



TRUCKEE LUTHERAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
First Sunday of Christmas – December 31, 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 – “The First Noel”

WELCOME

Pastor Bob Kelley

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

*** OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*** ♪ GATHERING SONG – “Joy to the World”**

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 **Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3**

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

*** GOSPEL READING** **Luke 2:22-40**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel, the Good News of God.

Thanks be to God!

MEDITATION – “The Baby Messiah”

Pastor Bob Kelley

♪ **SONG IN RESPONSE – “What Child is This”**

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

Good and loving God,

we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Bob Kelley

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 – “Come to the Table of Mercy”

Congregation

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

* ♪ SENDING SONG – “Angels We Have Heard on High”

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. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

* POSTLUDE – “Christ Be Our Light”

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We thank Pastor Bob Kelley for leading our worship service today!

AND

We thank Cooper Shaffer, Kathy Shaffer, 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.

Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church



Follow Jesus. Love All. Serve Others.