

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 for complete calendar of events.*)

Today

8:00-11:15am Pancake Breakfast at the Senior Center

Thursday

8:00am Ladies Breakfast at Smokey's Kitchen

Friday

9:00am Hike/Snowshoe

Sunday

9:00am Commitment Sunday. Please bring your pledge cards.

Pastor

Rev. Edward Hilton

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4 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.

♪ **"He Who Began a Good Work"**

♪ **"Be Still and Know"**

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

* **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH** – Reynaud Family

Blessed are you, God of our salvation;
you promised to send your messenger to prepare the way
by building a highway straight and level
and by preaching a baptism of repentance.
As we light these candles,
kindle among us the refiner's fire, purify us of sin,
and bring the good work begun in us to completion
by the day of Jesus Christ.

Let your face shine on us and bless us.

Amen.

* **GATHERING SONG**

♪ **"Light One Candle"** – vs. 1, 2

* **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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.
**By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives;
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 40:1–11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13

You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.

**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8–15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*** PREPARING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS**

♪ “He Came Down” - vs. 1,3

*** GOSPEL READING**

Mark 1:1–8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight,"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON – “A Voice in the Wilderness” (Mark 1:1–8)

Silence for reflection.

SONG IN RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

♪ “A New Heaven and Earth”

*** 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.

Temple Talk – Erin Ellis

*** PRESENTATION OF GIFTS, SONG OF THANKS**

♪ “I’m Forever Grateful”

*** 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

♪ **"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

♪ **"Blessed Be the God of Israel"**

*** 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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