

Christmas
EVE

December 24, 2020

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

December 24, 2020
Christmas Eve
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

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

PRELUDE . . . “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

GATHERING WORDS

P: O God of love, you have brought us together tonight and blessed us with your very self.

All: Open our eyes to the light of Christ which glows in the darkness of a world engulfed in apathy, pain and loss; a world separated from you.

P: Speak to us now that we may hear the good news of your salvation. Bring us into the wonder of your presence.

All: Fill us with that light and carry it out with us into our lives. Amen.

HYMN . . . “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

P: We wait for You in the stillness. In the darkness before dawn.

All: You are here with us. Your birth proclaimed by angel and prophet, shepherd and magi. You are here and our waiting is over.

P: While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

All: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

P: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, The Strength of God, Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace.

All: The waiting is over. The Light of the World is here!

Candles are lit.

P: Let us pray: Gracious God, your Spirit has led us throughout the days and nights of our Advent journey. Thank you for opening our eyes to see more of your presence in our world and in our lives.

All: We rejoice in your ultimate gift of sending a Savior who has taught us the fullness of what hope, peace, joy, and love are all about. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: On this holiest of nights,

All: we come, joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder.

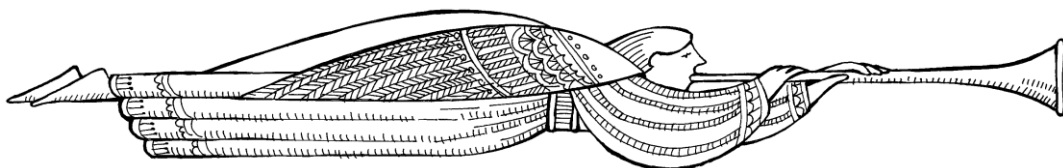
L: On this most silent night,

All: we come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.

L: On this night of carols and candlelight,

All: we come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels over us.

HYMN . . . “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”



INVOCATION

P: God of light and love,

All: shine upon us this Christmas Eve and in the year ahead.

P: Guide us out of darkness and into your joyous light.

All: May our lives reflect your glorious love, that others may see your Christmas Spirit in us, each and every day of our lives. Amen.

GREETING

P: The grace and loving-kindness of our Savior Jesus Christ, word made flesh, born of the Virgin Mary, is with you all.

All: And also with you.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.

All: Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

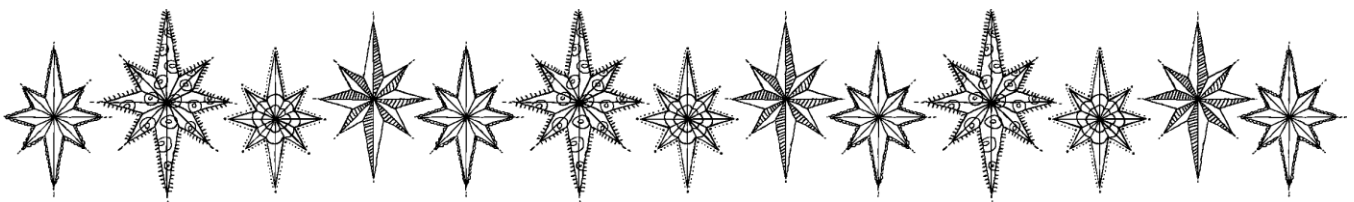
CHOIR ANTHEM . . . "A Celtic Noel"

GATHERING . . . **WORD** . . . SENDING

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: A child is born to us, a son given to all the world.

All: As we hear the familiar story this night, may we listen anew for signs of God's glory and grace.



READING . . . *Luke 2:1-20*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: Sing with the angels:

All: Christ is born!

Reader: Shine with the stars:

All: Christ is born!

Reader: Rejoice in God's glory:

All: Christ is born!

CHILDREN'S TIME . . . *Carmen Blair*

HYMN . . . "Away in a Manger"

HOMILY . . . *Pastor Tim*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: As sages once brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we are invited to bring our gifts to the Christ child.

All: Our gifts need not be shiny or big, for any gift lovingly given becomes a gift of light and love for the world.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: With these gifts, O God, bring light to your people and love to the earth.

All: With our lives, shine light into the deepest shadows and help us to share your love where it is needed most. In your loving name, we pray. Amen.



THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. The shepherds sing, “Jesus Christ is born!” Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Heaven and nature sing, “Joy to the world!” Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: The heavenly chorus sings, “Glory to God in the highest!” We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed. Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

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

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.



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.

HYMN . . . *“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”*

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

P: The God who said, “Let there be light,” has caused light to shine in our hearts.

All: That light is the glory of God reflected in the face of Jesus Christ.

L: As our candles are a sea of light lit from the one light of Christ, so may we the people of God reflect Christ’s light and love in this world.

All: Amen. May it be so.

You are invited to light candles while singing *“Silent Night”*

HYMN . . . *“Silent Night”*

LITANY

P: God of light, you shine in the deepest darkness.

All: Christ is born!

L: Praise God that the light of our Savior shines so brilliantly in the darkness.

All: Christ is born!

P: Arise! And may the light of Christ radiate through us to our needy world.

All: In God there is no darkness! Christ is born! Alleluia! Amen!

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

BLESSING

P: We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry,

All: in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God;

P: his voice undimmed by the centuries

All: his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to the disciples so long ago.

P: Come to us, Lord Jesus,

All: Be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives.

P: May the light of Jesus' life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth,

All: of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.

COMMISSIONING

L: Once we walked in darkness.

All: Tonight we walk in the light of Christ.

L: Once we wandered with no one to lead us.

All: Tonight we follow the Prince of Peace.

L: Once we felt lost and forsaken.

All: Tonight we sing the glory of our salvation.

L: Once we were weary from work and worry.

All: Tonight we are reborn with Christ, through God's glorious love. Merry Christmas!!

POSTLUDE . . . *"Joy to the World"*

SINGING BOWL



Pastor: Tim Huff
Lay Liturgist: Debbie Huff
Reader: Rachel Huff
Children's Time: Carmen Blair
Music: Leilani Camara – piano & organ, Dean Sieglaff – violin,
the choir & congregation of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Video Editing: Carmen Blair
Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema
“*A Celtic Noel*” & “*Silent Night*” recorded 2019 by Arnold Kuhlmann

