



TRUCKEE LUTHERAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 24, 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

PRELUDE – “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

Ryan Collingwood

WELCOME

Pastor Joanie Tankersley

This is the day the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

OPENING PRAYER

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

Congregation

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

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

Congregation

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

O God, thank you for the promise of life and love you fulfilled in Jesus’ birth that first Christmas. Sometimes it’s hard to believe what the Bible says about Jesus or that you love me when I don’t feel worthy of it. Give me confidence that your love is greater than my doubt or sin. My Christmas prayer is that you will help me live like Jesus so I can experience more of your love and forgiveness for me. Amen

*** SHARING OF THE LORD’S PEACE**

The peace of Christ 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

Lord God, enable me to understand the Scriptures that are read, the stories that are shared, and the carols we sing, so that I may know the beauty and truth of Christmas this year. Amen.

FIRST READING John 8:12

In one of his talks, Jesus said to the people, “I am the Light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t stumble in the darkness, for the light of my life will shine on your path... I have come as a light shining in the darkness of this world...

STORY & MESSAGE - “The Light of Life Has Come”

Pastor Joanie Tankersley

♪ CAROL – “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Congregation

SECOND READING 1 John 4:7, 9, 11

God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might live through him... Dear friends, since God loved us so much, we surely ought to love each other too... Let us practice loving each other, for love comes from God and those who are loving and kind show that they are children of God.

STORY & MESSAGE - “The Gospel of Christmas is Love”

Pastor Joanie Tankersley

♪ CAROL – “O Holy Night”

Susan Horst

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS AND PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Our loving God, as we give our gifts in the generous Spirit of Christmas, may we also act in love toward all people, seeking to the justice and peace you intend for all humankind. We pray according to the life of Jesus, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Joanie Tankersley

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

Lord Jesus, may the mystery of your presence as we take this bread and cup continue to stay as close to us as our next breath. And may we not only enjoy the light of your life and love, but share it with the next person we meet through our words and our actions, for Jesus' sake, Amen.

* ♪ SENDING SONG – “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

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

* POSTLUDE – “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

*Copyrighted music reprinted with permission under OneLicense # A-706638 and CCLI # 1007276 All rights reserved.
Portions of this service have been reprinted by permission from Sundays and Seasons v. 20180327.1136 Copyright 2018 Augsburg
Fortress. All rights reserved.*

We thank Pastor Joanie Tankersley for leading our worship service today!

AND

We thank Ryan Collingwood, Susan Horst, and Kathy Manifold for sharing their musical gifts with us!

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.

TLPC WISHES YOU A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church



Follow Jesus. Love All. Serve Others.