

Christ Is Born!



close to
Home
Christmas Eve

Invited Home

December 24, 2021

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

December 24, 2021
4 pm and 8 pm – Christmas Eve
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

CHRISTMAS EVE INVITED HOME

*“Joy to the world, the Lord is come . . .”
With joy we greet you in the name of Christ.
Your presence helps add to the happiness of Christmas.
Welcome one and all!*

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 . . . *Myrna Emata Diaz*

WELCOME

Please Stand

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.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

P: In God's house, there is hope—

All: For God loves us too much to leave us just as we are.

Candle of hope is lit.

L: In God's house, there is peace—

All: For all that separates us from God falls away.

Candle of peace is lit.

P: In God's house, there is joy—

All: Because God created music, food, and laughter that is contagious; and if those things have God's fingerprints, then God's house surely exudes joy.

Candle of joy is lit.

L: In God's house, there is love—

All: Because God is love, from start to finish, and that love exists for us all.

Candle of love is lit.

P: And in the center of our hope,

All: In the center of our peace,

L: In the center of our joy,

All: In the center of our love, is God—who came to this earth to dwell among us.

Christ candle is lit.

P: So tonight we light the Christ candle, for God's love just could not stay away.

All: Welcome home. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER OF CANDLE LIGHTING

P: 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: In the midst of a silent night sky, a star beckons:

All: Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

L: In the midst of a tranquil field, an angel proclaims:

All: Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

L: In the midst of our loneliness and pain, God calls:

All: Rise up, children, and follow.

L: With the promise of new life, Christ whispers:

All: Rise up, children, and follow.



ENTRANCE HYMN . . . “Oh, Come All Ye Faithful” vs. 1,3



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Glo - ry to God in . . . the . . . high - est:



Refrain
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

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.

Be Seated

HYMN . . . “The First Noel” vs. 1,2



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing




cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -



night that was so deep. No - el, No - el, No -
tin - ued both day and night.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

A CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

L: O wondrous God of the stars,

**All: we come tonight with breathless wonder, to see the
babe who will change our lives.**

L: We hear the names Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Prince of Peace,

All: and we are in awe.

L: You have touched the earth this night with your
unconditional love.

**All: Touch our hearts and minds and souls, that we may
never tire of this story, or take it for granted.**

L: Make this night holy again.

All: Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

[8 pm] . . . “*I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve*” - Choir

Please Stand

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Reader: Holy God, we’ve heard this story a million times—
Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds.

**All: We’ve heard it a million times, but we want to
hear it like it’s the first.**

Reader: So move among us.

All: Circle back. Draw close.

Reader: Crack open our hearts and fill them with your
goodness.

**All: Help us to hear what it is you might be saying to
us with curiosity, joy, and hope.**

Reader: This is an invitation.

All: Come be here with us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Reader: The Christmas Reading is from the Gospel of Luke,
chapter two, beginning with the first verse.

THE CHRISTMAS 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.

Reader: Sing with the angels:

All: Christ is born!

Reader: Shine with the stars:

All: Christ is born!

Reader: Rejoice in God’s glory:

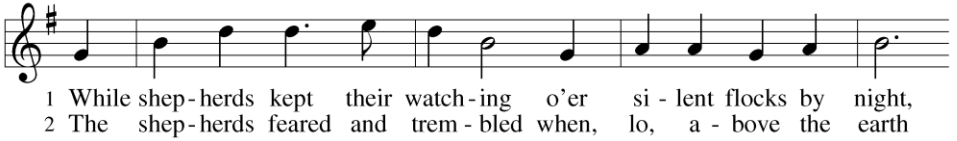
All: Christ is born!

Be Seated

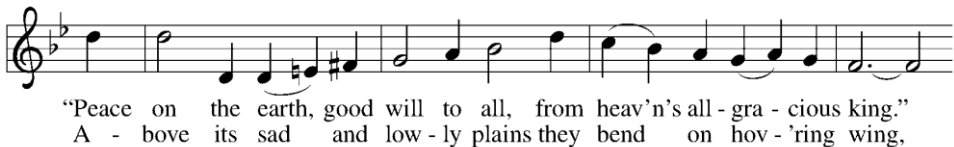
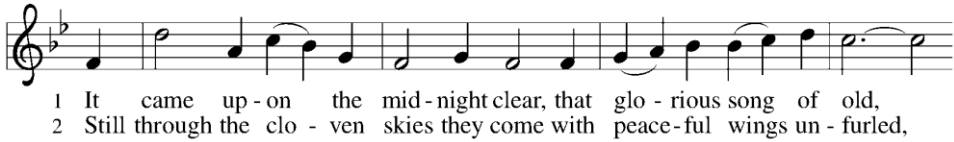
[4pm] **CHILDREN’S TIME . . .** *Pastor Tim*

HYMN

[4 pm] . . . “Go Tell It on the Mountain” vs. 1,2



[8 pm] . . . “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” vs. 1,2



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE . . . Pastor Tim

INVITATION TO OFFERING

L: Jesus was born into poverty.

All: He was born into simplicity.

L: He was born into a manger in Bethlehem.

All: And despite the little he might have had, Jesus still spent the rest of his days on earth giving to others.

L: Generosity is in the DNA of our faith.

All: We give what we can, not because we *should* or because scripture says to.

L: We give because we're family.

All: We give because we belong to one another.

L: We give because all are invited into God's house.

All: So let us give our tithes and our offerings now.

THANKFUL OFFERING

MUSIC DURING OFFERING

[4 pm] – *Myrna Emata Diaz*

[8 pm] “*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*” – *Choir*

Please Stand

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Holy Child of Bethlehem, bless these gifts,

All: that they may be the grace of God for a community in need;

L: that they may be the light of Christ for people who dwell in darkness;

All: and that they may be the Spirit of peace for a world at war with itself.

L: Bring your peace into our darkness,

All: and flow through our lands with your glorious love.



THE PRAYERS

L: Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,

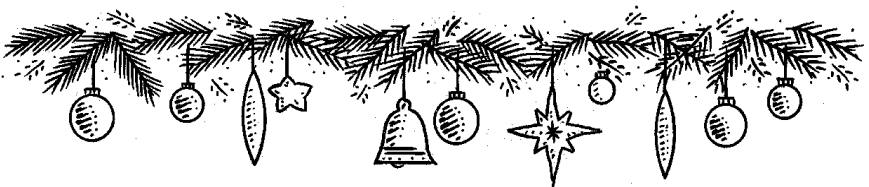
All: receive our prayer.

L: God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All: Amen.



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

L: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks to our Creator

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: We continue with the Eucharistic Prayer:

Holy God, our Source and Ending, Alpha and Omega, we give thanks to you! You have called all creation into being, setting the earth on its foundations. You have spread out the heavens like a tent, and set a boundary to the seas, you have filled the world with your creatures and called all things good. The heavenly beings are your messengers night and day, and with them we sing and give glory to you:

All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

P: In these latter days, God leaned toward the earth and spoke to us by a Son, Jesus the Beloved. Born of our sister Mary and the Holy Spirit, guarded by our brother Joseph with fatherly care, Jesus came among us as a baby, humbly born, cradled beside the beasts and warmed by their breath, human as we are, in need of human love.

All: Yet kings bowed down before him, bringing gifts and emperors were troubled by his reign—this Child in whom all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

P: This Word of God made flesh and full of grace was sent to deliver us from our sin, from the power of evil and the fear of death. As a servant, Jesus emptied himself of might upon the cross, and as the risen Anointed One is enthroned at God's right hand to bring mercy and

justice to all the earth at the end of days. And so, rejoicing in all God has done for us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

P: Holy God, as you visited us in the birth of Jesus, visit us now by the power of your Spirit in these creatures of bread and wine, making them for us the Body and Blood of Christ, the banquet of heaven here on earth, as we remember how Jesus took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to his friends, saying, “Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” and after supper, took a cup of wine and blessed and gave it to them, saying, “Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.” Blessed God, shed your grace brighter than starlight on us that we may bear your good tidings to all and renew the weary world in your name: the name of Emmanuel—God-With-Us,

All: to whom we give honor and glory in joy, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation which is most familiar to each of 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: Joy to the world! Our Savior has come.

All: Let every heart receive our Redeemer!

Be Seated

Holy Communion is open to all.

Pre-packaged elements are available at the entrance table.

LAMB OF GOD . . . tune: “’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”



COMMUNION HYMN . . . “O Little Town of Bethlehem”



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: On this night, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us.

All: As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people.

P: Let the gladness of this meal have no end

All: as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Be Seated



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.

The pastor lights candle from the center candle.
Ushers light their candles from the pastor's candle,
then light the candle of the worshiper next to the aisle.

The lit candles should NOT be tipped –
tip the *unlit* candle when lighting from a neighbor's candle.

MUSIC DURING CANDLE LIGHTING

[4 pm] . . . *Myrna Emata Diaz*

[8 pm] . . . "*Candle Carol*" – *Choir*

HYMN . . . "*Silent Night*"

All: Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace,

Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight;

Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!

Christ, the Savior, is born!

Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light

**Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

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!**

BLESSING

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. God bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

Please Stand



SENDING OUT HYMN . . . "Joy to the World" vs. 1, 2

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav-ior reigns! Let all their
ceive its King; let ev-'ry heart pre-prepare him
songs em-ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
room and heav'n and na-ture sing, and heav'n and na-ture
plains re-peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat the sound-ing
sing, and heav'n and heav'n and na-ture sing.
joy, re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.

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 . . . Myrna Emata Diaz

Merry
CHRISTMAS

Special Thanks to . . .

Those who helped decorate the church this Christmas Season;
Those who helped with tonight's worship experience;
Those whose musical talents enriched our services;
YOU for worshipping with us at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

**We hope to see you at our Poems and Carols
Service on December 26th at 10 am!**



**We invite you to worship with us at our
10 am Sunday Services.**