

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.

Tonight

5:30pm Christmas Party at the Lott's, 10435 Royal Crest

Wednesday

The Men's Breakfast and Bible Study at Coffee And will resume January 6.

Thursday

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service

7:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Friday

Merry Christmas!

Next Sunday

1-4 pm Middle School, High School and College Student Ice Skate at the rink at the Truckee River Regional Park. Bring ID and \$10

Lead Pastor, Rev. Scott Trevithick rstrevithick@gmail.com

Associate Pastor, Rev. Joanie Tankersley joanie.tankersley@icloud.com

Worship & Music Coordinator, Lorelle Banzett banzett@sbcglobal.net

Pianist, Choir Director, Miriam Hoffmann miriamlh@sbcglobal.net

Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church
Meeting at 11662 Hope Court
(530) 582-4243 info@tlpc.org www.tlpc.org

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 20, 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.*

♪ **Love Has Come**

♪ **Mary Did You Know?**

WELCOME

*GATHERING SONG, ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

♪ **Light One Candle, v. 1-4**

* **ADVENT PRAYER** – Cindy and Helen Bansen

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Invitation to confession

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of love,

all year long we pursue power and money,

yet you came in weakness, as a child.

All season long we want more stuff, more for us,

but you alone offer what is lasting.

Through the work of our Lord Jesus,

who comes among us full of grace and truth,

forgive us, heal us, correct us.

Then open our lips,

that we may sing your praise with the angels.

When we allow darkness to overcome the light,

forgive us, Lord.

When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,

have mercy on us, Father.

When hardness of heart keeps us

from seeing and believing in Your Song,

let your grace fill us, O God.
Forgive our doubt
and renew our hopes in Christ alone,
that we may watch and wait
and once more hear the glad story of our Savior,
Jesus Christ, the Lord.
In His name we ask, 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

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

* PREPARING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

♪ He Came Down

*GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON – "What Song do we Sing?"

Spiritual reflection

SONG IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

♪Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn

*** 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.

*** 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

♪ **Holy Is His Name**

♪ **Magnificat**

*** 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**

♪ **Canticle of the Turning**

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**

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.

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.

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