

# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

## *Second Sunday of Advent*

10:00 AM Worship Service • December 8, 2024

ACS Setting 12



## 2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

*Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."*

**Welcome members and guests** to our worship service today. If you are visiting, we encourage you to sign the guest register located in the narthex; or, if you are online during our worship service, drop us a line to say hello or that you and your family are attending, so that we know you have joined us for worship. For those who come in person, please include your home address, email address and phone number. In each pew, there is a card that you can fill out if you wish to have a consult with the pastor and/or leave us more information about you. Sunday School begins at 8:45 followed by a worship service at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings.

**A nursery room is available** during the service. The nursery is located off the hallway on the Huntington Avenue side of the church building. At this time, there are no nursery attendants. We also have “activity binders” available for older children to enjoy during the service. Please ask an usher about using one.

**Trinity offers an induction loop** for the benefit of hearing impaired worshippers. To use, please switch your hearing aid to “T.”

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607  
(757) 245-7861 – <http://trinitylutheran-nn.com>  
Church Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



**REV. TINA MELUSKY** – Pastor ([tina.melusky@gmail.com](mailto:tina.melusky@gmail.com))

**GEOFFREY BELL** – Director of Music Ministries ([music@trinitynn.org](mailto:music@trinitynn.org))

**SHARON MATHISON** – Administrative Assistant ([admin@trinitynn.org](mailto:admin@trinitynn.org))

**CAROL BESSOM** – Treasurer ([cbessom@trinitynn.com](mailto:cbessom@trinitynn.com))

**THE CONGREGATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN** – Ministers of the Word

**FACEBOOK & WORSHIP LIVESTREAMS:** <http://facebook.com/TrinityNN>

**TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL WEBSITE:** <http://trinitynn.org>

**PASTOR MELUSKY'S OFFICE HOURS**

Monday 9am-12pm; Tuesday 9-10:30am, 11:30am-12:15pm;

Wednesday 9:30am-12pm; Thursday 9am-12pm

Times are flexible with monthly meetings, but feel free  
to call for an appointment or drop in.

**Pastor's Cell:** (734) 239-4013

Trinity is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center,  
LINK, THRIVE, and The Simple Sunflower.

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## CARILLON CALL TO WORSHIP

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

arr. Aaron Shows

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Perez Family

## RESPONSE

*Hope Is a Star (v. 2)*

Peace is a rib - bon that cir - cles the earth,  
giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be  
first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be a - fraid.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1985

MUSIC: Jean Collier Fogg, 1987

© 1989 Hope Publishing Company

## GATHERING

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross,  
the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
alive in the world,  
reviving creation,  
arriving soon.

**Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**  
**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We have turned away from our neighbors.**  
**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We plead: come to us.**  
**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth:  
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,  
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
receive the grace and forgiveness of God  
through † Christ Jesus,  
whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*  
FREU DICH SEHR

ELW 256

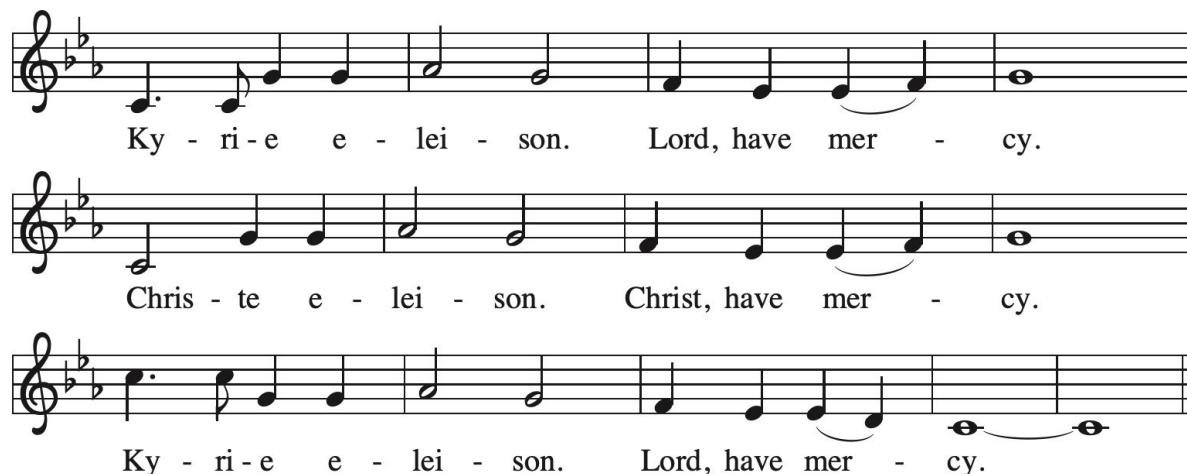
*The congregation turns to face the processing cross.*

**GREETING**

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.**

## KYRIE



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

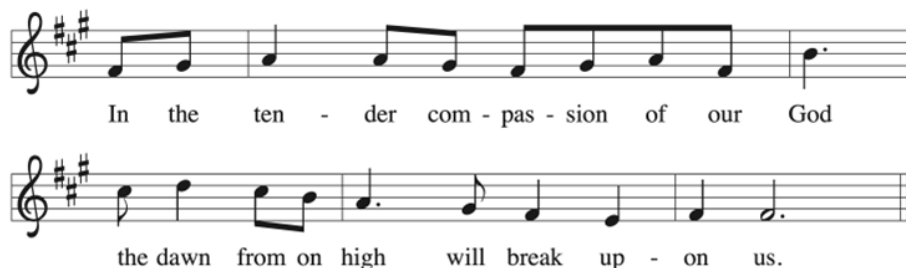
*God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to the temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, the Lord is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of the coming, and who can stand when the Lord appears?

For God is like a refiner’s fire and like washers’ soap; God will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Luke 1:68-79 (all sing the response before the reading and when directed.)



In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our God

the dawn from on high will break up - on us.

Luke 1:78

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,

you have come to your people and set them free.

**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David. R**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us,

**to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.**

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear,**

**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our lives. R**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. R**

## **SECOND READING: 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.*

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

**Prepare the way | of the Lord.  
All flesh shall see the salva- | tion of God.**

### GOSPEL: 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.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, 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, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as 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.

Every 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,

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

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**CHILDREN’S CHAT  
SERMON**

Pastor Tina Melusky  
Pastor Tina Melusky

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying*  
ASCENSION

ELW 255

## 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

Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Every Valley*

Victor C. Johnson

*Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low;  
the crooked made straight and the rough places plain.*

*Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.*

*Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb; and the leopard will lie down with the goat.*

*The calf and the lion will live together, and a little child will lead them;  
and this child will be peace.*

*Every valley shall be exalted.*

*Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together*



*The assembly stands.*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Creator God,  
**you made the whole world,**  
**even the farthest stars,**  
**and you draw near to feed us.**  
**We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.**  
**Strengthen us with this food**  
**that we may live in expectation**  
**for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

## MEAL

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

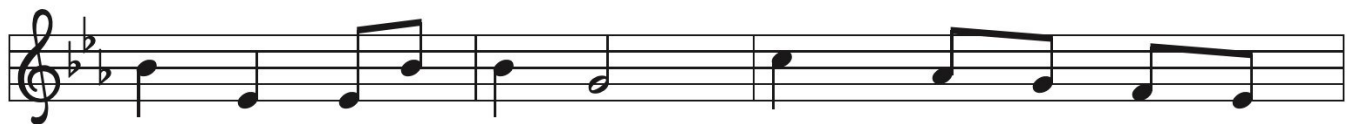
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
 Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

*Continued on next page*

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
 Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
 Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
 the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**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,**

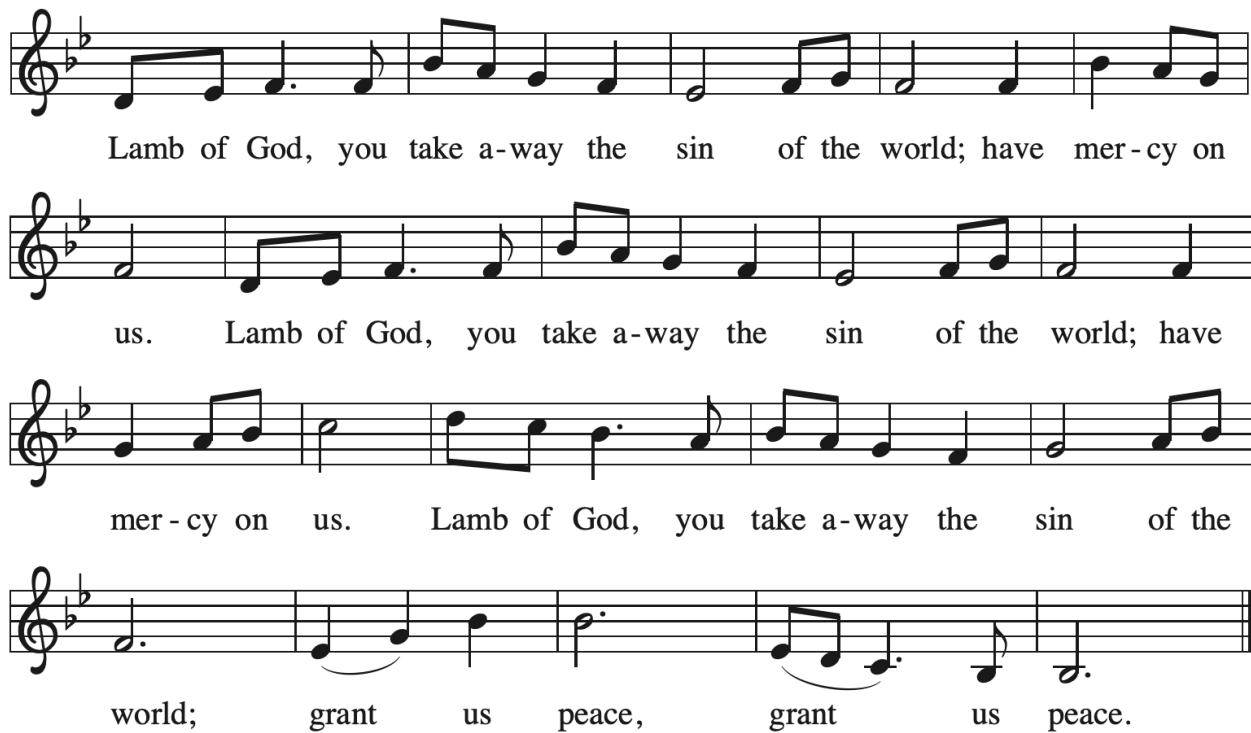
**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI



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, grant us peace.

*The assembly is seated.*

## COMMUNION

*Communion will be held around the table. The bread will be handed to you by the pastor. Please take a communion cup with wine from the outside edge of the tray or a grape juice cup from the center of the tray. Recycle baskets are located outside of the sanctuary doors for your plastic cups.*

## MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

*But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming?*

G. F. Handel

Charles Adam Robinson, bass

*But who may abide the day of his coming,  
and who shall stand when he appeareth?  
For he is like a refiner's fire.*

*The assembly stands.*

## SENDING

### TABLE BLESSING

### POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

*Now, Lord*

ELW 200

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

## BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey, † bless and keep you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*  
PUER NOBIS

ELW 249

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Postlude on Puer Nobis*

Aaron David Miller

## SERVING THE ASSEMBLY

CRUCIFER – Drew Rummel

ACOLYTES – Elliot Jay and Elena Stevens

LECTOR – Charles Robinson

USHERS/GREETERS – John Lunsford and Jerry Cobb

CAMERA/LIVESTREAM – Garrett Mynoymany

The Flowers are given today for the Glory of God and in Memory of Bob and Leslie McWithey, given by Bobbie McWithey.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

12/22/24 after worship we will gather to approve the TELC constitution updates and to elect new council members.

**POINSETTIAS:** We are now taking donations for poinsettias up until December 8. Each 6.5" pot is \$15. A poinsettia form was sent out via Constant Contact email this past week. More forms are available in the narthex. Please note – **we ask that you pick up your poinsettia immediately following worship on 12/29.** We will not be donating them to Simple Sunflowers.

### REMINDER

Just a reminder that, if you have children with you in the service, there are binders in the narthex with drawing paper and crayons, coloring pages, games, and various puzzles for them to use during the service if needed!

**RED FOOD BOX** Thank you so much for your donations to the Red Box! We will always need water and food donations. A reminder that if you donate fruit cups, please be sure they are applesauce cups only- other fruit cups attract critters! This is an important ministry for our community members, receiving a gift that reminds them that they are valued children of God! Canned goods and items that need to be cooked can be placed in the Thrive baskets next to the red food box table and outside sacristy kitchen.

**GREENING OF THE CHURCH:** Join us for Greening of the Sanctuary this Sunday, December 8, 2024, after worship. We are in need of folks who are willing and able to safely climb ladders to help hang greenery and wreaths in and around the windows. Youth will be setting up and decorating the Chrismon trees. This is always a good time for fellowship and we hope to see you there as we prepare our church sanctuary for Advent and the Christmas season. Thank you!

**EVERYTHING I LEARNED IN CONFIRMATION...I ALREADY FORGOT...**

Have you ever asked, "Why do we do that?" while sitting in church? Have you ever wondered how we got to where we are? Has the Bible ever confused you? Join the club! This fall we are tackling all the things we probably learned in Confirmation and then promptly forgot! Our next meeting is December 5th at 6:30 PM. We will gather every other Thursday throughout the fall and winter, from 6:30-8 PM for discussion and to dive into the ins and outs of faith. If you'd like to join us, there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. We will be meeting in person and on Zoom.

**THE VIRGINIA CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERTS** December 14th at 4pm Trinity Lutheran Church and December 15th at 4 pm Temple Baptist Church, Newport News.

**THE VIRGINIA HANDBELL CONSORT**

St Mark Lutheran Church and Sine Nomine presents The Virginia Handbell Consort under the direction of Mr. Al Reese on Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 5:00 PM. St Mark Lutheran Church is located at 118 Old York-Hampton Highway, Yorktown, VA 23692.

## HELP WANTED

It is time once again to make a request for volunteers to help with ushering during the worship services. The same core group has been serving for over a year now and we would love to have some new folks join the usher crew. The work required is to open the church in the morning, hand out bulletins, collect offerings, send folks to communion, and close the church following the service. Training will only take an hour or less at your convenience. We are especially in need of ushers for the additional Christmas Eve services. Please contact Clifford Obara if you would like to volunteer.

## PRAYER LIST

**ILLNESS, SURGERY, RECOVERY, SHUT-INS:** Nursing Homes/ Assisted Living: Jeanette Cantrell, Millie Christensen, and Barbara Olson; Shut-ins Home: Peggy Cash, and Shirley Anderson.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Calvin Obara, Cliff's brother, requested by Anne Obara; Mary Lucia, Spake, requested by Bill Solomon; Harlan Hamby, requested by Pastor Tina and Katherine Harry; Nancy Sumpter, Tricia Wessler's Mom, requested by Pastor Tina; Mary Best, a friend of Connie Hoover, requested by Connie Hoover; Charlie Edmonson, friend of Sandy and Jerry Cobb, requested by Sandy Cobb; Nancy Allerdig, who works with the Costa Rica mission trip, requested by Tricia Wessler; Sherry Johnston, former member and sister of Donna Owens, requested by Judy Hunt; The family of Carole Knopp, by Wendy Mynoymany; Scully, Pastor Tina's dog, requested by Tricia Wessler; Janet Stephan, requested by the Dail Family; Amanda Griegos and her family, requested by Diane and Dave Roselius; Karen Admano and her husband Matt requested by Patricia Fielding; the Ahlen family, requested by Kathy Stevens; Beth Eisdorfer, daughter of Terri Hoffeditz; Jean Wimmer--friend of Jeannette Dail.

**THOSE WHO SERVE, MILITARY AND CIVILIAN DUTY:** James Fielding, in Tokyo, Japan, Bryan Hunt, State Dept., Sierra Leone.; Tyler Obara, Virginia Air National guard, LAFB; Michael Titus, US Navy, Naval Shipyard, Washington, DC and wife, Elisabeth Bruce.

1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.

To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.  
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.





1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -  
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!  
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.  
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like  
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of  
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!  
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.  
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.

Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988

Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

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1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
 2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
 Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

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Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in



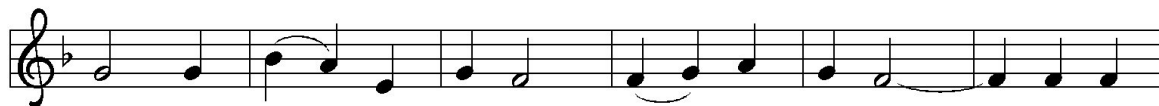
peace: your word has been ful - filled. My



own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of all peo-ple: a light to re -



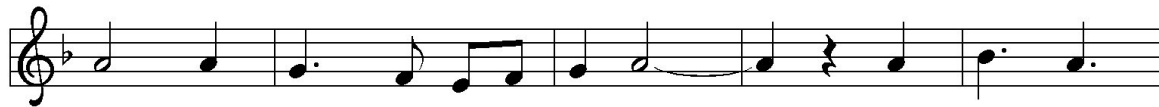
veal you to the na-tions and the glo - ry of your



peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther,



and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and



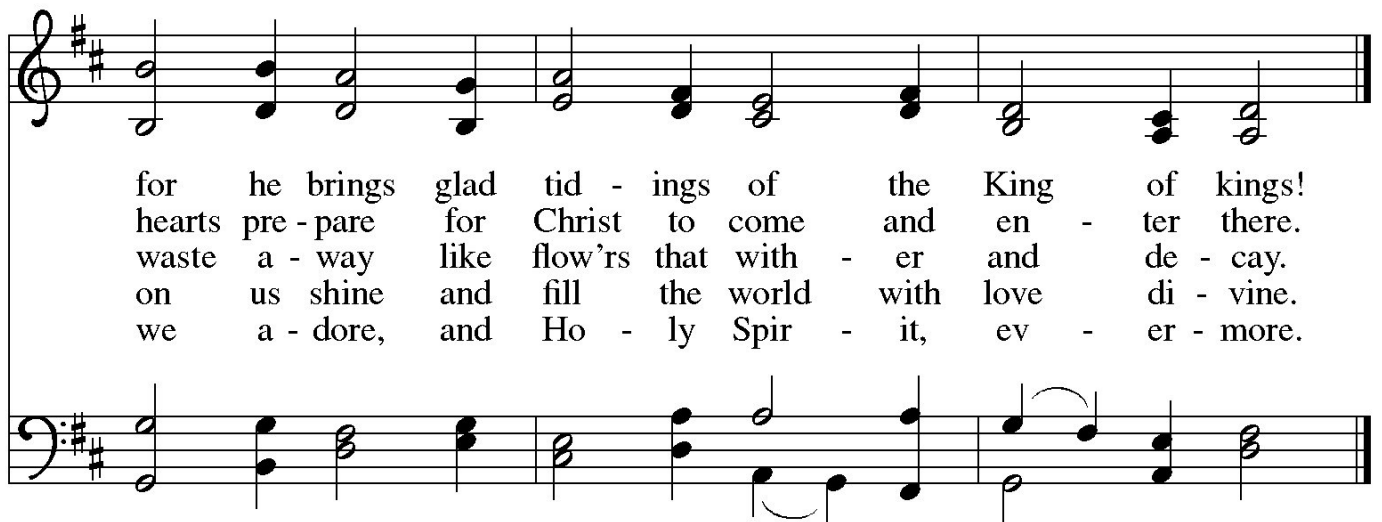
will be for - ev - er. A - - men.



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.