



AND THE SHEPHERDS RETURNED,  
**GLORIFYING AND  
PRAISING  
GOD**

FOR ALL THEY  
HAD HEARD AND  
SEEN, AS IT HAD  
BEEN TOLD THEM.

**LUKE 2:20, ESV**

**January 01, 2023**

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

January 01, 2023  
10:00 AM Service – Christmas 1  
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity  
Web Site: [holytrinityfremont.org](http://holytrinityfremont.org)

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Welcome! Enter with Prayer, Worship in Awe, Leave to Serve.

Our worship services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel and website. If you do not wish to be filmed, please do not sit in the first four pews or the last pew. Children's Time and communion distribution are not filmed.

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

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## **WELCOME TO THE STORY**

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*From the beginning, through baptism, we are called Christian. We are "Christ-ened" at the font. Bearing Christ's name, we share the same Father and are invited to address this parent intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of God. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.*

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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.

### **PRELUDE**

## WELCOME AND GATHERING WORDS

*P: Surely God's presence is with us—in the brush of an angel's wings,*

**All: in the radiance of a newborn child,**

*P: in the wisdom of a visitor,*

**All: in the message of a friend.**

*P: Listen. God is speaking.*

**All: Look. God is here.**

## SHARING GOD'S PEACE

*P: In peace, Christ came into our world. With peace, Christ comes to us now:*

**All: With peace, let us greet one another in Christmas love.**

Please Stand

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*P: Voices of sorrow haunt our world.*

**All: Cries of desperation touch our hearts and disturb our thoughts.**

*P: Bring your sorrows and your hopes, as we come before God to confess our deepest need.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

*P: Mighty God, bearer of our burdens, you know the demons that haunt our minds; you know the sorrows that burden our hearts.*

**All: Send your angels and messengers of peace to comfort and guide us.**

*P: Help us follow in the footsteps of Joseph and Mary - listening, learning, and following where you would have us go.*

**All: And save us from the path of Herod - rejecting your guidance, destroying the hope that you send, causing others to weep in anguish.**

*P: Send angels and messengers of peace to comfort and guide us.*

**All: Send your mercy and grace to reconcile and restore us, that we may be carried into the arms of your mercy.**

*P: In hope and gratitude, we pray.*

**All: Amen.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

L: This is the fullness of time, the midst of the Christmas season.

**All: This is the fullness of time, when we live the promise of Christmas.**

L: This is the fullness of time, the cusp of a brand new year.

**All: This is the fullness of time, when we live our new life in Christ.**

L: This is the fullness of time, the gathering of God's worshiping children.

**All: This is the fullness of time. Let us worship with joyful praise.**

## OPENING HYMN: "Once in Royal David's City" vs. 1,3



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
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:  
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.  
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.

## INVOCATION

*P: With hearts open wide and thanksgivings carried as a gift, we journey to the stable. 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.**

## A NEW YEAR LITANY

L: The old year is gone, and we give thanks, O God. We thank you for courage in the tough times.

**All: We thank you for joy in the good times.**

L: We thank you for a challenge when the days were easy;

**All: we thank you for endurance when the going was rough.**

L: The new year is here, and we have hope in our hearts. We hope for a strengthening of our faith community.

**All: We hope for a deepening of our own faith.**

L: We hope for a vision of truth and justice.

**All: We hope for an end to poverty and powerlessness.**

L: As you have blessed us in times past, O God, make us a blessing in the days that lie ahead.

**All: Amen.**



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Eternal Creator, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation.

**All: Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Messiah, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Be Seated

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### The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

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Reader: The first reading is from the book of Numbers, chapter six, beginning with the twenty-second verse.

#### **FIRST READING:** *Numbers 6:22-27*

Yahweh God said to Moses, “Tell Aaron and his heirs: This is how you will bless the Israelites. Say to them, ‘May Yahweh bless you and keep you! May Yahweh’s face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May Yahweh look kindly upon you, and give you peace!’ “Thus will they invoke my Name over the Israelites, and then I myself will bless them!”

Reader: Here ends the reading.

The second reading is from the book of Galatians, chapter four, beginning with the fourth verse.

#### **SECOND READING:** *Galatians 4:4-7*

When the designated time had come, God sent forth the Christ—born of a woman, born under the Law—to deliver from the Law those who were subjected to it, so that we might receive our status as adopted heirs. The proof that you are children of God is the fact that God has sent forth into our hearts the Spirit of the Child who calls out “Abba!” You are

no longer slaves, but daughters and sons! And if you are daughters and sons, you are also heirs, by God's design.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** tune - "*Angels We Have Heard on High*"

**All: Lord, to whom else shall we go  
Words of deathless life to know?  
Not by bread alone we live,  
But by ev'ry word You give.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

*P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.*

**All: Glory to you, O God.**

**GOSPEL:** *Luke 2:15-21*

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.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

*P: The Gospel of our Savior.*

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Be Seated

**CHILDREN’S TIME:** Pastor Tim

Please Stand

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** “*The Bells of Christmas*” vs. 1,4



1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly  
4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our



guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly  
Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from



dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.  
lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

Be Seated

**MESSAGE:** Pastor Tim

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### A Story that Feeds Us

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**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**L:** Bring praise, bring hope, bring open hearts.

**All:** For God calls us to share our gifts and offerings with the world.

**THANKFUL OFFERING**

Please Stand



**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** “*In the Bleak Midwinter*” vs. 3

**All:** What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**L:** God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine.

**All:** **Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**L:** United with the great cloud of witnesses throughout the ages, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Fill us with wonder at the good and saving news of Jesus. May we treasure your words and meditate upon them, that we reveal your glory to the world with humility and hope. Hear us, O God.

**All:** **Your mercy is great.**

**L:** Bless the nations with your grace and peace. Inspire and uphold treaties, cease-fires, and international agreements that seek to calm strife between nations. Shield all those who work to protect vulnerable populations from exploitation or danger. Hear us, O God.

**All:** **Your mercy is great.**

**L:** We cry, “Creator!” as we seek your loving care in times of need. Heal those wounded by hurtful words. Console all who are weighed down by depression and anxiety. Call by name any who feel unloved, misunderstood, or rejected. Heal the sick. Hear us, O God.

**All:** **Your mercy is great.**

L: Reveal yourself to us in the fullness of time, O God.  
Give us gratitude for what has been and hope for what is to come. Grace us with your presence during transitions: new jobs or schools, new homes, new diagnoses, or new relationships. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

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

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**All: Amen.**

## **A CAROL SETTING FOR HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE PREFACE:** tune – “*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*”

L: Oh, may the good Lord be with you.

**All: And may the Lord be with you too.**

L: Lift your hearts to God in praise.

**All: To the Lord our hearts we raise.**

L: Let us offer praises true.

**All: It is fitting so to do:**

**Gratefully we sing to the Lord, our King!**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*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; that once beholding God made visible, we may be drawn*

*to love You, O God, whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name without ceasing . . .*

**THE SANCTUS:** tune – “*From Heaven Above*”

**All: As light breaks forth, we sing Your praise  
To you, Redeemer of our days,  
For we have found in Jesus’ birth  
Good news of peace and human worth.**

### **CONSECRATION**

*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 of our hearts.*

**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 is come.*

**All: Let every heart receive our Redeemer!**

Be Seated

The ushers will invite you forward  
after the Lamb of God is sung



**LAMB OF GOD:** tune – “*Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*”

**All:** O Lamb of God who takes away our sins, have mercy.  
O Lamb of God who takes away our sins, have mercy.  
O Lamb of God who takes away  
the sins of all the earth, we pray:  
Jesus, grant us your peace, grant us your peace.  
Glory be to God on high.

Holy Communion is open to all.

Grape juice is white, wine is red.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Let an usher know if you need communion brought to you.

**For communion at the altar rail:**

You may come up the center aisle to the altar rail when directed by the ushers, stand or kneel, and hold out your hand for the pastor to drop the host into. Then take a cup of grape juice (white) or wine (red) from the assistant, partake, then return to your seat via the side aisles, depositing your disposable cup in the provided bowls.

**For communion at your seat with pre-packaged kit:**

You may come to the altar rail as above, take a communion kit from the assistant, and return to your seat to partake. The ushers will come around to collect empty kits.



## COMMUNION HYMN: "In the Bleak Midwinter"



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

## COMMUNION HYMN: "Let Our Gladness Have No End"



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 2 Proph - e - sies in days of old, Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 3 See the love - liest bloom - ing rose, Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 4 In - to flesh is made the Word, Hal - le - lu - jah!



for to earth did Christ de - scend. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 God has sent the one fore - told. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 from the branch of Jes - se grows. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 our true ref - uge and our Lord. Hal - le - lu - jah!

*Refrain*



On this day God gave us Christ, the Son, to



save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.

# SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*P: On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people.*

**All: Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**POST COMMUNION THANKS . . . tune: “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”**

**All: Oh, thank the Lord and sing His praise,  
What He has done proclaim!  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice  
And proudly bear His name  
Who leads His thankful people forth  
His promises to claim.  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy,  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

Be Seated



Please Stand

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

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**BENEDICTION:** tune – “*O Little Town of Bethlehem*”

L: Now may the good Lord bless and keep,  
His love in you increase;  
Lift up His face with shining grace,  
And grant eternal peace.

**All: To Father, Son and Spirit,  
Eternal One-in-Three,  
Be thanks and praise through all our days  
And to eternity!**

**SENDING HYMN:** “*From Heaven Above*” vs. 1,8,14



1 “From heav’n a - bove to earth I come to bear good  
8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, through whom this  
14 “Glo - ry to God in high - est heav’n, who un - to



news to ev - 'ry home! Glad tid - ings of great joy I  
sin - ful world is blest! You turned not from our needs a -  
us the Son has giv'n." With an - gels sing in pi - ous



bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:  
way; how can our thanks such love re - pay?  
mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

**DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

