

God decided
in advance
TO ADOPT US
into his
own family
by bringing
us to himself
through
Jesus Christ.

EPHESIANS 1:5, NLT

January 2, 2022

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

January 2, 2022
10 AM – 2nd Sunday after Christmas
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

WELCOME TO THE STORY

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

A Story that Invites Us

All invitations to stand are for those who are able.

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



INVOCATION

P: God of our hopes, Christ of our faith, Spirit in our hearts, we come to worship you with joy and gladness. Your goodness knows no limits of generation or gender, of condition or citizenship.

All: You are kind to all, and we worship you in all sincerity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are here because we have heard a promise of peace,

All: and we have faith its day will come.

L: We have heard a rumor of justice,

All: and we have faith its day will come.

L: We have heard a whisper of hope,

All: and we have faith its day will come.

L: We have heard a hint of love,

All: and we have faith its day will come.

L: We have heard of the birth of the Christ-child,

All: and we have faith his day is here.

L: Welcome to Christmas.

All: Welcome to worship.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at baptism.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

All: Amen.

P: In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence for Reflection

P: Holy God,

All: we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.

All: In Christ our sins are forgiven and we are clothed in peace. Amen.

HYMN . . . “Once in Royal David’s City” vs. 1,2,3



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.



GREETING

P: Amazing God, tender child, we offer you our words, brimming with joy. We offer our hands, ready to lift those who have fallen, and ready to preserve and create beauty. We offer our hearts, persistent in loving and faithful in caring.

All: Amazing God, tender child, we thank you for the reason to sing carols and gather friends and family together. Thank you for this season of star and song. Amen.

LITANY

L: For so long God has hoped for a righteous leader,

All: And we have seen visions and dreamed dreams.

L: We have waited for one who would share God's spirit—

All: Who would judge the fearful with righteousness and the poor with justice;

L: Who would show compassion to the weak and mercy to the condemned;

All: Who would break down the walls dividing the peoples, that all on earth might follow a star.

L: For so long have we seen the visions; for so long have the dreams been dreamed.

All: But now the vision has found its life, and the dream has come to pass—

L: Here is the One for whom we have waited!

All: Let us open our treasures and offer our gifts: our hearts, our souls, our minds!

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son.

All: By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

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

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

Reader: Today's reading is from Ephesians, chapter one, beginning with the third verse.

READING . . . *Ephesians 1:3-14*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Reader: Here ends the reading

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: There was song in the air when the angels announced Christ's birth.

All: Is there a song in our hearts?

Reader: May it be so, O God.

All: May it be so.

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: The holy gospel according to John, chapter one, beginning with the first verse.

All: Glory to you, O God.

GOSPEL . . . John 1:1-18 (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.

John testified by proclaiming, “This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘The one who comes after me ranks ahead of me, for this One existed before I did.’”

Of this One's fullness
we've all had a share –
gift on top of gift.
For while the Law was given through Moses,
the Gift – and the Truth – came through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God;
it is the Only Begotten,
ever at Abba's side,
who has revealed God to us.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

MESSAGE . . . *Pastor Tim*

A Story that Feeds Us

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: The wealth of this world is not our own. The gifts of our lives are not our own.

All: We are but stewards, granted the opportunity to share these gifts in service to God. Come, let us share in faithfulness and love.

OFFERING

Please Stand

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Pour out your Holy Spirit,

All: and bless the gifts we return to you now.

L: May they be as soothing ointment

All: for a hurting and broken world.

L: Bless the gifts of our lives,

All: and inspire us as we share generously and give abundantly, the bounty we have received.

L: In faithfulness and gratitude, we pray.

All: Amen.



THE 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 make yourself known in the gift of language in diverse forms. Draw our attention to those who communicate through sign, braille, and technology. Make your church a place where all methods of communication are celebrated. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: You adopt us as your beloved ones. Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process, especially those in the foster system. Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss. Tenderly embrace all in need. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: You journey with us through change. Guide those assuming new roles in this congregation or making transitions in their families, workplaces, or communities. As the seasons and the calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said 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: 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: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

All: Let us enter into the joy of this meal.

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 HYMN . . . "In the Bleak Midwinter" vs. 1,2



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

All: Make them be for us the life and love of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ for the world, redeemed and renewed by Christ's love and God's grace.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: You, God, are opening our eyes.

All: You, God, are stirring a new day.

L: By the breathing of your spirit, you made us and remake us with patience and compassion.

All: We know your strong unseen hand, and we know that it means struggle, new vision and ultimate peace. Amen.

Be Seated

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

BENEDICTION

P: As we leave this worship, our service begins: Comfort the homesick.

All: We'll keep our doors open to others.

P: And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed – so come back soon. In the name of our Foundation – God, Spirit, and Son – go in peace.

All: Amen.

Those who desire extra time to exit
are invited to do so during the last song.

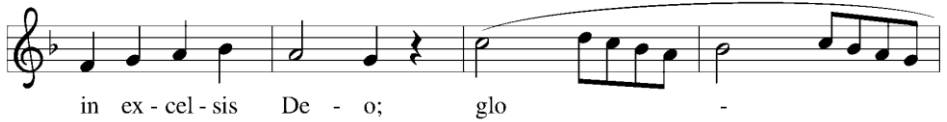
HYMN . . . “Angels We Have Heard on High” vs. 1,3



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share the Good News!

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE . . . *Myrna Emata Diaz*



Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year!