



1ST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

HOPE

December 1, 2024

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

December 1, 2024
9:30 AM Service – Advent 1
Ministers: The People of HTLC
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

Welcome!

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.

WELCOME TO THE STORY

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

A Story that Invites Us

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: “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*”

Verse 1:

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Chorus:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you O Israel

O come, O come, great Lord of might
Who to your tribes on Sinai’s height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud and majesty and awe

Chorus

O come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by your advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows putt o flight

Chorus

WELCOME

Please Stand

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: May God increase our love for one another and strengthen our hearts in holiness, as we greet one another in peace. The peace of Christ is with you.

All: And also with you.

Please safely share God’s peace with each other.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, alive in the world,
reviving creation, arriving soon.*

All: Amen.

*P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one
another.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of mercy,

**All: we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly
powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful.
We cling to false comforts.**

P: God of might,

**All: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away
from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

P: God in our midst,

**All: we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to
us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

*P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the
power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and
forgiveness of God through Christ Jesus, whose day
draws near.*

All: Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: “Advent’s Holy Light”

Choir: As we watch for the dawn of a brighter day,
a candle of hope lights the way.

As we look for the signs of the promised birth,
of a Savior who brings heaven to earth.

All:



Lord, we are wait - ing for peace to reign.

Lord, we are lis - tening for love's re - frain.

For hope, peace, and joy and love to u -

nite in the beau - ty and won - der of

Ad - vent's ho - ly light.

LITANY: *First Sunday – Hope*

Candle is lit.



P: Our Advent journey begins with the lighting of the first candle, the candle of Hope. Like the flame of a candle, may hope be ignited in our hearts, reminding us that brighter days are ahead. For those of us facing difficult challenges

All: Ignite our hearts with hope.

P: For the end of wars wreaking havoc and pain in our world

All: Ignite our hearts with hope.

P: For safety for those fleeing the tyranny of oppression

All: Ignite our hearts with hope.

P: For the light of forgiveness to shine in our hearts

All: Ignite our hearts with hope.

P: Gracious Creator, in moments of uncertainty, we turn to you with hearts heavy but hopeful. Grant us the strength to navigate challenges, the wisdom to see possibilities, and the courage to embrace the journey ahead. May hope be our guiding light, leading us to a future filled with grace, love, and possibilities beyond our imagining. Amen.

All:

Lord, we are wait - ing for peace to reign.

Lord, we are lis - tening for love's re - frain.

For hope, peace, and joy and love to u -

nite in the beau - ty and won - der of

Ad - vent's ho - ly light.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one flat) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The final note of the piece is a whole note G4.

Choir: Advent's holy light.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: As we journey through the Sundays of Advent, listen to the promises of God:

All: a righteous branch springs forth,

L: a promise of justice and righteousness,

All: a promise of safety.

L: Listen to the promise of Jesus:

All: the kingdom of God draws near.

L: Keep alert; watch for signs of hope.

All: Our Advent journey begins.

GREETING

P: God of every season, as we begin our journey through Advent,

All: turn our hearts toward you.

P: Guide us into your realm of peace and joy.

All: Teach us to set aside our worries, as we walk in faithfulness and trust.

P: May the love within us be born anew.

All: Help us remain alert, that we may respond to pain and suffering and notice the signs of abundant life all around us.

P: Come, Savior; come to us now, we pray.

All: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Stir up your power, Messiah, and come.

All: By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Creator and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Be Seated

CHOIR ANTHEM – Tongan Wesleyan Church Choir

The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

R: O God, help us know your ways. Teach us your paths and lead us in your truth.

All: As we hear these scriptures, may they open our hearts to your life-giving grace. Amen.

R: The first reading is from Jeremiah, chapter thirty-three, beginning with the fourteenth verse.

FIRST READING: *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

R: Here ends the reading. Faithful God, your promises are true. We trust you completely. You guide our steps, offering us forgiveness and new beginnings.

All: Ground our lives in your love and keep us alert, that we may see the signs of your transforming presence. Amen.

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.

All: Glory to you, O God.

GOSPEL: *Luke 3:1-6*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

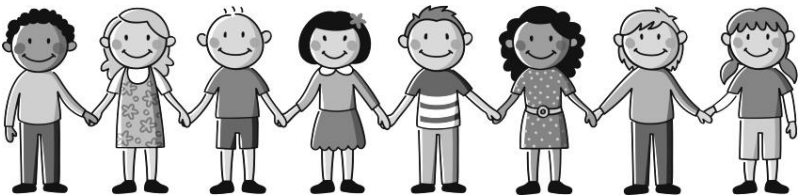
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

P: The Gospel of the Risen Savior.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S TIME – Florence Pidakala,



Please Stand

PRE-MESSAGE SONG: “He Shall Be Called”

He shall be called Wonderful
Counselor, Almighty God
He shall be called Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.

Chorus:

His name is Jesus, for he will save
His people from sin
His name Immanuel, God with Man

Jesus is Wonderful
Counselor, Almighty God
Jesus is called Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace

Chorus:

His name is Jesus,
For he will save His people from sin
His name Immanuel, God with Man
His name Immanuel, God with Man

We praise your name Wonderful
Counselor, Almighty God
We praise your name Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace

Chorus:

We love you Jesus,
For You save Your people from sin
We love You, Immanuel, God with man
We love You, Immanuel, God with man

Be Seated

MESSAGE – Florence Pidakala,

A Story that Feeds Us

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: We have been told the days are surely coming. We have been given signs.

All: The Promised One is coming, and we wait in expectation.

L: We have a message to give the world, a message of promises about to be fulfilled. Our offering will enable this church community to proclaim this message as clearly as we can.

All: It also enables us individually to show our gratitude, even as we wait. Amen.

THANKFUL OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC: *“Welcome to Our World”*

Tears are falling, hearts are breaking
How we need to hear from God
You’ve been promised,
We’ve been waiting
Welcome holy Child
Welcome holy Child

Hope that You don’t mind our manger
How I wish we would have known.
But long awaited holy Stranger,
Make Yourself at home
Make Yourself at home

Bring your peace into our violence,
Bid our hungry souls be filled.
Word now breaking heaven’s silence
Welcome to our world
Welcome to our world

Fragile finger sent to heal us
Tender brow prepared for thorn,
Tiny heart whose blood will save us
Unto us is born
Unto us is born

So wrap our injured flesh around You,
Breathe our air and walk our sod.
Rob our sin and make us holy,
Perfect Son of God
Perfect Son of God
Welcome to our world.

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: We thank you, God, for the joy we feel this day.

All: We are blessed by this community of love, this sanctuary of acceptance.

L: We place our trust in you, knowing that you care for us.

All: With deep gratitude for all you provide to us, we offer our gifts to you.

L: Center our hearts during this season of giving.

All: Amen.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence. God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. God, in your mercy,

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: God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

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: How can we thank you, O God? For sun and moon and stars, for breath and life and all things good, for your steadfast promise and your faithful love, for the day that is surely coming when all things will be made new. With saints, with angels, and with the whole creation, we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

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 the night in which he was betrayed our Savior Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

You approach in holiness, God of every season, your Child, Jesus Christ, coming to bless us with joy. Setting aside his power and majesty, he came with tenderness and peace, so we might know your justice. Casting off the garments of glory, he put on the clothes stained by our sins, to leave them at the foot of the cross. Seeing the hope on your face, he turned towards death, tearing open the grave and striding forth into the resurrection promised to all.

As we prepare to celebrate his birth, as we anticipate his return, we tell the world of that mystery we call Advent:

All: Jesus was born that we might have hope. Jesus died and was raised that we might have life. Jesus will come again to welcome us home.

P: Pour out the spirit of Advent upon the gifts of the bread and cup, simple goodness transformed by your grace. As the Bread is torn to be shared by those gathered here, tear open our shuttered hearts so we might become more compassionate. As the Cup of Hope touches our lips, may we not only proclaim your love, but speak of peace, of reconciliation, of healing to all the broken places and people, until those words become the lives we have been called to lead as your people. And all of God's children said,

All: 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: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

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

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.

Wine is red, grape juice is yellow, water is in the center of the tray.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

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

For walking communion:

You may come down the center aisle. Hold out your hand for the pastor to drop the host into, then take a cup of wine (red), grape juice (yellow), or water (clear, center) from the assistant’s tray, then return to your seat via the side aisles, depositing your empty cup in the provided bowls. You may walk behind the Praise Band.



COMMUNION HYMN: “*Christmas Hallelujah*”

I've heard about this baby boy
Who's come to earth to bring us joy
And I just want to sing this song to you
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth
The minor fall, the major lift
With every breath I'm singing Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

A couple came to Bethlehem
Expecting child, they searched the inn
To find a place for You were coming soon
There was no room for them to stay
So in a manger filled with hay
God's only Son was born, oh Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

The shepherds left their flocks by night
To see this baby wrapped in light
A host of angels led them all to You
It was just as the angels said
You'll find Him in a manger bed
Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

A star shown bright up in the east
To Bethlehem, the wisemen three
Came many miles and journeyed long for You
And to the place at which You were
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh
They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

I know You came to rescue me
This baby boy would grow to be
A man and one day die for me and you

My sins would drive the nails in You
That rugged cross was my cross, too
Still every breath You drew was Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

COMMUNION HYMN: “Mary, Mary”

Chorus:

Mary, Mary what you gonna call that baby?
What you gonna call that holy baby?

Slaves are we and looking for a master,
Why don't you call Him Lord?
Shhh! Let's all call him Lord!

Chorus

We like our sheep need someone
To guide us, why don't we call him
Shepherd?
Shh! Let's all call him Shepherd!

Chorus

Hungry and poor we need someone
To save us, why don't we call him
Savior?
Shh! Let's all call him Savior!

Chorus

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share.

All: Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ. 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



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

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: “*Born in Bethlehem*”

Baby Jesus, born in a stable,
A humble Savior’s birth.
You left your throne in heaven
Above to live here on the earth.

Baby Jesus, lyin’ in a manger,
Cryin’ for the world.
The angels told the shepherds
Of the good news for us all.

Chorus:

Hallelujah, the King is here,
Giv’n for all men.
For today the holy Son of God
Is born in Bethlehem.

Come thou sinners and you saints,
All peasants and all kings.
And bow before the earth’s redeemer,
Let all voices sing

Chorus 2x

Baby Jesus do you know,
You'll die for all our sins?
Don't be afraid for in three days
You will rise again
You will rise again

Chorus:

Hallelujah, the King is here,
Giv'n for all men.
For today the holy Son of God
Is born in Bethlehem.

Repeat Chorus

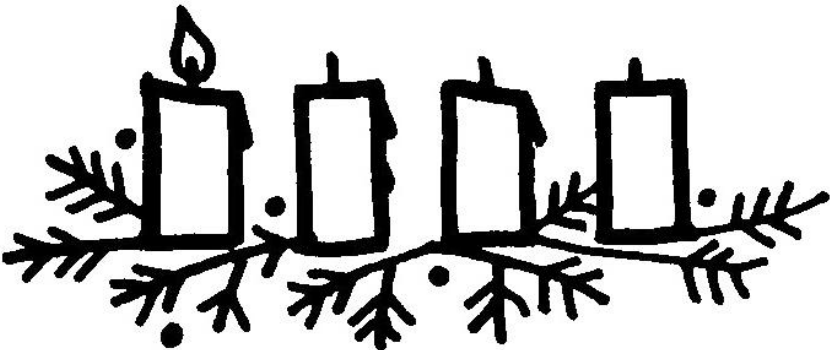
For today the holy Son of God
Is born in Bethlehem
Born in Bethlehem

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



“Advent’s Holy Light” Candle Lighting Ceremony
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