

**Holy Trinity Lutheran
Church
Worship Guide
Service of Holy Communion**



“Fear Not. . . We are All in this Together”

December 5, 2021

+ INDICATES THE CONGREGATION STANDS AS YOU ARE ABLE

WELCOME FROM PASTOR JACK

CHILDREN'S SERMON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES **Bob Klein & Pat Kaminski**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

- 2 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*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

+HYMN,♪ O Come, All Ye Faithful

- 1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain

Venite adoremus,
venite adoremus,
venite adoremus Dominum.

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

- 2 The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE ASSIGNED SCRIPTURE READINGS

Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

SERMON “Fear Not: “We are All in this Together”
Part 2 of a twelve-part sermon series
“Fear Not”

CHOIR ANTHEM

HYMN OF THE DAY **Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!
- 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

+THE PRAYERS

(See “Celebrate” bulletin insert)

P: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God’s presence.

A brief silence.

P: You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill (*especially*). Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

EXCHANGE OF PEACE:

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always

C: And also with you

(Please wave to your nearest worship neighbors)

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

C: **Amen.**

(Offering baskets will not be passed around. At the conclusion of the service, please place your offering in designated baskets in the rear of the sanctuary.)

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *"In the night in which he was betrayed..."*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

C: **Amen.**

+ BENEDICTION

P: The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C: **Amen.**

+ SENDING HYMN **Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.

2 The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+THE DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Weekly Announcements

Lector: Joyce Maul **Music Director:** Chad Flynn **Video:** Don Gulliksen

This Sunday (12/5) marks the first second Sunday in the season of Advent. The word "advent" is derived from a Latin word which means "waiting" as we count down the Sundays remaining until Christmas.

Assisting with our Advent wreath lighting ceremony this Sunday will be Bob Klein and Pat Kaminski. Thank you for participating in our liturgy.

Special thanks to all who volunteered at our annual Christmas Bazaar. It was a blessing for everyone.

Looking for that special gift? Check out Dolly's Room after services on December 5th and 12th. The WELCA Ladies have a whole NEW set of surprises you will not want to miss out on, including a large jewelry selection, just in time for the holidays! Come and browse, you're sure to find SOMETHING SPECIAL!!

Time to order your poinsettias. Place your order to adorn our sanctuary in honor of, or in memory of, friends and loved ones. Deadline is Dec. 12. The order form appears in the Sunday bulletins, or call the church office at 973-625-0110.

Christmas Concert is coming soon. Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 19 at 3:00pm in our sanctuary. This year's cantata is "Night of Wonder, Night of Joy". Our choir and musicians will be joined by talented vocalists from the community as well as from the Jefferson Township High School Chamber Choir. You won't want to miss this inspirational event.

Children's Christmas Play - This year's Christmas program is "The Colors of Christmas" by Ruth Ann Greiner. Rehearsals are continuing now through December 6. All children 7 and older will meet on Sundays at 10 AM in the sanctuary.

Can You Donate a New or Lightly Used Twin Sized Blanket (60"X90") to aid the homeless? Simply drop off the blankets in an area designated for such at our glass enclosed vestibule. For more info: Contact Nisha Zoeller at: nishazoeller@gmail.com This is a Girl Scout Troop 6114 project.

Coffee Hour help needed. Many say we have the best post-worship coffee hours in Morris County! But your help is needed. Please consider donating refreshments, coffee, milk, sugar to help feed the multitude. Thank you!

Volunteers are needed to count the offering after church on Sunday mornings. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please contact Joan Cosgrove at (973-691-1705) or speak to her in church. No experience necessary!

Lectors (readers on Sunday mornings) are needed and appreciated. Read the assigned Scripture for the day! Sign up sheets are located in the rear of the sanctuary, or ask Pastor Jack for details: jackspartan79@gmail.com

Food Collections. Please note: Please donate only NON-PERISHABLE food items. Do not drop off milk, bread, or various dairy products as these items may spoil prior to public distribution.

Did you know...approximately two hundred viewers “tune in” each week through our internet streaming of the worship experience. We are reaching viewers as far as Texas, Florida, the Carolinas, Tennessee, Maine and now China! Thanks to modern technology we are living out Jesus’ great commission to proclaim God’s Word near and far (see Matthew 28).

All liturgical wording for our worship services comes from the national office of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and is the standard recommended Lutheran liturgy for all Lutheran congregations across the United States.

Lunch & Learn Adult Bible Study will be offered again December 15. This popular series meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month in the choir room. Join us at noon...bring a bag lunch. Physical distancing and facial coverings will be mandatory. For those unable or uncomfortable attending in person, the Bible study will be live streamed through the ZOOM format. Please contact Pastor Jack (jackspartan79@gmail.com) about the ZOOM link.

Clothing Donations: Please DO NOT drop off clothing at our church vestibule or lobby area. Instead, please place all donated articles in the RED BIN in the rear parking lot of the church. Shoes, handbags, stuffed toys, and linens are accepted as well! For more information, contact Ellen Crane at 973-625-1353.

Want to give electronically? 40% of our offerings now come in via electronic giving sources. To learn more, simply go to our web page at www.rockawaylutheran.org and click on the “donate” button. . . then follow the simple instructions. Still not sure? Please contact Donna Gulliksen at: Donna.Gulliksen@gmail.com or call her at 973-697-1895. Regular offerings (with date and frequency of your choice) as well as one-time gifts can be established electronically. All transactions are confidential.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Sun., Dec. 12 | HTLC Children's Play during worship |
| Sun., Dec. 19 | Annual Christmas Concert – 3:00pm in the sanctuary |
| Fri., Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Worship – 3:30pm and 5:00pm |

New Sermon Series

“Fear Not!”

What circumstances cause you to shiver in fear? What keeps you up at night? Do fears and anxieties overwhelm you at times? Join Pastor Jack as he explores the themes of fear...and faith... as outlined in our assigned Scripture texts each week.



11/28/21	“Fear Not...We Have Jesus”
12/5	“Fear Not...We are All in this Together”
12/12	“Fear Not...We Have Prayer Support”
12/19	“Fear Not...God Can Do Anything”
12/24	“Fear Not...A Savior is Born”
12/26	“Fear Not...God is in Control”
1/2/22	“Fear Not... It’s a New Year...a New Beginning”
1/9	“Fear Not...Your Baptism is Powerful”
1/16	“Fear Not...Our Lord Brings Joy”
1/23	“Fear Not...The Scriptures Are Fulfilled”
1/30	“Fear Not...Your Enemies Shall Not Prevail”
2/6	“Fear Not...God Will Provide”

This twelve-part sermon series will help to assuage some of your greatest fears and assure you that God will strengthen you... and guide you through...even amid the most frightening times of life.

Order Poinsettias for Christmas

Help decorate our Church for Christmas Eve!

The cost for each plant is \$10.00
Please submit all orders by Dec. 12th



*Make a gift of a Poinsettia in **memory** of,
in **honor** of, or in **celebration** of.*

Your Name _____

In _____ of _____

In _____ of _____

In _____ of _____



of Plants Ordered _____

Check/Cash Enclosed \$ _____

*Please return this form with the your check or cash to the
Church Office or place in the offering plate.*

*All gifts will be acknowledged in an insert in the Christmas Eve Bulletin. Plants may
be picked up after either service.*

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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htlchurch@gmail.com

973-625-0110

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jack DiMatteo, jackspartan79@gmail.com

Music Director: Chad Flynn, bariflynn@yahoo.com

Council President: Joan Cosgrove, kikkired@verizon.net

Sunday School Director: Erin Osterhout, eosterhout@optonline.net

Women's Group President: Marga Conn, tantemarga@outlook.com

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9:00am – Noon