reconciliation after separation

All: dwell within us.

L: Let the love that brings the blessing of peace

All: dwell within us. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray the Prayer of the Day:

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion.

All: By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: You are the living God who sustains all life in continually unfolding ways. And now may we open our ears to your continually unfolding Word. You speak to us in new and vital and imperative ways.

All: With all the power you have given us, let us be silent and open to listening... for nourishment, comfort, for challenge and new focus. Amen.

Reader: The reading is from Genesis chapter twenty-eight, beginning with the tenth verse.

READING . . . *Genesis 28:10-19a*

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that

he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME . . . *Pastor Tim*

HOMILY . . . *Pastor Tim*

OFFERING . . . *"Angels, From the Realms of Glory"*
Favorite Hymn of Cheryl Cox-Hall

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God of ancient times and future hope, we bring these gifts to bless your world with hope. Please bless these gifts, that they may be a blessing to others.

All: And bless us with patience and faith, that we may bring hope to a hurting world. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. God of the harvest, you sow the good seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ into your field. Help your church throughout the world to be both diligent and patient, full of resolve and gentleness, that our witness may be faithful to your intentions. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of all space and time, your whole creation groans in labor pains, awaiting the gift of new birth. Renew the earth, sky, and sea, so that all your creation experiences freedom from the bondage of decay. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of the nations, teach us your ways, that we may walk in your truth. Mend the fabric of the human family, now torn apart by our fearful and warring ways. Guide us by your mercy, grace, and steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of hope, you accompany those who suffer and are near to the brokenhearted. Open our hearts to your children who are lonely and abandoned, who feel trapped by despair, and all who suffer in any way. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayers.

L: 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.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: May patience pave our path.
May hope comfort our world.
And may love guide our lives.

All: We go with patience, hope, and love.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE . . . “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Favorite Hymn of the Di Paola Kids

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff

Lay Liturgist: Carmen Blair

Lector: Michael Di Paola

Music: Leilani Camara

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema

