

MAKE A
JOYFUL

Noise

TO THE
LORD,

ALL THE EARTH;

BREAK FORTH INTO

JOYOUS SONG

AND SING PRAISES.

PSALM 98:4, NRSV

Service of
Poems and Carols

December 29, 2024

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

December 29, 2024
9:30 AM Service – Christmas 1
Ministers: The People of HTLC
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

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.

WELCOME TO THE STORY

*How can you stay silent in the joy of the Messiah's birth?
Rejoice and sing God's praised, for the Savior's glory is with
you this day.*

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.

POEM: *"Remembering That It Happened Once"*
– by Wendell Berry

Remembering that it happened once,
we cannot turn away the thought,
as we go out, cold, to our barns
toward the long night's end, that we
ourselves are living in the world

it happened in when it first happened,
that we ourselves, opening a stall
(a latch thrown open countless times
before), might find them breathing there,
foreknown: the Child bedded in straw,
the mother kneeling over Him,
the husband standing in belief
he scarcely can believe, in light
that lights them from no source we see,
an April morning's light, the air
around them joyful as a choir.
We stand with one hand on the door,
looking into another world
that is this world, the pale daylight
coming just as before, our chores
to do, the cattle all awake,
our own frozen breath hanging
in front of us; and we are here
as we have never been before,
sighted as not before, our place
Holy, although we knew it not.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Please Stand

PRAYER FOR CLOSING OF 2024

P: God of Love,

All: You are with us in every transition and change.

**L: As we enter into this new era with excitement and even
some anxiety,**

**All: We recall your deep compassion, presence, and
abounding love.**

P: We thank you for the gifts, talents, and skills with which you have blessed us.

All: We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment.

L: We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work.

All: Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.

P: We ask this in your Holy Name.

All: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The prayer of confession will be centered around the already lit Advent wreath. One by one, the liturgist will extinguish the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, only to relight them from the Christ candle at the end.

P: Holy God, too often we feel as if change is hopeless. The problems of this world feel too big, the path forward is unclear, and we are not confident that we can truly make a difference.

Liturgist extinguishes the candle of hope.

P: Together we pray:

All: Forgive us for extinguishing hope.

P: Holy God, too often we believe that peace is a thing of fairy tales. Our spirits are anxious. Our bodies are weary. Our world is fractured. Instead of praying for peace – both in ourselves and in our society – we assume that peace is no longer on the table. We give it up.

Liturgist extinguishes the candle of peace.

P: Together we pray:

All: Forgive us for extinguishing peace.

P: Holy God, too often we paint joy as naïve – a luxury reserved for children and pets. We forget that you ate with friends, that you went to weddings, that you laughed and rested and hiked mountains. We forget that you knew joy, and that you want joy for us in this fractured world. Forgive us for turning away from your light.

Liturgist extinguishes the candle of joy.

P: Together we pray:

All: Forgive us for extinguishing joy.

P: Holy God, too often we treat love like a vending machine. We put some coins in and assume we'll get something back. However, in our wiser moments, we know that love is not meant for keeping score. Love is meant to overflow, to spill out to our neighbors, to transform our world. Forgive us for holding love so tightly.

Liturgist extinguishes the candle of love.

P: Together we pray:

All: Forgive us for extinguishing love.

P: Family of faith, sin separates us from things like hope, peace, and joy. Sin wiggles its way between us and love, both love of neighbor and love of self.

Fortunately for us, God had something else in mind. God sent God's only son to this world so that we could see another way. So friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: no matter how many times we turn our back on hope, or extinguish peace, or snuff out joy – no matter how many times we let love burn out – God continues to light our way.

Liturgist relights the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love from the Christ candle.

P: We are forgiven. We are seen. We are loved.

All: The good news of this day – the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love of this day – exists for all. Thanks be to God! Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The angel has announced it:

All: Jesus, our Savior is born!

L: Like the shepherds, let us share the good news:

All: Jesus, our Savior is born!

L: Like the angels, let us praise God, saying:

All: Jesus, our Savior is born! Glory to God in heaven and on earth peace.

CAROL: “Oh, Come All Ye Faithful” vs. 1,3



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Glo - ry to God in . . . the . . . high - est:



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

LITANY

L: Ever-present God, clothe us with your compassion.

All: Instill in us your kindness and your mercy.

L: Bind us together with humble patience

All: and with gentle love.

L: Rule in our hearts, that we may be Christ-like,

All: displaying your glory in every word and in every deed.

L: In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray.

All: Amen.

Silence for Reflection

L: The gift of Christmas is this: amazing grace and abundant love.

All: God forgives our transgression and strengthens our resolve to bring love and hope to the world.

CAROL: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" vs. 1,2



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Be Seated



POEM: “*Christmas Returns*” by Howard Thurman

Christmas returns, as it always does,
with its assurance that life is good.
It is the time of life to the spirit,
when the mind feels its way into the commonplace,
and senses wonder of simple things: an evergreen tree,
familiar carols, merry laughter.
It is the time of illumination,
when candles burn, and old dreams
find their youth again.
It is the time of pause,
when forgotten joys come back to mind,
and past dedications renew their claim.
It is the time of harvest for the heart,
when the faith reaches out to mantle all high endeavor,
and love whispers its magic word to everything that breathes.
Christmas returns, as it always does,
with its assurance that life is good.

CAROL: “*Away in a Manger*” vs. 1,3



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay; the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God of holy mystery, it was no heavenly stranger that came to save us;

All: it was no happy accident that freed us from captivity;

L: it was no careless gesture that showed us the ways of life and death.

All: You are our light and our salvation. You alone are worthy of our worship and praise.

L: In this season of Christmas, remind us once more of what you offer: a love born of endless searching, a connection born of deep longing, a future born of selfless sacrifice.

All: Be with us now, for we are your people and you are our God. Amen.

POEM: “*Christmas Carol*” by Sara Teasdale

The kings they came from out the south,
all dressed in ermine fine;
they bore Him gold and chrysoprase,
and gifts of precious wine.

The shepherds came from out the north,
their coats were brown and old;
they brought Him little new-born lambs –
they had not any gold.

The wise men came from out the east,
and they were wrapped in white;
the star that led them all the way
did glorify the night.

The angels came from heaven high,
and they were clad with wings;
and lo, they brought a joyful song
the host of heaven sings.

The kings they knocked upon the door,
the wise men entered in,
the shepherds followed after them
to hear the song begin.

The angels sang through all the night
until the rising sun,
but little Jesus fell asleep
before the song was done.

CAROL: “*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*” vs. 1,2

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new
ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.
Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Please Stand

The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

R: God of manger, straw and swaddle cloth,

All: **God of silent nights and joyfully chaotic mornings,
we long to know you.**

R: The hustle and bustle of this time of year can be more than distracting,

All: so for a moment, we pray, still our busy hearts.

R: Quiet our minds.

All: Help us to sink deeply into this day.

R: Help us to pause here, to linger here as we hear your good news spoken over us.

All: God, we long to know you, so speak to us now.

R: With grateful hearts, we pray.

All: With grateful hearts, we listen. Amen.

R: A reading from the Gospel of John, chapter one, beginning with the first verse.

GOSPEL: *John 1:1-14 (The Inclusive Bible)*

In the beginning
there was the Word;
the Word was in God's presence,
and the Word was God.

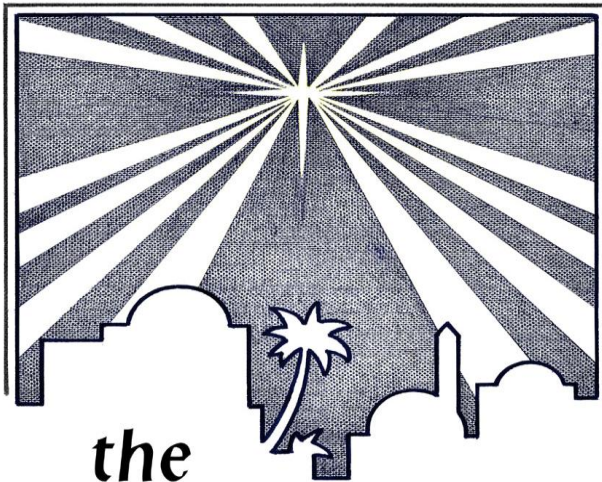
The Word was present to God
from the beginning.

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.



**the
Light shines in
the Darkness**

CAROL: “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” vs. 1,2



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.

Be Seated

POEM: “Amazing Peace” by Maya Angelou - read by Pastor Tim



CAROL: "What Child Is This" vs. 1,2



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

A Story that Feeds Us

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: Everything came into being through the Word made flesh. Every blessing, every gift.

All: Let us bring forth our blessings and gifts, for we have seen God's glory.

THANKFUL OFFERING

Please Stand

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Holy God, it was your love that sent Jesus to our world, and it is in love that we offer these gifts back to you.

All: Receive them, we pray, along with our gratitude for the gift of immeasurable grace you have given us. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people. For those who teach and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, and Bible study leaders in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

L: For the thriving of creation, we pray. Protect the habitats of pangolins and porcupines, penguins and parrots, and all wild animals and creeping things. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

L: For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Accompany those who are alone or ill. Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or severed. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

L: For the ministry of this place, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, we pray. Let the word of Christ dwell among us. In times of conflict, clothe us in love and move us to forgiveness. God of grace,

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 of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

All: Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.**

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.

Holy are you, O God our Creator, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

As your Word became flesh, born of a woman, on that night long ago, so on the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

All: we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we experience the mystery of our faith.

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: A child has been born for us, a Savior given to us.

All: We touch the presence of the living God.

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.**

Holy Communion is open to all.

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

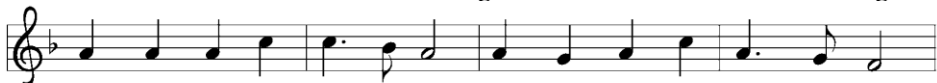
Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

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

For communion at the altar rail:

When directed by the ushers, you may come up the center aisle to the altar rail, stand or kneel, and hold out your hand for the pastor to drop the host into. Eat. Then take a cup of wine (red), grape juice (light yellow), or water (clear) from the assistant. Drink. Then place your empty cup in the tray that follows. Rise and return to your seat via the side aisles.

COMMUNION CAROL: "Angels We Have Heard on High"



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
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.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis

De - o;

glo



ri - a

in ex - cel - sis

De

o.



COMMUNION CAROL: “Angels from the Realms of Glory”



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life.

All: As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace.

P: Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All: Amen.



POST COMMUNION THANKS: "Joy to the World" vs. 1,2



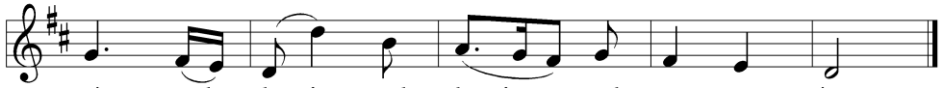
1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their



ceive its King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing



sing, and heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Be Seated

POEM: "It Is Not Over" by Ann Weems

It is not over,

this birthing.

There are always newer skies

into which

God can throw stars.

When we begin to think

that we can predict the Advent of God,

that we can box the Christ

in a stable in Bethlehem,

that's just the time

that God will be born

in a place we can't imagine and won't believe.

Those who wait for God

watch with their hearts and not their eyes,

listening,

always listening

for angel words.



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

Please Stand

SENDING OUT INTO 2025

P: God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly, thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and others,

All: mindful that our steps make an impact and our words carry power.

P: May we walk gently.

All: May we speak only after we have listened well.

P: Creator of all life, help us enter the New Year reverently,

All: aware that you have endowed every creature and plant, every person and habitat with beauty and purpose.

P: May we regard the world with tenderness.

All: May we honor rather than destroy.

P: Lover of all souls, help us enter the New Year joyfully, willing to laugh and dance and dream,

All: remembering our many gifts with thanks and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

P: May we welcome your lavish love. In this new year, may the grace and peace of Christ bless us,

All: now and in the days ahead.

CAROL: “Go Tell It on the Mountain” vs. 1,3

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun-tain o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

Verses

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
3. Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



**Please join us in Holland Hall for a
Christmas Brunch!**



*Christmas
Brunch*