The Lord's Day Service First Sunday of Advent 2023



OUR CALL TO WORSHIP FROM GOD'S WORD

And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse;

And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him, the Gentiles shall hope" Romans 15:12

Come Worship the Triune God, Who is revealed in Jesus Christ.

God's People Respond with a Hymn of Praise:

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Based on Luke 2:15

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;

God of God, Light of Light,

Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;

Son of the Father, begotten not created;

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ve citizens of heaven above;

Glory to God, glory in the highest;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord.

Refrain

Refrain

Salutation and Response: [based on Matthew 28:19, Isaiah 9:2]

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit Amen!

And also with you Jehovah be with you

Have seen a great light The People who walked in darkness,

Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, **Upon them a light has shined!**

Confession of Sins: Where God Cleanses Us in Christ ""If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9

The Call for Confession from God's Word:

"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God. "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from Jehovah's hand double for all her sins."

The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of Jehovah; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low;

The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth;

The glory of Jehovah shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together;

For the mouth of Jehovah has spoken." Isaiah 40:1-5

God's People Join in a Hymn of Confession:

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

[congregation standing]

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



Silent Confession: "I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said "I will confess my transgressions to Jehovah," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin." Psalm 34:5

Those who are willing and able are invited to kneel for our time of confession.

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Gracious Heavenly Father, we confess that we often live as if Your Son, the light of the world, had never come to defeat the darkness in the world or in us. We ignore Christ whom You sent to be among us, and to be in us. Forgive us, O Lord, for not opening our eyes to Your coming. Forgive us our sins, we beseech You, and cleanse us, for the sake of Jesus, whom You sent to be our Savior and Lord. Renew a right spirit within us, as we remember His coming! By Your grace, assist us to receive You with the joy of the shepherds; Help us to show the gratitude of Simeon; Teach us the obedience of humble Mary; Help us to love as You have loved us. Even so: Come, Lord Jesus. Deliver us from the darkness of this present generation. Vindicate all those that call upon Your Mighty Name. AMEN!

Arise and Receive the Assurance of Pardon & Forgiveness

"Jehovah, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob. You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin. You have taken away all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger. Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your anger toward us to cease." From Psalm 85:1-4

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for our sins and to be raised for our justification; and for His sake forgives us all your sins. This I declare in the name and authority of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Having confessed our sins with faith in the completed work of Christ on our behalf, we are forgiven; we have been cleansed and clothed in the righteousness of Jesus. Furthermore, we are now **in Christ** and **in Him** we are in the heavenly places, in the very midst of the blessed Trinity, with the Saints of all the ages, from every tongue, tribe and nation prepared to worship in the beauty of holiness. **Come, let us worship the Lord!**







Truly it is proper and right that we should at all times and in all places give praise to you O Lord, so with the angels and all the company of heaven and with the Church on earth, we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you & singing:

"... I will give thanks to You, O Jehovah, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your name." II Samuel 22:50

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



Consecration: Where God Equips & Prepares His People

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" Romans 12:1,2

THE LORD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD:

Responsive Reading of Isaiah 8:13 - 9:7 (2 pages)

[8:13] Jehovah of hosts,

Him you shall hallow; Let Him be your fear,

And *let* Him *be* your dread. He will be as a sanctuary,

But a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel,

As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many among them shall stumble;

They shall fall and be broken, be snared and taken."

Bind up the testimony,

Seal the law among my disciples. And I will wait on Jehovah,

Who hides His face from the house of Jacob;

And I will hope in Him. Here am I and the children whom Jehovah has given me!

We are for signs and wonders in Israel

From Jehovah of hosts, Who dwells in Mount Zion.

And when they say to you,

"Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,"

Should not a people seek their God?

Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living?

To the law and to the testimony!

If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

They will pass through it hard-pressed and hungry; and it shall happen,

When they are hungry, that they will be enraged and curse their king and their God, and look upward.

Then they will look to the earth, and see trouble and darkness, gloom of anguish; And they will be driven into darkness.

[9:1] Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed,

As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,

And afterward more heavily oppressed *her*, *By* the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,

In Galilee of the Gentiles.

The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light;

Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,

Upon them a light has shined. You have multiplied the nation

And increased its joy;

They rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest,

As men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder,

The rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, and garments rolled in blood,

Will be used for burning and fuel of fire.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder.

And His name will be called

Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end,

Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice

From that time forward, even forever.

The zeal of Jehovah of hosts will perform this.

God's People Respond with a Hymn of Faith: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



God Speaks to Us Through His Word: Scripture, Prayer for Illumination, and Sermon

"And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand'." Matthew 10:7

"Born of a Woman"

From Pastor Paul Liberati

Based on Galatians 4:4-6

God's People Sing a Hymn of Praise:

[congregation standing



The Heidelberg Catechism - Holding forth faith in Jesus Christ as our only comfort in life and in death, we read responsively the weekly questions from the Heidelberg Catechism as a personal and eloquent reminder of what we must know to live and die in that comfort. Lord's Day 49

124. What is the third petition? "Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven;" that is, grant that we and all men renounce our own will,[1] and without disputing obey Your will, which alone is good;[2] so that every one may fulfill his office and calling as willingly and faithfully[3] as the angels do in heaven.[4] [1] Matt. 16:24. [2] Lk. 22:42; Tit. 2:12. [3] 1 Cor. 7:24. [4] Ps. 103:20–21; *Rom. 12:2; *Heb. 13:21.

God Receives Our Tithes and Gifts as a Tribute Offering:

"For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace," without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually. Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils." Hebrews 7:1-4

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings:

With the singing of Psalm 30:11-12 & the Doxology

Words composed by Brenda Fisher

1: Oh Lord you have now turned for me, 2: I will sing praises from my soul; My grief into a dance to Thee. To not be silent is my goal. In sackcloth I'm no longer dressed; Oh Lord my God to You I raise, With gladness you have made me blessed. Thanks never ending: You I praise!

> 3: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The Great Prayer, concluding with the Lord's Prayer:

"Jehovah has heard my supplication; Jehovah will receive my prayer." Psalm 6:9

Our Father, which 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 the evil one, For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever: AMEN [Matthew 6:9-13]

Communion: Where God Communes With His People

"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?" 1 Corinthians 10:16

Preparation for Communion

Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ,

the Lord has prepared His table for all who love and trust Him for their salvation. All those who have repented of their sins, have been baptized in the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit, and are not under discipline from Christ's Church are welcome at this table. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as our Lord our God will call.

Our Confession of Faith - The Singing of the Nicene Creed

Nicene Creed



THE LORD COMMUNES WITH US AT HIS TABLE: (Peace Offering, Gift of Life)

A Word of Encouragement -- Giving of Thanks -- Breaking of the Bread

God's People Sing a Hymn of Thanks and Celebration:

(Sung as a representative of each family comes forward to receive their bread and wine)

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing



Feasting At The Lord's Table: A simple act of obedience on the 1st day of a new Week

Partaking of the bread together -- Giving Thanks -- Partaking of the Wine

[&]quot;For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes." I Corinthians 11:26

Commissioning: The LORD Sends Forth His People

"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." [Genesis 1:26-28]

Our Final Responsive Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10 The Reign of Jesse's Offspring

[11:1] There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,

And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

The Spirit of Jehovah shall rest upon Him,

The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

The Spirit of counsel and might,

The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Jehovah.

His delight is in the fear of Jehovah,

And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes,

Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;

But with righteousness He shall judge the poor,

And decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,

And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins,

And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,

The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,

The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;

And a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze;

Their young ones shall lie down together;

And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole,

And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,

For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah as the waters cover the sea.

"And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people;

For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious."

God's People Prepare to be Sent Forth to Serve our Risen & Reigning Savior

Lift Up Your Heads



Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them, and he came down from offering the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings. Leviticus 9:22

"Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing, O mountains! For Jehovah has comforted His people, and will have mercy on His afflicted."

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen." *Isaiah 49:13; 2 Corinthians 13:14*

God's People Depart to Serve the Risen & Reigning Savior by Singing:



~ Worship begins promptly at 1:00 p.m. ~ Today's pulpit supply ~ Pastor Paul Liberati ~

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For all who claim the Name of Jesus, that we would live in a manner worthy of our calling, serving one another to the glory of God. May we be humble in all our interactions, having patience & bearing with one another in love, uniting in the bond of our Savior, worshipping Him in spirit & in truth, seeking His face in prayer, & faithfully studying His Word.
- For our expectant mothers, Claire Smith, Sarah Sifford, Sindy Kendrick, Brianna Whitted, Brittany Harrold, and Robyn Ferguson, that their babies would continue to grow healthy & strong, & for renewed energy & strength for all of the mothers in our midst.
- · For our families who are seeking to move, that our Lord would provide for their needs.
- For all who are dealing with illness, injury, other health issues, grief, or personal trials, that our Lord would grant patience, healing, wisdom, comfort, & trust in the perfect will of the One Who does all things well.
- For family members & friends who are under discipline, unsaved, or have strayed from the faith, that our Lord would bring them to repentance & restore them to the fellowship of Christ's church; & that we would boldly & lovingly proclaim the truth to them at every opportunity, standing strong in the Lord & in the power of His might.
- For churches who are in need of pastors, elders, & deacons, that our Lord would continue to raise up Godly men to lead these flocks, & for those men who are currently serving, that they may have strengthened faith & abundant wisdom as they minister to their congregations.
- For the saints throughout the world who are suffering & dying in the Name of Jesus, that they would find strength, comfort, & hope as they fully trust in God's goodness. And also for their persecutors, that their hearts would be softened to the Gospel.
- For all elected & appointed officials, that they would recognize their need to depend on God for knowledge, wisdom, & the courage to do what is right, reject all counsel that violates righteousness, & bring dignity, honor, trustworthiness, & integrity to their positions, remembering their accountability to Almighty God, Who is angry with the wicked every day.
- For the Church worldwide, that the Word of God would be faithfully preached, believed, & obeyed, giving glory to the Name of our only Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our fellowship lunch follows today's worship service. We welcome all to be our guests & to sing as we ask the Lord's blessing:

Be present at our table Lord. Be here and everywhere adored. These mercies bless and grant that we May feast in Paradise with Thee.

We thank Thee Lord for this our food, For life and health and every good. By Thine own hand may we be fed. Give us this day our daily bread.

Weekly Meetings (also detailed on our website):

Men's Fellowship Breakfast:

~ Meets at 8:00am on Tuesdays at Denny's on Sunrise; reading By This Standard: The Authority of God's Law Today by Greg Bahnsen Contact Pastor Stoos

Sacramento Area Bible Study: Meets at 7:00pm on Tuesdays. Contact

Patrick Avanto. Grass Valley Area Book Study:

Meets for potluck at 6:00pm, study starts at 7:00pm on Wednesdays at rotating locations; reading No Mere Mortals by Toby Sumpter. Contact Nathaniel Pettyjohn. (530)205-5162

Ladies' Book Study:

Meets at 9:00am on Saturdays at the Stoos home; reading Flourish: How the Love of Christ Frees Us From Self-Focus by Lydia Brownback. Contact Linda Stoos.

Vallejo Area Study: ~ Meets at the Kendrick home every two weeks. Contact Damell Kendrick.

Birthdays

Chris Page ~ November 27th Steffan Rhoads ~ December 2nd

Hall Takedown Today

Nathaniel & Spencer Pettyjohn, Damell Kendrick, Jonathan Liberati, Sean VanNess

TODAY'S Playground Duty Choban