



2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

PEACE

December 8, 2024

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

December 8, 2024
9:30 AM Service – Advent 2
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

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 peace 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 -

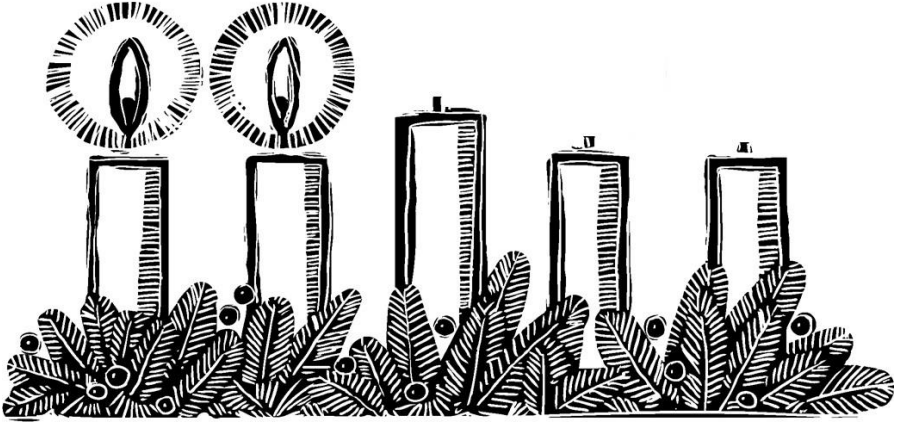
nite in the beau - ty and won - der of

Ad - vent's ho - ly light.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one flat) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics: "Lord, we are wait - ing for peace to reign." The second staff continues: "Lord, we are lis - tening for love's re - frain." The third staff: "For hope, peace, and joy and love to u -". The fourth staff: "nite in the beau - ty and won - der of". The fifth staff: "Ad - vent's ho - ly light." The score ends with a double bar line.

LITANY: *Second Sunday – Peace*

Candles are lit.



P: We continue our Advent journey today with the lighting of the Hope candle and the second candle, the candle of Peace. Let the gentle glow of these candles symbolize the tranquility we seek in our hearts and homes, fostering a sense of peace that transcends the chaos of this world. In a world filled with conflict and confrontations

All: We humbly seek the gift of peace.

P: For the storms that sometimes rage within us

All: We humbly seek the gift of peace.

P: As we rush and hurry our way through busy lives

All: We humbly seek the gift of peace.

P: And for those around us we know are carrying heavy burdens

All: We humbly seek the gift of peace.

P: Gracious Creator, in the quiet moments may we find solace in your presence, and in the noisy chaos of life may your peace prevail. Calm the storms that rage within and around us. May we be instruments of your peace, fostering understanding, compassion, and harmony in our hearts. 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.

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.



OPENING HYMN: “Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”

vs. 1,2



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: “Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris’n; her light is come.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!”
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God’s own Son.



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.

REETING

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 our hearts, O God, to prepare the way of your only Son.

All: By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Be Seated

The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O God.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all

the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P: *The Gospel of the Risen Savior.*

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

HYMN OF THE DAY: *“All Earth Is Hopeful”* vs. 1,2



1 All earth is hope-ful, the Sav-ior comes at last!
2 Peo-ple of Is-rael, you heard the proph-et tell:



Fur-rows lie o-pen for God's cre-a-tive task: this, the
“A-vir-gin moth-er will bear Em-man-u-el”; she con-



la-bor of peo-ple who strug-gle to see how
ceived him, “God with us,” our broth-er, whose birth re-



God's truth and jus-tice set ev-'ry-bod-y free.
stores hope and cour-age to chil-dren of this earth.

Be Seated

MESSAGE: *Alice in Nativityland, or Show Me **The Way to Go Home***

by Kathleen Keating – presented by the Sunday Schools of Holy Trinity and the Tongan Wesleyan Church.

We invite the congregation to sing on the indicated verses.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Verse 4:

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

Psalm 23

Verse 5:

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me:
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.

Away in the Manger

Verse 3:

Be near me, lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, & love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Chorus:

Go tell it on the mountain
over the hill & everywhere
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born

Verse 1:

while shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night
behold throughout the heaven
there shone a holy light

Chorus

Verse 2:

The shepherds feared & trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our savior's birth

Chorus

Verse 3:

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born
& God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn

Chorus



CAST

Alice: Makenzie

Parent: Nathan

Cheshire Cat: Zack

Mary: Abbie

Joseph: Connor

Roman Soldier: Jason

Shepherd 1: Steven

Shepherd 2: Parker

Sheep: Lisiate, Jaden

Wiseman 1: Alex H.

Wiseman 2: Chris

Wiseman 3: Alex O.

Angel: Pesi

Innkeeper: Zabby

Support Chorus: Saulala, Lopeti, Layra, Damian

Presentation: Carmen Blair

Costumes: Rea Ellen Keating & Leah Keating

Pew Parents: Johnson Solomon, Ann Harren,
Joella & Kevin Mesa

Audio Visual: Arnold Kuhlmann, Carmen Blair,
Johnson Solomon

Many thanks to the children and to the families of Holy Trinity, Holy Redeemer, and the Tongan Wesleyan Church who supported the cast in so many ways, so that this important story could be told!



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

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. Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy, God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. 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: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

A CAROL SETTING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

THE PREFACE

L: May God's Spirit be upon you!

All: And also on you!

L: Open your hearts to God, who anoints us with gladness.

All: We open ourselves to the One who fills us with grace.

L: Sing songs of good news to the One who comes.

All: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

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: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

All: All are welcome.

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.



COMMUNION HYMN: "My Lord, What a Morning"



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.

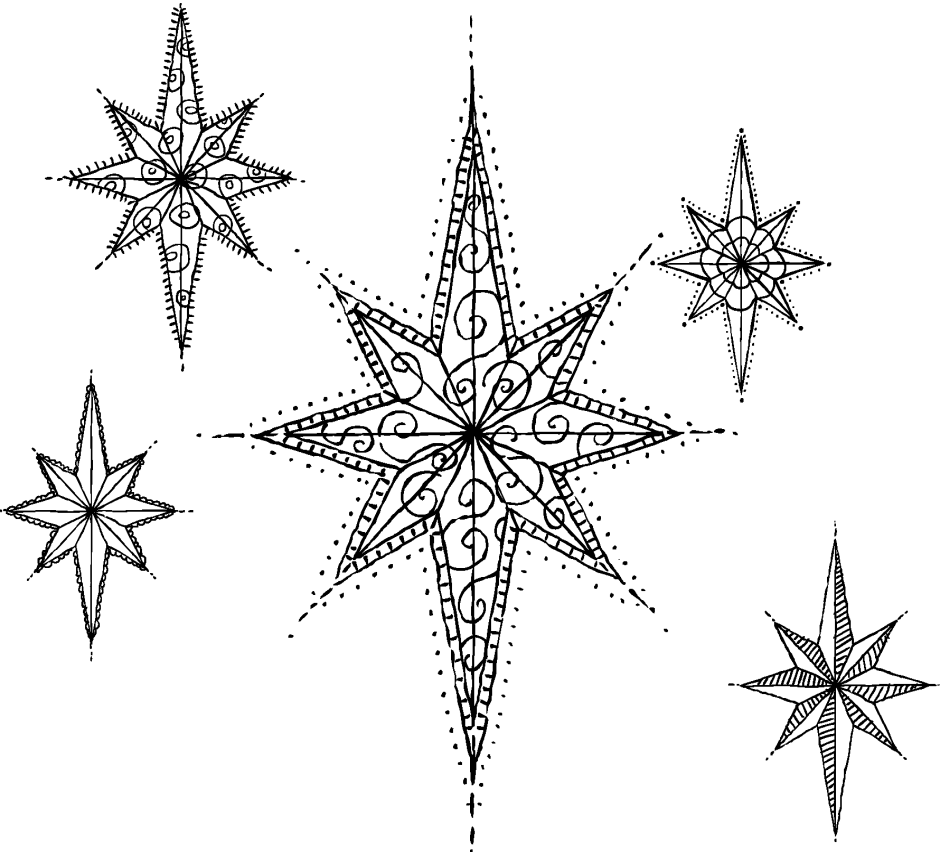


- 1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

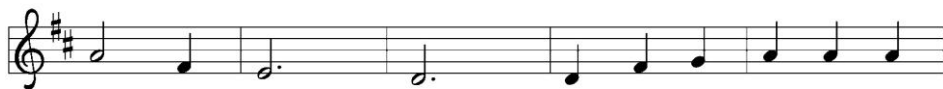
Refrain



COMMUNION HYMN: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.



Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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.

Be Seated

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

BENEDICTION

P: Children of God, as you leave this place, you go into a weary world – so speak tenderly. Do the good that is yours to do. Choose connection. Hold on to hope. And remember that Christ took on flesh for you. You are God’s beloved.

All: We go rejoicing. The world needs it. Amen.

Rejoice!
Rejoice!
Rejoice!

SENDING HYMN: “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” vs. 1,4



1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

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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