



TRUCKEE LUTHERAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
First Sunday of Advent – December 3, 2023

We invite you to participate in worship, reading the parts in bold print. ♪ means All Sing!
** We invite you to stand, as you are able, for sections marked with an asterisk.*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME

Pastor Pat Mecham

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

OPENING PRAYER

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE SONG – “Light One Candle to Watch for the Messiah”

Congregation

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Pastor Pat and Melissa Mecham

*** ♪ GATHERING SONG – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

Congregation

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Time for silence and reflection

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

*** SHARING OF THE LORD’S PEACE**

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

And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ in a way that you feel most comfortable, saying “The peace of Christ be with you.”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song. Lord, open our hearts and minds that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**

FIRST READING **Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19**

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

*** GOSPEL READING** **Mark 13:24-37**

[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel, the Good News of God.

Thanks be to God!

MEDITATION – “Anticipation”

Pastor Pat Mecham

♪ **SONG IN RESPONSE – “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

Congregation

*** NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS AND PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Pat Mecham

Please conclude your prayer with “Lord, in your mercy,” and all will respond, “Hear our 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.

*** THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*** 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.

*** INVITATION AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

♪ COMMUNION SONG – “While We Are Waiting, Come”

Congregation

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

* ♪ SENDING SONG – “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

Congregation

PREPARING FOR OUR MISSION IN THE WORLD – ANNOUNCEMENTS Birthdays/Anniversaries

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

* **BENEDICTION**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

* **SENDING**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* **POSTLUDE**

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We invite all to join us by giving to the ministry of TLPC. **We thank everyone who generously supports this ministry.** Gifts may be made online through our website at TLPC.org or mailed to: **Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church, PO Box 10620, Truckee, CA 96162**

Our congregation has a heart for missions: locally, nationally, and in God’s world. With your support we give to Sierra Community House (Hunger Relief, Crisis Intervention & Prevention, Family Support & Community Engagement, Mediation & Legal Assistance); North Tahoe–Truckee Homeless Services; Healthy Babies; International Health Partners Tanzania; Hands of Hope Zimbabwe; youth service trips to Nicaragua and Alaska; adult disaster trips locally and around the world; and the responsible, vigorous mission work of the Presbyterian Church USA and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in our nation and world. Additionally, during the pandemic, our congregation has supported local essential workers.

Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Washoe people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this country their home.



LIGHT ONE CANDLE TO WATCH FOR THE MESSIAH

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise. **Repeat**

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
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O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. **Refrain**

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **Refrain**

Text: Psalterium Cationum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.
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COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Augsburg Fortress
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WHILE WE ARE WAITING COME

While we are waiting come
While we are waiting come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel
While we are waiting come

With pow'r and glory come
With pow'r and glory come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel
While we are waiting come

Come Savior quickly come
Come Savior quickly come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel
While we are waiting come

Claire Cloninger | Don Cason © 1986 Curb Word Music
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MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. ***Refrain***

His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay. ***Refrain***

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne! ***Refrain***

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.