

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



“Fear Not. . . We Have Prayer Support”

December 12, 2021

+ INDICATES THE CONGREGATION STANDS AS YOU ARE ABLE

WELCOME FROM PASTOR JACK

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Leifken Family

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

- 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

Refrain

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

+HYMN,♪ Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!
- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

SALUTATION

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

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

SERMON "Fear Not: "We Have Prayer Support"
Part 3 of a twelve-part sermon series
"Fear Not"

HYMN OF THE DAY It Came upon the Midnight Clear

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
 that glorious song of old,
 from angels bending near the earth
 to touch their harps of gold:
 "Peace on the earth, good will to all,
 from heav'n's all-gracious king."
 The world in solemn stillness lay
 to hear the angels sing.

- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come
 with peaceful wings unfurled,
 and still their heav'nly music floats
 o'er all the weary world.
 Above its sad and lowly plains
 they bend on hov'ring wing,
 and ever o'er its babel sounds
 the blessed angels sing.

CHOIR ANTHEM

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 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
 wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 once you sang creation's story,
 now proclaim Messiah's birth:
 Come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn king.

- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
 watching o'er your flocks by night,
 God with us is now residing,
 yonder shines the infant light.
 Come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn king.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+THE DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Weekly Announcements

Music Director: Chad Flynn **Video:** Don Gulliksen

This Sunday (12/5) marks the third 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 the Leifken family: Kurt, Shannon, and Levi. Thank you for participating in our liturgy.

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

The WELCA meeting and Christmas party will be this Tuesday, December 14th at 7:00pm. All ladies are welcome. Please bring a plate of cookies to share. For more information please call Marga Conn at 475-330-4128.

Looking for that special gift? Check out Dolly's Room after services on December 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!!

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule: 3:30pm & 5:00pm. Hope you can join us!

Last Call to order 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 Special thanks to Ruth Ann Greiner, author and director of this year's children's Christmas play.

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 January 5. 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

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|---------------|--|
| 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