



3RD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

JOY

December 15, 2024

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

December 15, 2024
9:30 AM Service – Advent 3
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

Christ’s presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

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 joy 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 sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first line is a whole note, the second is a half note, and the third is a quarter note. The fourth line is a half note, and the fifth line is a whole note. The score ends with a double bar line.

LITANY: *Third Sunday – Joy*

Candles are lit.



P: Today the candle representing Joy joins the candles of Hope and Peace. As we light this third candle, let the joy of the season fill our hearts. May we find joy in simple moments, and may that joy bring a sense of peace and well being into our lives.

When we think of the countless blessings that fill our lives

All: Our hearts are filled with joy.

P: For the warmth of relationships and the bonds we share with family and friends

All: Our hearts are filled with joy.

P: When we pause to appreciate the beauty and wonder of nature

All: Our hearts are filled with joy.

P: For the giving and receiving of simple acts of kindness

All: Our hearts are filled with joy.

P: Gracious Creator, teach us to find joy not only in triumphs but also in the simple moments of everyday grace. Fill us with joy that surpasses circumstance, anchored in the unchanging truth of your love. Help us share this joy with others and may joy and laughter be a constant companion on our journey through life. 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 continues.



OPENING HYMN: 'Soon and Very Soon' vs. 1,2



1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.



Hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

GREETING

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

All: turn our hearts toward you.

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

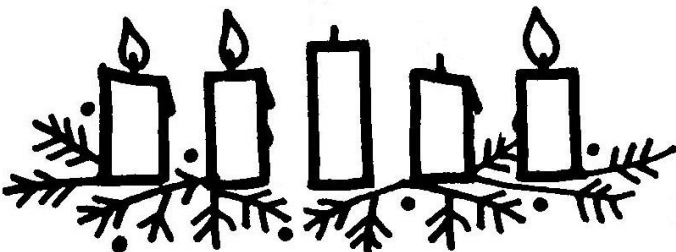
All: Teach us to set aside our worries, as we walk in faithfulness and trust.

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 the wills of your faithful people, O God, and open our ears to the preaching of John,

All: that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through 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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O God.

GOSPEL: *Luke 3:7-18*

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I

baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: The Gospel of the Risen Savior.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN’S TIME – *Pastor Tim*

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY: “*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*” vs. 1,2



1 On Jor - dan's banks the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, and let us all our



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.

Be Seated

MESSAGE: *A Light Still Shines* – HTLC Choir

Created by Randy Vader, Jay Rouse, and Camp Kirkland



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. God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here 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

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.

Please come forward
after the Lamb of God is sung.

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: "Christ, Be Our Light"



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

COMMUNION HYMN: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

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.

SENDING HYMN: “Prepare the Royal Highway” vs. 1,4



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

DISMISSAL

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

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Advent’s Holy Light” Candle Lighting Ceremony
words and music by Joel Raney © 2024 Hope Publishing Company
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