



Service of  
Poems and Carols

December 26, 2021

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

December 26, 2021  
10 AM Service – Christmas I  
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity  
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

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

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## **WELCOME TO THE STORY**

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*“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.”*  
- Colossians 3:15-16

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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.

**POEM . . .** *“Remembering That It Happened Once”* by  
Wendell Berry

Remembering that it happened once,  
we cannot turn away the thought,  
as we go out, cold, to our barns  
toward the long night’s end, that we  
ourselves are living in the world  
it happened in when it first happened,  
that we ourselves, opening a stall  
(a latch thrown open countless times

before), might find them breathing there,  
foreknown: the Child bedded in straw,  
the mother kneeling over Him,  
the husband standing in belief  
he scarcely can believe, in light  
that lights them from no source we see,  
an April morning's light, the air  
around them joyful as a choir.  
We stand with one hand on the door,  
looking into another world  
that is this world, the pale daylight  
coming just as before, our chores  
to do, the cattle all awake,  
our own frozen breath hanging  
in front of us; and we are here  
as we have never been before,  
sighted as not before, our place  
Holy, although we knew it not.

**PRELUDE . . .** *Myrna Emata Diaz*

## **WELCOME**

Please Stand

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: With gratitude and joy,

**All: let's sing to the God of love.**

L: In cheerful celebration,

**All: let's lift our hymns of praise.**

L: With hope and joyful hearts,

**All: let's sing to Christ, the newborn King.**



**CAROL . . . “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:



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



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

**PRAYER OF YEARNING FOR THE CLOSING OF 2021  
AND THE BEGINNING OF 2022**

*P:* Ever-present God, clothe us with your compassion.

**All:** Instill in us your kindness and your mercy.

*P:* Bind us together with humble patience

**All:** and with gentle love.

*P:* Rule in our hearts, that we may be Christ-like,

**All:** displaying your glory in every word and in every deed.

*P:* In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray.

**All:** Amen.

Silence for Reflection

*P:* The gift of Christmas is this: amazing grace and abundant love.

**All:** God forgives our transgression and strengthens our resolve to bring love and hope to the world.

**CAROL . . .** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” vs. 1,2



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je-sus Christ is born to-day;  
now ye hear of end-less bliss: Je-sus Christ was born for this!



ox and ass be-fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for-ev-er-more.



Christ is born to-day! Christ is born to-day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Be Seated



**POEM . . .** *“Christmas Returns”* by Howard Thurman

Christmas returns, as it always does,

with its assurance that life is good.

It is the time of life to the spirit,

when the mind feels its way into the commonplace,  
and senses wonder of simple things: an evergreen tree,  
familiar carols, merry laughter.

It is the time of illumination,

when candles burn, and old dreams  
find their youth again.

It is the time of pause,

when forgotten joys come back to mind,  
and past dedications renew their claim.

It is the time of harvest for the heart,

when the faith reaches out to mantle all high endeavor,  
and love whispers its magic word to everything that breathes.

Christmas returns, as it always does,

with its assurance that life is good.

**CAROL . . .** *“Away in a Manger”* vs. 1,3



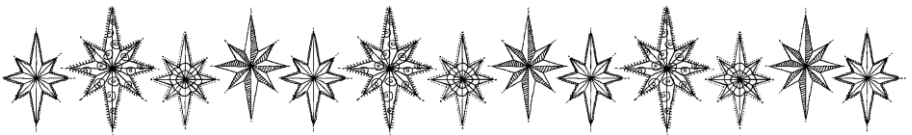
1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay; the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God of holy mystery, it was no heavenly stranger that came to save us;

**All: it was no happy accident that freed us from captivity;**

L: it was no careless gesture that showed us the ways of life and death.

**All: You are our light and our salvation. You alone are worthy of our worship and praise.**

L: In this season of Christmas, remind us once more of what you offer: a love born of endless searching, a connection born of deep longing, a future born of selfless sacrifice.

**All: Be with us now, for we are your people and you are our God. Amen.**

## POEM . . . *“Christmas Carol” by Sara Teasdale*

The kings they came from out the south,  
all dressed in ermine fine;  
they bore Him gold and chrysoprase,  
and gifts of precious wine.

The shepherds came from out the north,  
their coats were brown and old;  
they brought Him little new-born lambs –  
they had not any gold.

The wise men came from out the east,  
and they were wrapped in white;  
the star that led them all the way  
did glorify the night.

The angels came from heaven high,  
and they were clad with wings;  
and lo, they brought a joyful song  
the host of heaven sings.

The kings they knocked upon the door,  
 the wise men entered in,  
 the shepherds followed after them  
 to hear the song begin.

The angels sang through all the night  
 until the rising sun,  
 but little Jesus fell asleep  
 before the song was done.

**CAROL . . . “*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*” vs. 1,2**



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Please Stand





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## The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

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Reader: Don't be afraid! Look! Listen!

**All: God brings us good news, wonderful news for all people in the words of Christmas.**

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of John, chapter one, beginning with the first verse

**GOSPEL . . . *John 1:1-14 (The Inclusive Bible)***

In the beginning  
there was the Word;  
the Word was in God's presence,  
and the Word was God.

The Word was present to God  
from the beginning.

Through the Word  
all things came into being,  
and apart from the Word  
nothing came into being  
that has come into being.

In the Word was life,  
and that life was humanity's light –  
a Light that shines in the darkness,  
a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. He himself wasn't the Light; he only came to testify about the Light – the true Light that illumines all humankind.

The Word was coming into the world –  
was in the world –  
and though the world  
was made through the Word,  
the world didn't recognize it.

Though the Word came to its own realm,  
 the Word's own people didn't accept it.  
 Yet any who did accept the Word,  
 who believed in that Name,  
 were empowered to become children of God –  
 children born not of natural descent,  
 nor urge of flesh  
 nor human will –  
 but born of God.  
 And the Word became flesh  
 and stayed for a little while among us;  
 we saw the Word's glory –  
 the favor and position a parent gives an only child –  
 filled with grace,  
 filled with truth.

**CAROL . . .** *“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”* vs. 1,2



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - ring wing,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.

Be Seated

**POEM . . .** “Amazing Peace” by Maya Angelou - read by  
Pastor Tim

**CAROL . . .** “What Child Is This” vs. 1,2



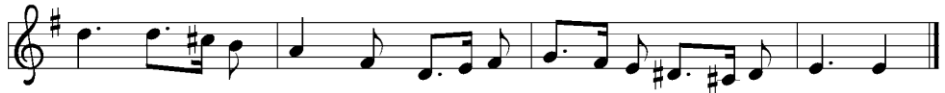
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

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**A Story that Feeds Us**

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**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

L: What greater gift could we receive than the gift of God's own child;

**All: a child who is our light and our salvation.**

L: We, who have received so much,

**All: are called to join the shepherds in sharing our joy;**

L: we are challenged to join the magi, in offering our gifts to the Christ child.

**All: Come! Let us give out of our abundance.**

**THANKFUL OFFERING**

Please Stand

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Holy God, it was your love that sent Jesus to our world, and it is in love that we offer these gifts back to you.

**All: Receive them, we pray, along with our gratitude for the gift of immeasurable grace you have given us. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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. You come to us in gatherings of your church across the globe. Unite us with those who celebrate your birth even when they are weighed down by grief, loss, poverty, hunger, or injustice. Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

L: You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we recognize the Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable. Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

L: You come to us in acts of justice and forgiveness. Open our hearts to forgive one another, without permitting injustice. Supply us with the wisdom to be clothed with love, binding all things together in perfect harmony. Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

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

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: 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: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, gracious Lord. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, that our eyes of faith may be always open in expectation of the vision of your glory.*

*Holy are you, O God our Creator, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.*

*As your Word became flesh, born of a woman, on that night long ago, so on the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

*When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,*

**All: we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we experience the mystery of our faith.**

## 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: In this meal, we taste the joy of our salvation.*

**All: We touch the presence of the living God.**

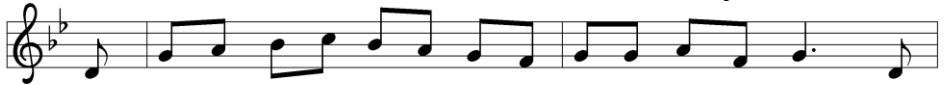
Be Seated

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 "*



O Lamb of God who takes a - way our sins, have mer - cy. O



Lamb of God who takes a - way our sins, have mer - cy. O



Lamb of God who takes a - way the sins of all the earth, we pray:



Je - sus, grant us your peace, grant us your peace. Glo-ry be to God on high.

## COMMUNION CAROL . . . *"Love Has Come"*



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

## SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

# POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*P:* God of wonder,

**All:** in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near.

*P:* As you have come among us now, send us out in joy,  
hastening to share the good news of your love.

**All:** We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit  
dwelling among us now and forever. Amen.

# POST COMMUNION THANKS . . . “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 - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and

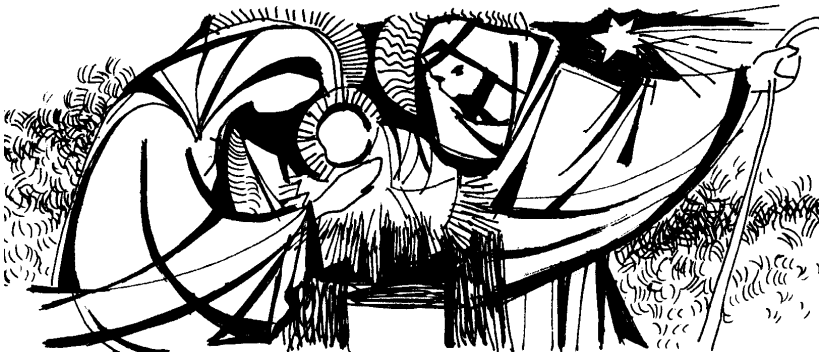


room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing



sing, and heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Be Seated





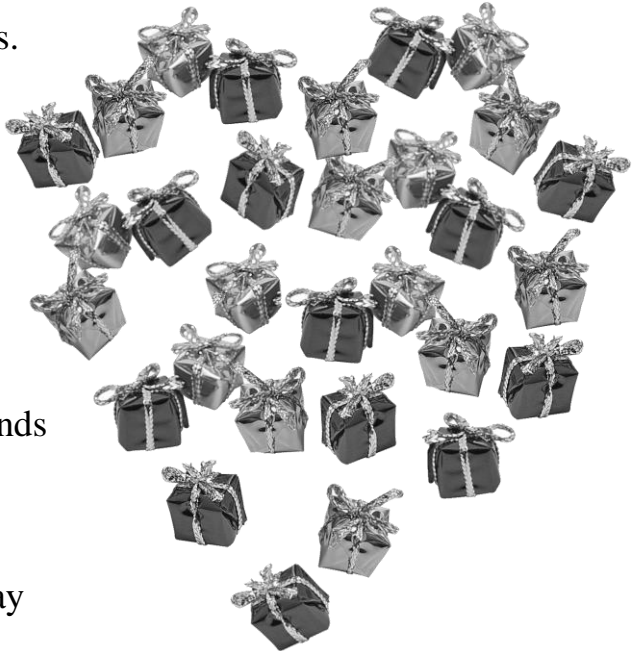
**POEM . . .** *“Let Me Not Keep Christmas”* by Linda Felver

Let me not  
wrap  
stack  
box  
bag  
tie  
tag  
bundle  
seal  
KEEP  
Christmas.



Christmas kept  
is liable to mold.

Let me give Christmas away  
unwrapped  
by exuberant armfuls.  
Let me  
share  
dance  
LIVE  
Christmas  
unpretentiously  
merrily  
responsibly  
with overflowing hands  
tireless step  
and sparkling eyes.



Christmas given away  
will stay fresh –  
even until it comes again.



# COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve**

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Please Stand

**BENEDICTION . . .** *“It Is Not Over”* by Ann Weems – read  
by Pastor Tim

It is not over,  
this birthing.

There are always newer skies  
into which  
God can throw stars.

When we begin to think  
that we can predict the Advent of God,  
that we can box the Christ  
in a stable in Bethlehem,  
that’s just the time  
that God will be born  
in a place we can’t imagine and won’t believe.

Those who wait for God  
watch with their hearts and not their eyes,  
listening,  
always listening  
for angel words.

**CAROL . . .** “Go Tell It on the Mountain” vs. 1, 3



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

**DISMISSAL**

**L:** Go in peace. Proclaim the news.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE . . .** Myrna Emata Diaz

