



## *Third Sunday of Advent*

*December 17, 2017*

**Emanuel Lutheran Church**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**324 College Avenue, Modesto, California 95350**

**(209) 523-4531 • [www.emanuellutheran.org](http://www.emanuellutheran.org)**

# Welcome to Emanuel

Communion Service 9:30 a.m..... Page 3  
Announcements and Prayer Concerns ..... Page 14

## Staff

### **Presiding Minister**

Rev. Dr. Lyn Crase

### **Organist & Choir Director**

Barbara Vukich

### **Secretary**

Paula Braxton

### **Day Care Director**

Laura Marquez

### **Bookkeeper**

Maria Ojeda

## Council Officers

### **President**

Suzanne Wilke

### **Vice President**

Dan Johnson

### **Treasurer**

Bob Reuter

### **Secretary**

Mike Epting

## **WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITORS!**

*Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ. We are glad that you have come to worship with us. Please help us to know you by filling out a worship attendance form (located in your bulletin) and placing it in the offering plate.*

- **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS** are available. •

*(Please ask an usher)*

### Children/Youth & Family:

Council member – Pat Smith and Sam Gierhan

### Spiritual Life:

Council member – Lois Owen and Dan Johnson

### Worship:

Council member – Suzanne Wilke

### Outreach:

Council members — Bob Dailey

### Resource:

Bob Reuter, Treasurer

Stewardship — Jim Barton, Janice Watkins, Bob Dailey and  
Lois Silva

Property — Dick Norquist

### Fellowship:

Council member—Janice Watkins

### Social Media:

Council member – Mike Epting and Rick Unruh

### Endowment Team

Bob Reuter, Chairman

Team members: Dick Norquist, Rob Shank, Bill Reinheimer

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2017

9:30 AM

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<b>PRELUDE</b>	<i>Partita on "People, Look East"</i>	Joseph Bertolozzi
<b>CALL TO WORSHIP</b>	<i>Alleluia for Advent</i>	Barry L. Bobb
<b>WELCOME</b>		Pastor Lyn Crase
<b>OPENING HYMN</b>	<i>People, Look East</i>	ELW #248
<b>ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (Congregation sings after the reading)</b>		

## *He Came Down*

He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
hallelujah forevermore.

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who comes to wake us from sleep,  
who leads us into the light of grace.

**C Amen**

**P** Let us prepare the way of the Lord  
by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** God of all time,

**C we confess that we have not prepared  
for your merciful reign among us.  
We ignore our neighbors in need  
and fail in the labor of justice and peace.  
In your mercy forgive us.  
Grant us wisdom to welcome your light**

**and to seek the things that will endure  
until Christ comes again in glory. Amen**

**P** Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

In ✝ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven  
and all things are made new.  
Rejoice in this good news!

**C Amen**

### **GREETING**

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

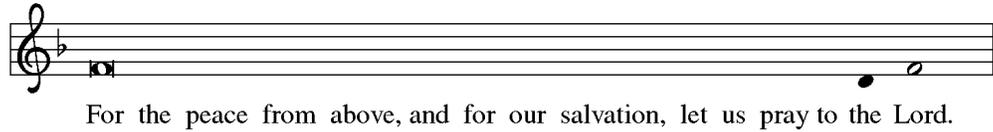
**C And also with you.**



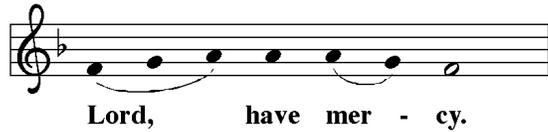
# KYRIE



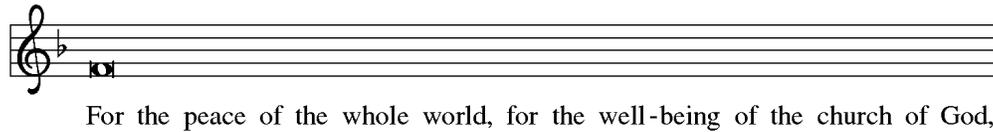
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



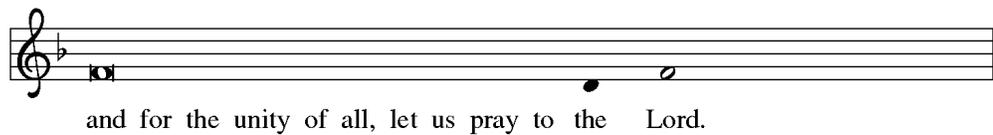
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



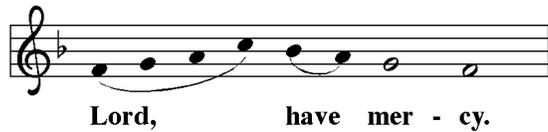
Lord, have mer - cy.



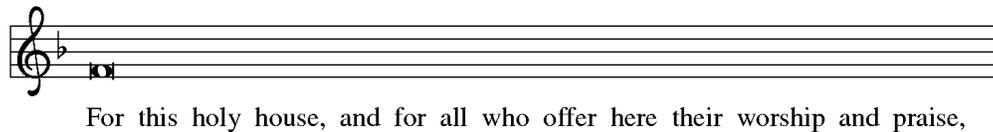
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



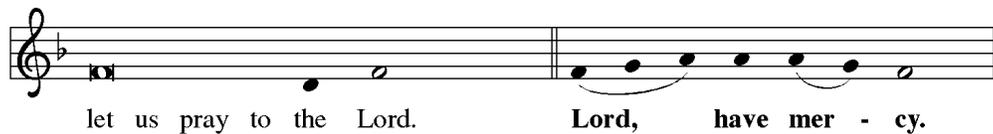
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



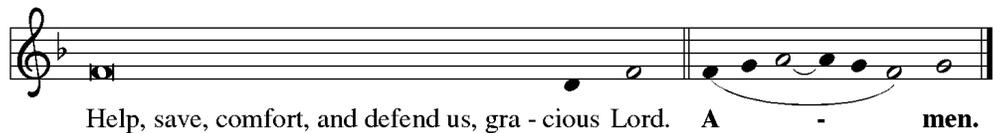
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together....

**C Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

## FIRST READING: ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

*Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of the Lord, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.*

- <sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.
- <sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
<sup>10</sup>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.  
<sup>11</sup>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.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: PSALM 126**

*My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

ELW #251

**SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24**

*Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Gospel according to John, Chapter 1

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28**

*John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.*

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup>He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” <sup>26</sup>John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (REPEATED)

SERMON

Pastor Lyn Crase

SERMON HYMN

*Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!*

ELW #246

## APOSTLE’S CREED

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle’s Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

**Response:** ... Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

## TITHES & OFFERINGS

*Advent Candle Song*  
Barry Schroeder, Flute

Arthur Clyde  
Choir

*The offering is an act of worship; a response of gratitude and thankfulness.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

A Savior of the nations, come.  
Make your home here in us.  
Feed us with your love,  
that our faith shine ever new  
and our lives reveal your light.

**C Amen**

## SHARING THE PEACE

*The sharing of peace is an individual and communal act of forgiveness.*

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*Please return to your seat at the signal from the organ.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P In recognition of God's forgiveness, mercy and grace let us continue with the Great Thanksgiving.

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**C Amen**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

Share in the feast of salvation.

*We practice continuous communion at the altar rail. All are welcome.*

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS** *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*  
*He Comes to Us as One Unknown*

ELW #242

ELW #737

## COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C Amen**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A God for whom we wait,  
you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share.  
Make us ready always  
to welcome Christ into our hearts,  
and send us forth to be your people in the world,  
announcing your coming among us  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

## SENDING

P God's mission includes the gifts of grace that we share in worship and take also to the absent; now, we are sent to continue our participation in God's mission. With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ's body in the world.

C *The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give, to make of all the earth a better place to live. The angels are not sent into our world of pain to do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name; that falls to you and me and all who are made free. Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today.* ELW 538

## BLESSING

P May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you  
and scatter the darkness from before your path.  
Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

C Amen

## BIRTHDAY BLESSING

P Let us pray:

C **God of all creation, we offer you grateful praise for the Gift of Life, and especially the gift of the lives of our sisters and brothers who stand before us this day and who recall this month the day of their birth. They rejoice in your gifts of life and love, family and friends.**

**Bless them with your presence and surround them with your love that they may enjoy many happy years, all of them pleasing to you. We ask this grace and blessing for each one of them through Christ our Lord. Amen**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SENDING HYMN

*Joy to the World*

ELW #267

### DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

*Joy to the World*

Emma Lou Diemer

## THOSE WHO SERVED US TODAY

**Presiding Minister** ..... Pastor Lyn Crase  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Emma Hoover  
**Acolyte**..... Addison Hoover  
**Ministers of the Word** ..... Dan Johnson, Fanney Bjargardottir  
**Cantor** ..... Kathleen Reuter  
**Communion Assistant**..... Dan Johnson  
**Usher/Greeter** ..... Holtz/Salonen  
**Altar Care**..... Van Diepen, Kroeze

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# Announcements

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*Please use your “soft” voice during and following the Prelude, as others may be in prayer and meditation. Thank you.*



The flowers on the altar were given to the glory of God by David Holtz.



**Advent Services**—Wednesdays, through December 20. **Bible Study Theme: Together in Advent.** Soup Supper at 6:00 pm, a family activity, and Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm. *See you there!*

**First Saturday Worship.** Every 1st Saturday of the month at 5:30 pm. An informal & interactive and contemplative worship experience.

**Coat Drive** Bring a new or gently used coat and place it in the box labeled “Coat Drive” in the Narthex.

**Choir rehearsals** after the service.

## **1st Sunday Care Cupboard**

Bring your donations for the Care Cupboard –see list in the announcement box on page 16 of the bulletin. Donations will be accepted anytime.

Next Care Cupboard date is December 18

**Tuesday Breakfast** is on break until January 9 (3 weeks off)

**Young Adult Bible Study** is on break for the month of December—resumes on January 8 at 1:15 pm.

**Text Study** will take a short break until January 2. All are welcome. Bring along your lunch.

**Thursday Morning Bible Study**, resumes January 4 at Casa de Modesto, continuing “Grace in a Tree Stump” by J. E. Kalas. We will be back to Emanuel on January 11, 2018. All are welcome!

**If you have decided** to tithe on your yearly pledge, below are some suggestions as to where/how to target that donation:

*Audio/visual technology upgrade  
Care Cupboard  
Katie's Kitchen  
Piecemakers Quilting  
Sanctuary Arts Team*

*Modesto Shower Shuttle  
12 New Lutheran Study Bibles  
Education (VBS curriculum)  
Family Promise Modesto*

### **Emanuel Lutheran Care Cupboard**

*HELP! HELP! HELP! Our cupboard is almost bare! Can you help us?*

We are in desperate need of the following items before December 18th—our distribution date for sharing food with MJC students in need:

Individual servings of tuna/crackers boxes, small jars of jam, small jars of peanut butter, cans of soup, chili or vegetables, single-serve cracker packets, individual servings of mac 'n cheese, small boxes of cold cereal or individual servings of oatmeal, fruit or jello cups, pudding cups, packets of hot chocolate or apple cider, and Capri Sun juices. We are also in need of pet food.

*Thanks so much for your generosity! =)*

### **From the Sanctuary Arts Team:**

Christmas Tree Decorating for Christmas Eve—December 24 at 12:30 pm

**There's a convenient way to make donations** to Emanuel. Simply install **Give+Church** on your Apple or Android phone or tablet, or with your computer, visit [www.emanuellutheran.org](http://www.emanuellutheran.org). On the website, choose the “Contact Us/Donations” menu item. Both options are extremely easy and walk you through the process.

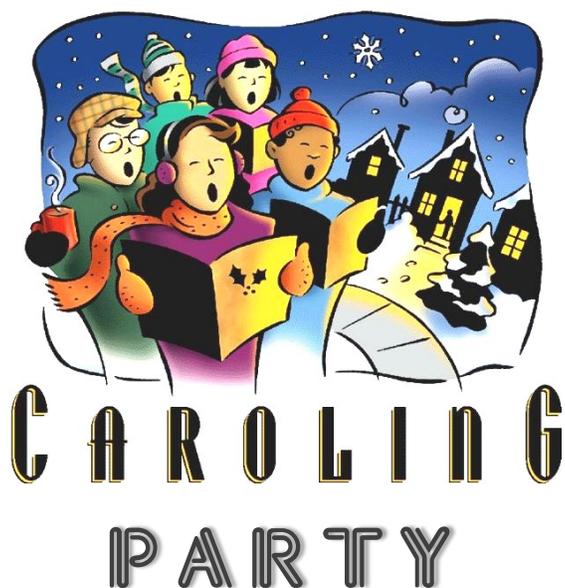
**Sierra Pacific Synod** is suggesting donations to two agencies: Lutheran Social Services of Northern California and Lutheran Disaster Response. Donations to Lutheran Social Services can be designated through their “Wildfire Relief Fund” for needs in northern California in general. To donate to specific congregations, indicate the name of the congregation in the designated box. 100% of these monies will be given directly to churches and ministries that have been affected by the fires. Donations to Lutheran Disaster Relief can be designated to “U.S. Fire Relief” and will be used more generally to support churches and ministries and communities that have been affected by fires through the fall and throughout the west. 100% of donations so designated will be used by LDR to offer support to affected communities.

**“New” to Emanuel Lutheran Church** or have new information? Please see Pastor Lyn for a biographical data sheet.

**This fall, Emanuel became connected** to Modesto Junior College more visibly via the Care Cupboard & Katie's Kitchen. MJC has been around for a long time, but did you know current administration is committed to promoting a holistic approach with students who face a multitude of challenges, some of which get in the way of successful learning? Emanuel is part of that holistic (whole-being) practice by helping to provide better nutrition (a small but significant contribution). Many of you are generously supporting the food pantry and

breakfast with donations of groceries and other basic need items. Thank you! During this season of giving, consider donating to the MJC Foundation, a provider of scholarships for students. In 2017 more than 800 students received just over \$850,000 in scholarships. Successful students make good citizens. MJC is committed to educating community leaders for the future. If inspired to make a charitable contribution, make checks payable to MJC Foundation and send to 435 College Avenue, 95350. MJC and Emanuel Lutheran are committed to helping students succeed.





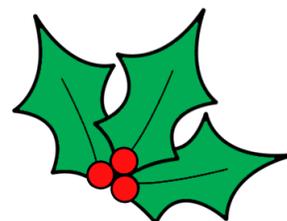
# CAROLING PARTY

**When:** TODAY at 6:00 pm

**Where:** The home of David Holtz  
926 Mt. Vernon Avenue

**Details:** The evening begins with a bowl of gourmet chili and some French bread. Then, we will serenade the neighborhood with songs of the season. Finally, we'll head back to David's house for some yummy cookies, hot cocoa, and more singing.

**What to bring:** some cookies to share, a flashlight, and warm clothes



## WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 18	TUE 19	WED 20	THUR 21	FRI 22	SAT 23	SUN 24
<b>1:00 pm</b> Care Cupboard	<b>10:30 am</b> Day Care Yoga	<b>7:00 am</b> Men's Bible Study @ Mimi's  <b>10:00 am</b> Weekly Staff Mtg.		<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>		<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>  <b>9:30 am</b> Worship Service  <b>Interfaith Sunday</b>
<b>4:00 pm</b> MSYC Rehearsal— Luther Hall						<b>5:30 pm</b> Christmas Pageant
<b>6:00 pm</b> Women's Bible Study/ Potluck @ M. Rowland's		<b>6:00 pm</b> Advent Soup Supper/ Prayers  <b>7:00 pm</b> Worship				<b>9:00 pm</b> Candlelight & Communion

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Date	Assistant Minister	Ministers of the Word	Cantor	Communion Assist	Acolyte	Usher Greeter	Altar Care
Dec 24 Nativity: Christmas Eve	Paula Barton	E Hoover A Hoover	Paula Barton	Marilyn Rowland	Chris Schmidt	Clarke Family	Van Diepen/ Kroeze
Dec 31 Christmas 1	Sheri Delvin	B Reinheimer P Kroeze	David Holtz	Paula Kroeze	Emma Hoover	Delvin/ Reuter	Lois Silva
Jan 7 Epiphany 1	Brett Shank	B Rokaitis P Cousins	Kathleen Reuter	Peter Cousins	Alexandria Taylor	Shank Family	

## WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

December 24 Nativity: Christmas Eve	December 31 Christmas 1	January 7 Epiphany 1
Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14-20	Isaiah 61:10--62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12



**New Prayer Requests:** Olaf Bergstrom—health, surgery (Poston)

**Our Members:** Linda Nelson; Laurie Spinuzzi; Pat Smith; Sherm Petersen; Dr. Van Allen; Joanne Trana; the Tisdel family; Jennaca Hollinger; Rev. Ralph Herman; Roland Loeffler; Joyce Bachmann; Bill Beasley; Teri Scott; Millie Golding; Rue Knoll; Mary Murray

**Our Homebound Members:** Florence Broden, Shelda Fritts; Alice Hine; Marj Sample; Vera Eden

**Our Family:** Suzanne Stiver Lie (Reinheimer); Ian McKenzie (Schmidt); Jane Tisdel (Tisdel); Patsy Natvig (Hoover); David Massingill (Reuter); Pastor Roger Lee and family; Janet Barkley (Deutsch); Nancy Jones' brother-in-law; the Hunwardsen family, Hazel Holyfield; Joyce & Manuel Dillard (Scott); Michael Bach (Scott); Moira & Ron Wilhelm (Clarke); Billie Cannon (Cannon); Carolyn & Jake Strand Maret (Strand); Nick Berlin (L. Skustad); Mabel Kraft (Kraft); Lisa Schenewark (Martin); George and Glenn Massingill (Reuter); Virginia Comella (Silva); Art Ludke (Norquist); Joyce Inell, Alley Taylor (Scott)

**Our Friends:** Roger Warner (Schmidt); Jennifer Turner (Dieterich); Priscilla Pino (Ixcot); Tyler (Norquist); Dawn & Alexander Piscitello (Watkins); Charlie Wilson, churches and families in Napa Valley & Santa Rosa affected by the fires; Kathy & Lee van Boven (Reinheimer); Shey's family (Billie Cannon); the Vogelzang family; Judy Darby (Schmidt); Julie Moore, Jeff Hendrick (Barton); Ken Jensen (Norquist)

**We Pray for Peace** in the Middle East, and for all those serving in our armed forces:

**T/Sgt. Ryan Dangerfield, USAF** at Ramstein AB, Germany and **SSgt. Joey Sabel, USMC** at Camp Lejeune, NC (Marilyn & Chuck Rowland's grandson & grandson-in-law)

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

Guiding Lord, bless church leaders, volunteers, teachers, musicians, acolytes, deacons, pastors, seminarians, and those discerning a call to ministry. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Creating God, protect Earth's wilderness, especially where the lands are isolated and unexplored. Watch over all living creatures who remain free from human exploitation. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Prince of Peace, send us your Spirit of unity, so that justice may spring up among the nations. Give us the will to repair the broken systems that perpetuate injustice. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, comfort your children who are mourning, bind up the brokenhearted, and heal our wounds. We pray for those who are homeless or imprisoned, refugees, those who struggle with addiction or mental illness, and all in need. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for your healing touch on those we name before you now, aloud or in silence (*pause for silence*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord of justice, strengthen and increase the ministry of food pantries, meal service deliveries, employment training programs, and advocacy for equity among all classes and races. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

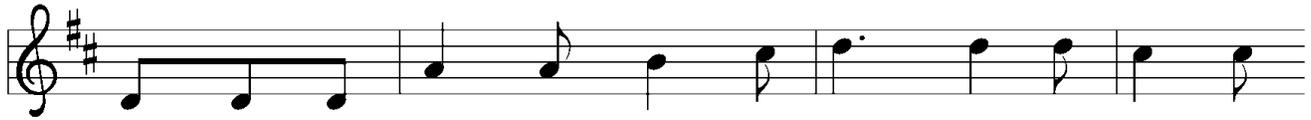
Eternal God, clothe us in your garments of salvation, so that together we may rejoice in your presence with the saints who have died and with those unable to be with us today. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

# ENTRANCE HYMN #248

## People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

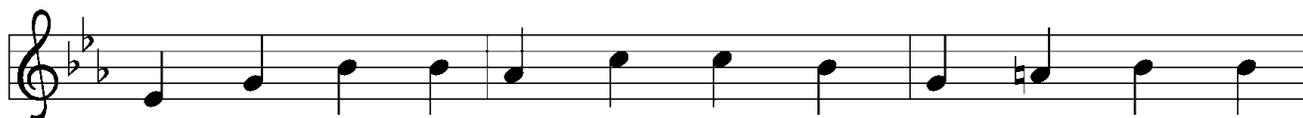
Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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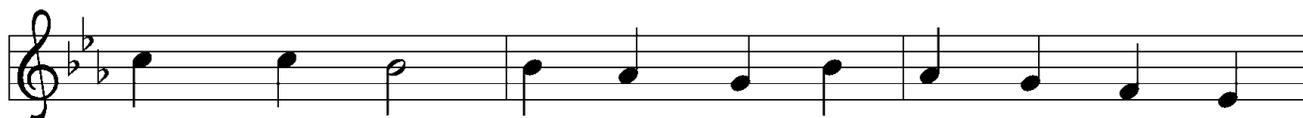
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## SERMON HYMN #246

### Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we  
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age  
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don  
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,  
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,  
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,  
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy  
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!"  
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
one and all, to be for - giv'n;  
and with words of love draw near.  
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878  
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

# SENDING HYMN #267

## Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872