

December 7, 2025 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Worship
Communion

The Second Sunday in Advent



O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Is. 2:5)

Trinity Presbyterian Church
420 Melrose Avenue, Santa Cruz, California 95062
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(831) 423-8995

Prelude and Procession *Prepare the Royal Highway*
by J. William Greene

Nicki Kerns

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Diane Ford

Preparation for Worship

In this season of waiting and watching we come seeking the God who draws near. We come with hope, trusting that Christ's light breaks into every shadow. That light may surprise us, even challenge us, and it may touch parts of ourselves we would rather keep hidden. As we prepare our hearts for Christ's coming, consider... what corners of your heart and mind would you prefer Christ's light not to see?

Introit GtG #92

While We Are Waiting, Come

Choir

Call to Worship (*responsive*)

Chuck

In this season of waiting and watching,
we come seeking the God who draws near.

**We come with hope, trusting that God's light
breaks into every shadow.**

John the Baptist cried out in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way of the Lord!"

**We come to prepare our hearts for the One who comes
to reveal and renew.**

Come, Lord Jesus, Emmanuel.

***Hymn** PH #9

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Lighting the Advent Candle (*responsive*)

The world says, “Nothing will change.” God says, “All is possible.” The chaos says, “There is no order.” The Peace of Christ says, “Rest and listen.” Anxiety says, “Hurry and worry.” God’s Spirit says, “Breathe, notice, and prepare.” As we light our Advent candles,

we pray for holy hope and peace of God.

Come now, O Light of the nations.

Come now, O Prince of Peace.

Candlelighting Song *Light an Advent Candle* – Becky Slagle Mayo

Advent is a time of hope, of waiting for the light
To lead us to the promised One to break the dark of night.
Light a candle, our Messiah will come.
Light a candle for the promised One.

Advent is a time of peace, the ancient prophets tell,
A King will be born in Bethlehem, our Lord, Emmanuel.
Light a candle, our Messiah will come.
Light a candle for the promised One.

Call to Prayer of Forgiveness and Healing (*responsive*)

Chuck

God’s refining fire is not to destroy, but to purify;
not to condemn, but to restore.

We come ready for God’s work in us—renewing, reshaping, and making us whole.

Trusting in that grace, let us come before God in a spirit
of repentance and hope.

Prayer of Forgiveness and Healing (*responsive*)

Chuck

Merciful God, nothing is hidden from your light. We confess that we have turned from your ways of restorative justice, compassion, and truth. We have missed the signs of your presence in our daily lives and

failed to respond with love. Yet you come not to condemn but to restore. Purify our intentions, heal our wounds, and renew our spirits. Help us recognize Christ's coming among us each day and follow in the way of your dawning kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, we pray.

(Time for silent prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Chuck

Hear the good news: In Christ, God's dawning light meets us, restores us, and leads us into new life. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made whole.

***Gloria PH #23** *refrain only*

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

"The Peace of Christ be with you." **"And also with you."**

Prayers of the People - God of Life and Hope, **Hear our Prayer**

Presbytery's Unity Candle: we pray for Stone Church of Willow Glen, and The Rev. Fred Harrell.

Hymn PH #562

Eternal Father Strong to Save

Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Anthem: *Veni, Veni Emmanuel* –arr. John Englert

Choir

Veni, veni Emmanuel! Captivum solve Israel.

Qui gemit in exilio. Privatus Dei Filio.

Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel nascetur prote Israel.

Veni, veni E Oriens! Solare nos adveniens:

Noctis depelle nebulas, Dirasque noctis tenebras.

Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel Nascetur prote Israel.

Veni, veni Emmanuel! Oh, Emmanuel!

Translation: Come, come Emmanuel! Release the captive Israel.

Who groans in exile. Deprived of the Son of God.

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel will be born, protect Israel.

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

Chuck

Living Lord, bring the truth to light. Reveal what is covered, unveil your Word to us now. Interrupt our daily living, our weekly worship: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Readings

Isaiah 11:1-10

Chuck

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat

straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Matthew 3:1–12

Diane

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"

John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his

hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Diane Ford

Call to Offering

Offertory

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus –Mark Hayes

Nicki

***Doxology** PH #591

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication (*responsive*)

Diane

As we bring forward these offerings, pledges, and commitment forms, we celebrate Christ’s coming and offer our gifts for God’s unfolding kingdom.

We wholeheartedly bring our presence and prayers to this community of faith. We joyfully commit our time, talents, discernment, and skills to the ministries we share. Confident that Christ multiplies our gifts, we generously offer our financial resources as a sign of our trust and commitment. Gracious God, bless this Christ-centered, mission-focused, open, and welcoming congregation, and use us to serve your purposes in the world. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

The outer ring is wine; the inner rings are grape juice ~ Gluten-free bread is made available.

Great Prayer of 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.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

***Closing Hymn:** PH #15 *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*

***Blessing and Charge**

***Amen**

Choir

***Postlude**

Soon and Very Soon –Andraé Crouch

Nicki

***We invite all to stand in body or in spirit.**

PH - Presbyterian Hymnal; GH - Gather Hymnal;

GTG - Glory to God Hymnal

Cover Art: Created by digital and crayon artist John Stuart ("Stushie"), a Scottish pastor ministering in East Tennessee.

Special Thanks to Our “Sunday Saints”

Pastor: Rev. Diane Ford

Music Director: Nicki Kerns

Lector: Chuck Cobery

Greeter: Dan Rutan

Usher: Pete Halper

Coffee Hour: Tim & Mayre Vincent

Audio/Video/Zoom Techs, Sejin Oh and Ellen Baurle

Announcements

Welcome to Trinity Presbyterian Church

Are you new today? We look forward to getting to know you. Please fill out a visitor welcome card and place it in the offering plate during the Call to Offering. After worship, join us for coffee/refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. We're glad you're here!



Upcoming Events at Trinity

- **Advent Thursday Evenings Dec. 11 and 18**
 - ◇ **Sacred Pause at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Pastor Diane leads us in Taizé-style prayer songs in a peaceful setting. Come as you are and enter a time for pause, prayer, and healing music.
 - ◇ **Potluck dinners in the Fireside Room 6:00 p.m.**
 - ◇ **Conversations following dinner: “Watching, Listening, Responding.”**
Week 2 (12/11): Listening for God in Our Midst. Scripture: Luke 2:8–20 (the shepherds hearing the good news). Theme: Recognizing God’s presence in unexpected places.
- **Trinity Staff Christmas Gifts.** Our tradition is to thank church staff with a monetary gift at Christmas. Deacons are accepting these donations today and next Sunday. Please take an envelope from the pews. Your generosity is appreciated!
- **TODAY:** All-Church Caroling after the 10:30 service.
- December 14: Cantata Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

- December 21: Longest Night: Service of Hope 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Struggling with the Holidays? Not everyone feels merry in December. Pastor Diane and Yoga Instructor Marcee Meinhardt lead this service designed especially for those carrying sadness, loss, or weariness during the holidays. The service will include candlelight, music, somatic breath work, readings, and prayer. We'll honor the darkness and remember that light still finds us. Come as you are; all are welcome.
- December 24: Our Christmas Eve Service will take place at 5:30 pm.

Please continue to remember these people and situations in your prayers.

- Jeff Lawton's friend: her husband is dealing with health issues.
- Jerod, Debbie Bates nephew: undergoing surgery.
- Bunny, Diana Dean's former work colleague: grieving the passing of her daughter.
- Unhoused People: safety and security, especially as we approach the colder weather season.
- Natalie Sergistad's aunt Jill: under hospice care at home.
- Cornerstone Church of Silicone Valley congregation: blessings on their ministry.
- Sandy Thormann's family: grateful for the opportunity to gather for Thanksgiving; especially thankful that her autistic grandson was able to stay calm during the festivities.
- Santa Cruz al Salvador delegation: grateful for their witnessing presence with the Salvadoran communities.



Trinity Presbyterian Church
 CHRIST-CENTERED and MISSION-DRIVEN:
 An OPEN AND AFFIRMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH
trinitypressc.org (831) 423-8995 Facebook Instagram
 Office Hours: Tuesday -Thursday 10:00 - 2:00 ♦ Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.



The Christmas Poinsettias are Dedicated by...

Eschen-Pipes Family	in Memory of Charles, Martha, and Bette Pipes, Cindy P. Arnst, and Jim and Mollie Eschen
Kim Johnston	in honor of the Johnston Family
Jeff & Patti Lawton	in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Earl Lawon, And Robert & Ann Ferguson
Dan & Vickie Rutan	in memory of Bill & Joey Bear, and Mary Jane Rutan
Sandra Thormann	in memory of Jerry & Martha Thormann, Irene & Peter Wilt, and Sharon Weld
Larry & Lorraine Vilardo	in honor of Great Grandson, Wells Dawon
Karen Wichelmann	in memory of Tom Wichelmann, and in honor of the Sebeldina Family
Richard & Roberta Zakarian	in memory of Jerry Lambert