

# Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church

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

TLPC is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We welcome you to worship and grow with us as we live in God's amazing grace! Please join us for fellowship and refreshments after the service downstairs in the fellowship hall and let us know how we may serve you.

**Supervised childcare** for infants is available in the nursery room at the rear of the sanctuary. **Worship Bags** for young children are available at the welcome table in the Narthex, the welcome space at the top of the stairs.

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

**Sheet music, large print bulletins, and assistive listening devices** are available for your use. Please ask an usher for assistance. **Prayer Slips** are in the worship bulletins; written requests may be placed in the offering plate.

**Please consume food and beverages** in the fellowship hall only.

## Wednesday

The Men's Bible Study, which meets for breakfast Wednesdays at 8 a.m. at Coffee. Bible Study continues in the book of James, 6:30-8:00PM at Church of the Mountains.

## Friday

The Hiking Group resumes this Friday. For more information, email [fridayhiking@googlegroups.com](mailto:fridayhiking@googlegroups.com).

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**Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church**

**Meeting at 11662 Hope Court**

**(530) 582-4243 info@tlpc.org www.tlpc.org**

**Like us on Facebook at Truckee Church and Tahoe Truckee Youth Collective**

## FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 29, 2015

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

The congregation will read/sing 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 pray as we quiet our minds to hear God's voice  
and open our hearts to feel God's presence.*

♪ **Above All**

### WELCOME

#### \* GATHERING SONG, ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

♪ **Light One Candle** - vs. 1

\* **ADVENT PRAYER** – Bob and Lis Green

#### \* **CONFESSION**

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

I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. (Psalm 32: 5b)

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Our loving God,

**we confess that ours is still a world**

**in which Herods seem to rule:**

**where the powerful dominate instead of serve,**

**where the words of the wise go unheard,**

**where the poor and oppressed are ignored,**

**where the innocent are abandoned.**

**Lord, forgive us when we pay more attention**

**to talk shows than we do to you.**

**Forgive us when we heed politicians more than prophets.**

**Forgive us when we forget that the model for our lives**

**was born in the humility of a stable.**

**Help us bend not only our knees but our hearts**

**as we make our way to Bethlehem once again**

**and discover there a Savior who promises us**

**the hope of eternal life right now.  
In his name we pray, Amen.**

**\* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

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

The peace of Christ be with you all.  
**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." We do so in the name of Jesus, who offered peace to his disciples when they were gathered in fear [John 20] and who extended his life to the point of death to make peace with humankind.*

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

**FIRST READING**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time I will raise up a righteous Branch – a descendant – from King David's line. He will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord is our Righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**♪ He Came Down**

**\*GOSPEL READING**

Luke 1: 5-25

When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah, who was a member of the priestly order of Abijah. His wife, Elizabeth, was from the priestly line of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations. But they had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old. One day Zechariah was serving God as priest in the Temple because his order was on duty that week. As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. At the time of the incense-offering, a great crowd stood outside, praying. An angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah, standing to the right of the incense altar. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and overwhelmed with fear. But the angel said, 'Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your

wife, Elizabeth, will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink. Even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah and will turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.’ Zechariah said to the angel, ‘How can I be sure this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.’ The angel replied, ‘I am Gabriel. I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! But now, since you didn’t believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time.’ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered what delayed him in the sanctuary. When he finally did come out, he couldn’t speak to them. Then they realized from his gestures and his silence that he must have seen a vision in the sanctuary. When Zechariah’s week of service in the Temple was over, he returned home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived and went into seclusion for five months. “How kind the Lord is!” she exclaimed. He has taken away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE** – “Waiting in Faith”

*Spiritual reflection*

**SONG IN RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD**

♪ **O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

**\* GATHERING OF GIFTS**

*Our finest offering is our attention, moment by moment and day by day, to God’s purposes for our world. We join our constant efforts to be faithful with these weekly moments of giving that celebrate the love with which God surrounds us. We are God’s children, committed to caring for all of God’s creation.*

“Thanksgiving Medley” – Sue Fitch, handbells

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

♪ **Thanks Be to You**

**\* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*When a worshiper concludes a petition with "Lord, in your mercy."  
Let all respond, "Hear our prayer."*

**\* INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

**\*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 . . .*

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit  
who makes your Word live in us.

Awaken us as your people to be filled with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth to all people.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Our loving Father, we give you all praise and glory,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The prayer concludes with the Lord's Prayer.*

**\* 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 to share in Holy Communion, also known as the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist. We believe that Jesus Christ is present in and with the elements. 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). Gluten-free wafers are available; just give Pastor the "OK" sign as you come forward to receive the bread.*

*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, indicate this to an usher.*

## **COMMUNION SONGS**

♪ Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

♪ Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

## **\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Our everlasting God,  
we gratefully receive these gifts of bread and cup  
and pray you will use them  
to enlarge our capacity to love and trust you.  
Help us receive your mysterious grace anew this Advent season,  
so that we may become people who live more and more like Jesus  
for our own joy, for your glory and  
to bring your love and care to our world.  
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**

**\* SENDING**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**\* POSTLUDE**

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**TLPC Worship and Community Notes:**

**The Season of Advent**

“Advent”, which means *coming*, begins the Church liturgical year and is the four-week season of preparation for Christmas and the coming of Jesus. Christians prepare for celebrating the birth of Jesus by remembering the longing of the Jews for a Messiah. In Advent, we’re reminded of how much we ourselves also need a Savior, and we look forward to our Savior’s second coming even as we prepare to celebrate his first coming at Christmas. We keep in mind both “advents” of Christ, the first in Bethlehem and the second yet to come. The **colors** associated with the season of Advent are dark blue, which symbolizes *hope*, or purple which symbolizes a reflective, time of yearning as well as royalty. During Advent, various TLPC folks will light the Advent wreath candles (one for each week of the season) and open our worship with prayer. The white Christ Candle will be lit on Christmas Eve.

**Christmas Eve at Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church**

We will celebrate Christmas Eve Thursday, December 24 with two distinct services. Flyers will be available to use to invite friends or neighbors to worship with us.

**The Family Service at 5:00 p.m.** is especially for those with children. We will sing carols and hear the story of Jesus’ birth as we worship together.

**The Candlelight Service at 7:30 p.m.** will include carols, scripture reading and brief reflection, hand bells, and singing with members of the Community Chorus.

**Pastors’ Attire:** In the earliest times of the Christian Church, pastors and priests wore regular clothing. As the Catholic Church took on a more formal structure, priests often wore black as a symbol of formality and seriousness. During the Protestant Reformation, some groups continued the practice of wearing specific religious attire (*vestments*) while others wore the same clothing as everyone else. In recent years, TLPC pastors have worn a robe called an *alb* (*white* in Latin), a white full-length garment with a rope-like *cincture* belted around the waist and a *stole* around the neck corresponding to the symbolic colors of the church seasons. The TLPC Worship Team decided our pastors may wear clothing more familiar in our culture for most church services, but will continue to wear the stole, a symbolic yoke signifying the ordained pastor’s special role as servant of God’s people. They may wear the alb as well during special services like Christmas or Easter. We welcome your thoughts on this new practice.