



**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 13, 2020**

## Welcome to Worship and Announcements

### Prelude

**\*Lighting of the Advent Wreath - "Light of Hope" arr. by Joel Raney**

### Responsive Reading for Third Sunday - The Gift of Love

- L Love is more than an flicker within the human heart.  
C **Lord, reveal your love, and make us new.**  
L In a hurried world with little time for others, Advent calls us to remember that...  
C **Love is patient.**  
L In a world where often we become consumed by our own interests, Advent calls us to remember that...  
C **Love is kind.**  
L In a world where often we are quick to anger and slow to forgive, Advent calls us to remember that...  
C **Love is not easily angered, and through love we come to forgive.**  
L This Advent let us behold the love of God embodied in our Savior's birth.  
C **God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in them.**

#### Congregation:

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Light of life, Mak - er of day, gath - er our  
sha - dows and cast them a - way. Bea - con of  
truth, gleam - ing and bright, shine in our  
hearts, shat - ter our night.

\*Please stand as you are able.

**\*Confession and Forgiveness:**

Pastor: Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

P Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Loving and forgiving God,

**C we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

P People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, + comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ELW 257 (verses 1-4)**



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.  
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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\*Please stand as you are able.

**\*Greeting:**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

**\*Prayer of the Day:**

**All** Let us pray: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Kids Word:** Pastor Jerry O'Neal

**Our first reading is from Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

*Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.*

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

\*Please stand as you are able.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

L Word of God. Word of life. C Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 126** (Read responsively between Lector and Congregation.)

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup>Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

**Our second reading is from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

*Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.*

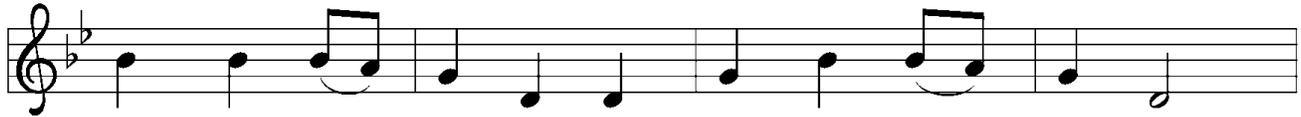
<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

L Word of God. Word of life. C Thanks be to God.

\*Please stand as you are able.

**Gradual Hymn: "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" ELW 247**



*O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭm*  
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.  
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.  
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.  
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



*u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.*  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope  
Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947  
Text and music © Geonyong Lee

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**\*Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

*John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to John the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"  
as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

\*Please stand as you are able.

**Sermon:** - Pastor Jerry O'Neal

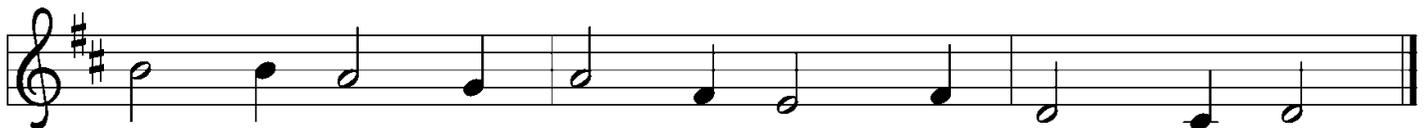
**\*Hymn of the Day:** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" ELW 249



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

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**\*Apostles' Creed:**

**P&C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*Please stand as you are able.

**\*Prayers:** (Congregation's response in bold type.)

L For our prayers today, I will conclude each petition with "Hear us, O God," and your response is, "Your mercy is great."

God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of healing and comfort, we pray for those who have COVID-19 Coronavirus and for the frontline workers who are putting their health at risk for caring for those who are in the hospital. Give wisdom and resources to those who are working on a vaccine that will hopefully bring an end to this pandemic. Give the gift of hope and healing to those who are sick, injured or suffering in the world and to those we now name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts (pause). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

\*Please stand as you are able.

**\*Sharing the Peace:**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

**Offering:**

If you would like to give electronically, you may

1. Download the ELCA Giving App from Google Store or Apple Play, or
2. Go to our website [www.holytrinitylutheranchurch.com](http://www.holytrinitylutheranchurch.com) and click on the green "Give" button.
3. Using your bank's online BillPay features.

Thank you for your support of Holy Trinity and our ministries!

**Offering Music:** "Prepare the Royal Highway" arr. by Fanzen/Herran

**\*Offering Prayer:**

L Let us pray: Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

C **Amen.**

**\*Lord's Prayer:**

L Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. (Lord's Prayer)

**All Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**\*Sending Call and Response:**

L God's work!

C **Our hands!**

L God's love!

C **Our hearts!**

L God's story!

C **Our voices!**

**\*Benediction:**

P "Barocha" - Michael Card

C **Amen.**



**\*Sending Hymn: "Hark, the Glad Sound!" ELW 239**



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to • en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751  
Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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**\*Dismissal:**

L Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## **Announcements for Sunday, December 13, 2020:**

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries for the week of December 13<sup>th</sup>:**

Birthdays:

December 12 – Laura Adamson

(I missed Laura's birthday for last week's bulletin and email. Sorry, Laura!)

December 14 – Jeff Bird

December 14 - Carmen Costello

December 15 - Gerry Fisher

December 19 - Kelly Bryan

December 19 - Jim Suding

Anniversaries:

December 16 – John and Karen Huff

December 17 – John and Brenda Kearns

December 18 - Adam and Taylor Johnson

**This week's Prayers:** Please keep the following people in your prayers.

Karen Wenger's friend, Cheryl

Rosemary Martin's brother-in-law, John Martin, and her nephew, Jay.

Those who are infected with the COVID-19 Coronavirus and the frontline workers who are caring for them.

### **Children's Christmas Pageant:**

Unfortunately, we did not get enough interest in doing a virtual children's Christmas pageant this year, so the Ministry of Spiritual Growth has made the difficult decision to cancel the pageant this year.

### **Wednesdays Evenings during Advent:**

Pr. Jerry will be on Facebook Live on Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:00pm on December 2, December 9, December 16 and December 23. Each week during Advent he will lead a Holden Evening Prayer Service. Here is the link below for Holy Trinity's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/HTLCMuncie/>

If you would like to purchase a Holden Evening Prayer booklet in PDF format, they can be found at GIA Publications using the link below for \$1.40:

<https://www.giamusic.com/store/resource/holden-evening-prayer-assembly-edition-print-g9170a>

### **2021 Offering Envelopes:**

Your 2021 Offering Envelopes may be picked up at the church in the vestibule by the front doors. Since the vestibule is unlocked you may pick up your envelopes at your convenience. If you would like offering envelopes and you can't find a set with your name on them, please contact Jenni in the office at 765-282-0619.

\*Please stand as you are able.

## Christmas Eve Worship Services: Virtual and Outdoor, In-Person:

This Christmas Eve we will offer a virtual and an outdoor, in-person worship services.

### Virtual Option:

Beginning on Christmas Eve at 4:00pm you will be able to watch, at home, Holy Trinity's pre-recorded worship service on Facebook, YouTube, or on our website. (See the above article, "Virtual Worship Services," for the links.)

### Outdoors, In-Person Option:

And for those who want to brave the cold, at 8:00pm at Holy Trinity, you may join Pr. Jerry outside around the cross for a worship service by candlelight. Masks and social distancing will be mandatory. Bring an umbrella, if it is raining, a chair and dress warmly.

### Holy Trinity's Next Book Club Read:

"Caste, The Origins of our Discontents" by Isabel Wilkerson will be the next book we will be discussing on **December 15 at 7:00pm via Zoom**. This book is a best seller which is a deeply researched narrative and has stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system. Join us for an interesting conversation on how this has affected life in the USA and around the world. All are invited to share their thoughts .

The zoom connection is:

<https://zoom.us/j/6616571423?pwd=b3NqMldPTXkxS0RuOXZ3RVNabC9rUT09>

### Open Hands Christmas Event:

The Open Hands Christmas event will happen this Saturday, December 19, at 9:00AM. We thank you for your donations thus far. The deadline for member referrals to the Church Office is this Monday, the 14th. It is fine if you wish to pick up the food card for the person you wish us to include.



### Please Help Us Reach Our Goal of receiving 100 Intent Forms for 2021:

The intent form can be accessed online using the QR code above (next to the Generosity Makes A Difference logo) or you can use this link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc6qnR13AcR8lDzzC-rWeg-Kp3U\\_jMM8Eavy63zOjoTKAPSqw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc6qnR13AcR8lDzzC-rWeg-Kp3U_jMM8Eavy63zOjoTKAPSqw/viewform)

Our goal this year is to receive *100 intent forms*; an anonymous donor at Holy Trinity has graciously offered us a **\$2,000 challenge gift** if we can reach that goal. They believe in our ministries here, and we trust that you do as well. We hope you will join us in this important campaign. Thank you so much for your ongoing support. Your **GENEROSITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE!**

\*Please stand as you are able.