

# Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church

*On a journey with God to Reach, Grow, and Serve*

TLPC is a congregation of both the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We began in 1992 with a vision for a new expression of the ELCA in Truckee and later joined with the PC (U.S.A.) to be the liturgical, eucharistic expression of Christ's church in Truckee, California. We welcome everyone to worship and grow with us as we live in God's amazing grace!

**To our visitors and guests:** Welcome! Please join us for fellowship and refreshments after the service, and let us know how we may serve you.

**Sheet music and large print bulletins** are available at the entrance.

**Assistive listening devices** may be obtained from the person at the soundboard (rear of worship space).

**Supervised childcare** for infants is available in the nursery.

**Sunday School** is offered for children age 3 through grade 8 following the opening liturgy. They will re-join us in worship for communion.

**Restrooms** are located past the front entrance, down the hall to the right.

**Fair trade coffee and chocolate** are available at cost after the service.

**This Week at TLPC** (*See [www.tlpc.org](http://www.tlpc.org) for complete calendar of events.*)

## Tuesday

6:00-9:00pm Council Meeting at the Rogers

## Friday

9:00am Hike/Snowshoe

## Sunday

9:00am Children's Christmas Program during worship

## ***Pastor***

Rev. Edward Hilton

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## ***Parish Associate***

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## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11 2011

The pastor or worship leader will read the regular print text.

The congregation will read the **bold** text.

Please stand, as you are able, for sections marked with an asterisk \*.

### PREPARING TO ENCOUNTER GOD IN WORSHIP

*We invite you to sing or listen as we quiet our minds to hear God's voice and open our hearts to feel his presence.*

♪ **"I'm Forever Grateful"**

♪ **"We Are an Offering"**

### WELCOME

### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

#### \* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, God of our salvation;  
you promised to take away judgment, to cast out fear,  
and to turn the shame of the outcast into praise.

As we light these candles,  
kindle in us the fire of your Holy Spirit  
to make known your deeds among the nations  
and to sing for joy when you are in our midst.

**Let your face shine on us and bless us.**

**Amen.**

#### \* GATHERING SONG

♪ **"Light One Candle"** – vs. 1-3

#### \* GREETING

Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

#### \* PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

**\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who shapes the whole creation, who comes with might and mercy,  
who fills the hungry with good things.

**Amen.**

Let us approach the throne of grace with repentant hearts.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,

**we confess that we have been unfaithful to you.**

**Like dry leaves and withered grass,  
our lives are blown about by our sins  
and the powers of evil around us.**

**Restore us, O God;**

**let the light of your face shine on us, and we shall be saved.**

**Amen.**

God is patient, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, I bring you this good news:

We are free from all that imprisons us;

our sins are forgiven; God heals our broken hearts.

Let us live in peace and harmony as we wait for the day of God.

**Amen.**

**\* SHARING THE LORD'S PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*All are invited to share a handshake or a hug as a sign of reconciliation and peace,  
saying "Peace be with you."*

*Children age 3 through grade 8 may go to Sunday School.*

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

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;

to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
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.  
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.  
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.  
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.  
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.  
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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM**

Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

**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."**

The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

**SECOND READING**

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

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. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\* PREPARING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS**

♪ **“He Came Down”** - vs. 1,3

**\* GOSPEL READING**

John 1:6–8, 19–28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 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.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie

the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** – “Why Are You Waiting?” (John 1:6–8, 19–28)

*Silence for reflection.*

**SONG IN RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD**

♪ **“He Comes To Us As One Unknown”**

**\* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

**GATHERING OF GIFTS**

*In recognition that all that we have and all that we are come from God, we return a portion of our wealth for the Lord's work here and around the world, we offer our talents that he may use them for his purpose, and we dedicate our lives to serve God and our neighbors.*

**\* PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND COMMITMENTS**

*The Pastor calls the people to stewardship.*

The Lord God in his goodness has called us together  
as the Church of Jesus Christ in this place.

In our history as God's people,

God has given us his word of creation, redemption and blessing.

He has given us forgiveness and grace.

He has given us his guidance and vision,

and sent his Holy Spirit to empower us for mission.

And when we have strayed, God has called us to return to him  
that we might continue to be blessed by his grace and favor.

We are nothing without our God and his word of hope and promise.

Therefore, people of God,

on this day I invite you to commit yourselves, your resources

and your whole lives to God and to his loving purpose

for you and for the Body of Christ gathered here,

so that our lives may be enriched

and the works of our hands may be fruitful.

**Amen**

**“Lord of All Good”**

*As we sing, the please bring your offerings and commitments forward and*

*place them on the altar.*

**\* PRAYER OF THANKS**

God of abundance,  
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,  
and with them our very lives.  
Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need  
until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

**\* GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The pastor continues with the Eucharistic prayer, concluding:*

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share:  
strengthen our faith, increase our hope,  
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.  
**Amen**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*We invite all members and visitors to share in Holy Communion, also known as the Lord's Supper, the Sacrament of the Altar, or the Eucharist. We believe that Jesus Christ is present in and with the bread and wine. We receive this sacrament in remembrance of what God has done for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. You may either eat the bread and drink from the common cup of wine (first chalice) or hold the bread and dip it in the grape juice (second chalice). Children who do not yet receive communion are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

*Some people wish to receive communion every week, others less often. Please do what is meaningful and comfortable for you. If you prefer to receive communion while seated, please indicate this to an usher.*

## **COMMUNION SONGS**

♪ "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

♪ "On Jordan's Banks"

## **\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord God,

we give you thanks that you have fed us even now  
with the banquet that is yet to come.

Keep us alert for signs of your presence in the world around us.

Send us as healing oil and sheltering comfort to those in need,

and make us bold in testifying to the light of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

## **\* SENDING SONG**

♪ "Light Dawns on a Weary World"

## **PREPARING FOR OUR MISSION IN THE WORLD**

*We are called to make Christ known by our words and actions - in our church family, in our local community and throughout the world.*

## **\* BENEDICTION**

## **\* POSTLUDE**

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