



**TRUCKEE LUTHERAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Second Sunday of Advent – December 10, 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 – “Glory to the Lord Our God”**

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

Congregation

**LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE**

Lori and Ben Breuch and Sydney

**\* OPENING WORDS**

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

God has promised us a new creation

**Where righteousness will be at home.**

Let us worship God.

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

Congregation

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

All have sinned, and not one of us is clean; but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord.

**God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you. You call us to repent, but we turn away from you. You wait patiently for us, but we fail to watch and wait for you. Forgive us, God of grace.**

**Embrace us with tender mercy so that we may be at one with you when all your glory is revealed.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom. Friends, hear the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM – Echo Badewitz**

**\* 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**            **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!**

**SECOND READING      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.**

**\* 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, the Good News of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**MEDITATION – “Getting Ready for Jesus”**

Pastor Pat Mecham

**♪ SONG IN RESPONSE – “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”**

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

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.

## 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 – "Eat This Bread"

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 – "Joy to the World"

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.*

### \* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

We go nowhere by accident.

**Wherever we go, God is sending us. Wherever we are, God has put us here; God has a purpose in our being here.**

Christ who indwells you has something he wants to do through you, right where you are. Believe this, and go in God's grace and love and power!

**Amen!**

### \* 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](http://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.

Light two candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
gently lead them homeward.

*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 Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite*  
*Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.*  
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## LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
as seers of old have sung,  
it came, a flow'r so bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah had foretold it,  
the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it,  
the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
she bore to us a Savior,  
when half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor  
the darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary,  
who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, king of glory,  
who dost our weakness know:  
bring us at length, we pray,  
to the bright courts of heaven  
and into endless day.

*Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4*

## EAT THIS BREAD

Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
come to me and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
trust in me and you will not thirst. **Repeat**

*Text: Taizé Community*  
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*S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.*  
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## **JOY TO THE WORLD**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748*