



Trinity Lutheran Church

Advent Week 2: We Find Joy In Connection
December 8th, 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church

304 E. Ferris Street

Galesburg, IL 61401

“the welcome place”

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In community, our joy expands. When we can't rejoice, we can carry each other's joy. That is what Elizabeth and Mary do for each other. The good news begins to take shape in Elizabeth's womb, but scripture tells us that she stays secluded, hiding her pregnancy from others—that is, until Mary arrives at her door, also pregnant. Perhaps Mary's arrival is the inbreaking that changes everything for Elizabeth, for in that moment, her child leaps in her womb and she is filled with the Spirit. She can't help but to rejoice. Her joy is contagious and wraps around Mary like a hug. Through the prophet Isaiah, we hear God speak tender words of comfort; this is the comfort we can give to and receive from each other during this season.

+++GATHERING+++

Prelude

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven
Came

Kevin Sadowski,
Mark Sedio

Welcome & Announcements - Please Sign Friendship Registry

The red ELW hymnal and the purple ACS hymnal are in the pew racks

(Stand)

Call to Worship -

Family of faith, one of the greatest joys of worship is that it is not a solo act. We gather together. We find joy, and God, in the act of connection. So as we begin our worship, I invite you to turn and face someone you are close to so that you can see one another. *(Pause as people get in position.)* Now repeat these phrases after me:

Welcome to worship.

Welcome to worship.

I am glad you're here.

I am glad you're here.

Surely God is in this space.

Surely God is in this space.

I see God in your face.
I see God in your face.
Let us worship together.
Let us worship together.

Gathering Hymn ELW (red) # 242 Awake! Awake! And Greet the
New Morn

Call to Confession

Family of faith, one of the ways we find joy in a weary world is through connection. The prayer of confession is a place of connection with God.

In the prayer of confession we get to come before God with our full, messy, honest selves. And in the midst of that mess, God tells us that we are loved, claimed, and forgiven.

There is no greater joy than that.

So join me in the prayer of confession, not because you have to, but because you can. Let us connect with our merciful God.

Prayer of Confession

God of laughter,
God of open front doors
and family reunions,
we confess that we often doubt good news.

**We move through this world
waiting for the other shoe to drop,
waiting for life to fall apart,
waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.**

Instead of leaning into joy,
we lean into scarcity.

We lean into fear.

We lean into isolation.

Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

**Heal the wounds we have from past hurts,
and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth.
Show us how to find joy in connection.**

Amen.

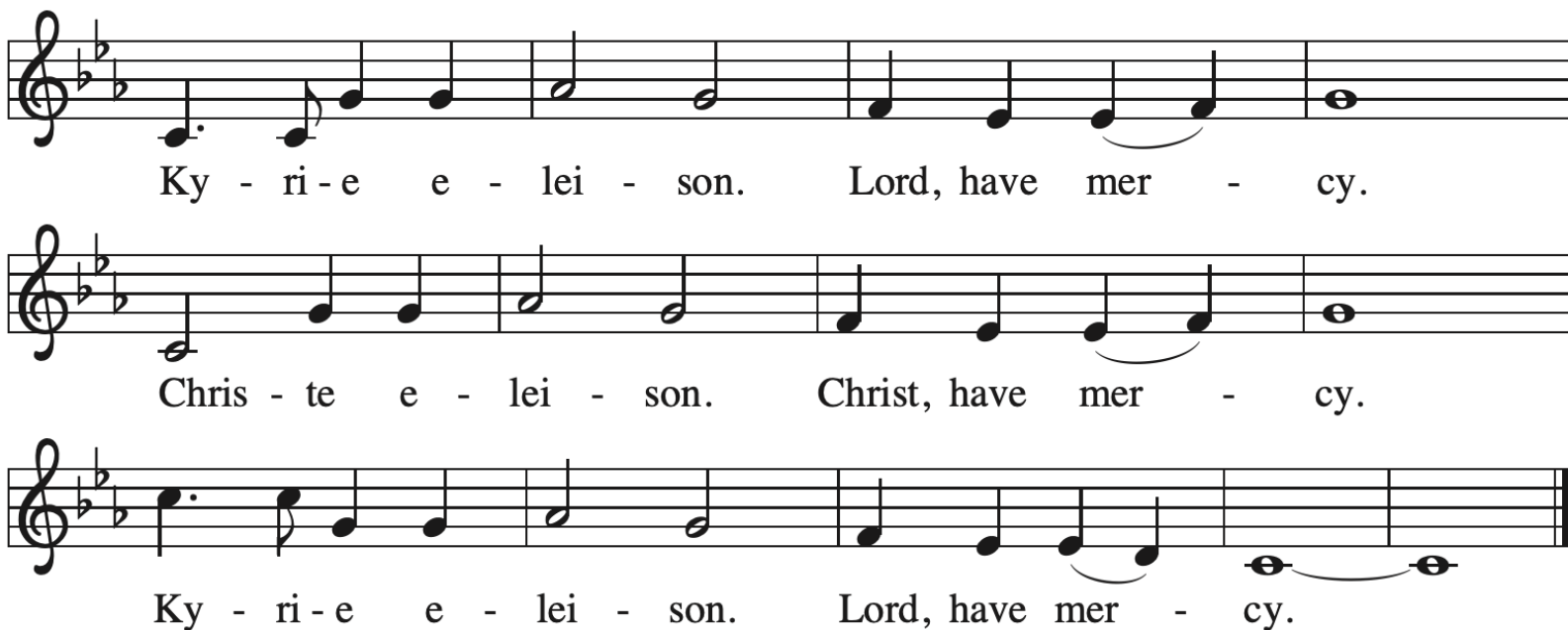
Words of Forgiveness

Faith family,
I imagine that when we come before God with the truth of our lives,

God meets us like Elizabeth meets Mary in our scripture today. The door is thrown open. There is laughter. There is joy. There is embracing—and it is holy. So trust this; believe this: You are claimed. You are loved. You are forgiven. And you are sent to serve. Find joy in that. Amen!

Kyrie

ACS (purple) Setting 12, pg. 31-32



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.

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.

Candle Lighting Liturgy

A: How does a weary world practice peace?

B: By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to. By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven. By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.

A: There are a million ways to practice peace. So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge. With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Holy God,
We know that you are near.
We know that you are standing at the door,
you are running down the driveway,
you are inviting us in—
into your Word,
into relationship,
and deeper into joy.
So as we approach your Word, O God,
we pray: do not let us pass you by.
Do not allow distraction or doubt to get the best of us. Do not let
us walk down this road without you. Instead, give us the wisdom
to turn and run your way. Give us the wisdom to hear your
wisdom,
to let it sink into our bones
and change us.
With hope and gratitude we pray,
Amen.

(Sit)

+++WORD+++

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. '

A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Poem – Lessons in Connection

It's been a long day,
long enough to complain,
long enough to wine and dine my disappointment,
to give weariness
keys to the house.
But then you get the giggles dancing with the dog in the kitchen.
Paws-sliding, tail-wagging, side-cramping giggles.
I can hear it from across the house. Your joy burrows its way
through the cracks in my armor
and then we are both laughing, gulping for joyous, electric air.
And that's when I know—
if you grab my hand,
if you ask me to dance,
if our weary human souls can

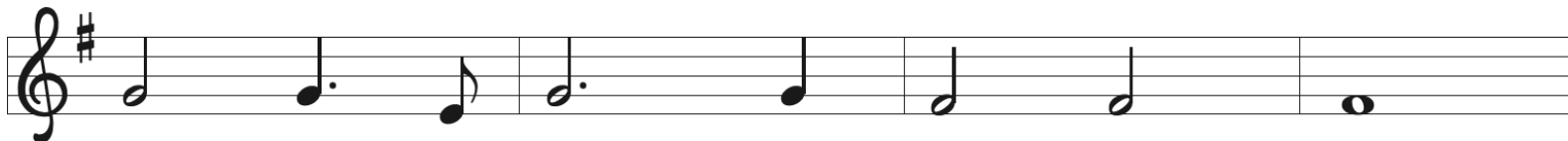
make room for connection,
then we will survive.
Joy will take root.
Love will keep
her keys to the house.

(Stand)

Gospel Acclamation, ELW (red) #262

Wait for the Lord

(congregation sings the refrain before and after cantor sings verse)



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Gospel: Luke 1: 24-45

The holy gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the

power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God. 'Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit)

Children's Message

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Carrie Carnes

(Stand)

Hymn of the Day ACS (purple) #906

No Wind at the Window

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that joy is a sacred gift,
existing on a plane deeper than happiness,
stemming from the truth that we belong to God.**

**We believe that joy is not meant for isolation.
Joy is meant to be shared,
weaving us together in laughter and in hope.
And when joy feels impossibly out of reach,
we believe that part of being sacred community
is leaning on one another.**

**So together we say:
I will share my joy when yours runs out.
You will share your joy when mine runs out.
And in doing so, we will both see God. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

God of today and God of tomorrow,
We come to you this morning
to thank you for the way that joy binds us together.

Thank you for contagious laughter,
for inside jokes,
for stories around dinner tables that can make us laugh until we
cry. Thank you for comedy shows,
for the familiar sound of a loved one's chuckle,
and for the universality of smile lines.

What a gift you have given us.

Our text today reminds us that joy is better when shared, so today
we thank you in particular for the Elizabeths and the Marys in our
lives.

Thank you for the people who spark joy in us.

Thank you for the people who pull us out of our shells,
who teach us how to dance and show us how to laugh. Thank you
for those who declare, "Blessed are you."

In a moment of gratitude, we silently lift their names to you now.

Moment of silence for the naming of our joy-bearers.

Holy God, although we know that joy is better when shared, there
are days when that is easier said than done. Like Elizabeth, who
stayed in isolation for months after receiving her good news, we
too have a tendency to choose fear over joy. Without the help of
someone at our door, we can often keep our joy to
ourselves

So gracious God,
when those days come,
when the waters of fear rise,
when isolation steals our joy,
comfort us.

Comfort us like a shepherd with their flock.

Gather us into your arms and carry us to safer ground
that we might experience joy in the ways you have in store for us.

And until that promised day,


like Mary and Elizabeth,

we will do our best to keep finding one another.

Like Mary and Elizabeth,

Holy, Holy, Holy

ACS (purple), Setting 12, pg. 36



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
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.

Holy are you and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ.
Amid our cries for deliverance
You raised up a mighty Savior,
Through whom you showed the mercy promised our ancestors.
He appeared, fulfilling the promises of the prophets,
bringing light to those who dwell in darkness,
and peace to weary souls.
When we doubted, you remained faithful.
When we were lost, Christ came,
proclaiming release to the captives
and good news to the poor,
transforming despair into songs of joy.

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.

Gracious God, send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them for us the body and blood of Christ,
nourishing us with your grace.

Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may serve you without fear,
living in holiness and righteousness
as we await the joyful coming of your Son,
who brings hope to our weary world. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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

In the company of one another, Mary and Elizabeth were able to
fully feel and share the joy of their moment. Joy is like that—it
flourishes in connection and longs to be shared. Whether you
have joy to share or are in need of it yourself, know that you are
invited here to connect with the source of our deepest joy.

So come to this Table.

Come with your faith and your doubt.

Come with your questions and your hopes.

Come with your grief and your love.

Just come, because there is room for you here.

This is Christ's table. All are welcome.

All are welcome to receive communion at Trinity Lutheran Church. If you wish to receive you may come forward as dismissed by the usher and will be given a wafer in the center aisle. Then you may take a small cup from the tray. Red wine is along the outside, and white grape juice is located in the center of the tray. Gluten free bread is also available. Place empty cups in the bowls located at the side aisle as you return to your pew. If you prefer to receive a blessing rather than communion, you may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest as you come forward.

(Sit)

Distribution of Communion

Lamb of God

ACS (purple), Setting 12, pg. 40



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.

*Communion Music The Angel Gabriel from Heaven
Came*

*Kevin
Sadowski*

Post Communion Hymn ELW (red) #482

I Come With Joy

(Stand)

Prayer After Communion

Source of life, hope, and steadfast love,
you created all things, filling the world with beauty and wonder.
We thank you for meeting us as we are, connecting with us in the
midst of our lives and opening our hearts to the awe and wonder
of your presence. Nourished by this meal, strengthen our bonds
with you and with each other. Send us forth filled with hope and
ready to share your love, singing your praises. **Amen.**

+++SENDING+++

Blessing

Family of faith,
as you leave this place,
you go into a weary world—
so speak tenderly.
Do the good that is yours to do. Choose connection.
Hold onto hope.
And remember

that Christ took on flesh for you. You are God's beloved.
So go rejoicing.
The world needs it.
Amen.

Sending Hymn ELW (red) #266

All Earth is Hopeful

Dismissal

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

Postlude

All Earth is Hopeful

David Cherwien

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As you leave, please take a moment to greet one another.

Today's Altar Flowers were provided by Keith & Roberta Majors
To the Glory of God

Worship Participants

Audio: Grant Robinson

Video: Bill Sime

Ushers: Danny & MaryLou Lindberg, Harold Watters

Communion Setup: Hillary Hoffman

Assisting Minister: Isaac Triplett

Readers: Jennifer Holmes

Wine Servers: Jennifer Holmes, John McClean

Coffee Fellowship: Jean Hier, Hilma McDorman

Acolyte: Nick Elders

Closing Duties: John McClean

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Carrie Carnes

Organist: Bette Mohr

Advent Wreath Lighting: Sandra Gray, Henry Gray, Vivian Gray

Announcements

Coffee Fellowship will be immediately after service.

How Does a Weary World Rejoice is the title of this year's Advent worship series. Stepping away from the traditional lectionary, we will focus on the Gospel readings of Luke 1, exploring joy in the midst of grief, weariness and longing. We invite everyone to celebrate this sacred season with us!

Our Advent Tree is Up! We are accepting donations of hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens to decorate it.

PRISMS will be at the Holly Days Parade this evening! We will be serving hot cocoa, and we are accepting donations of Christmas cookies. If you are interested in donating or joining us, please speak to Pastor or Julie.

T.L.C's Potluck & Well-Being Group Meeting are Cancelled for December. We'll see you all next year!

***World Hunger Appeal* is the recipient for Christmas Memorials this year.** Please contact the office by Dec. 18th to have your loved ones included in the Christmas Eve bulletins & the January Tidings.

Cover Art

Title: Comfort, O Comfort

Artist: Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Isaiah 40:1-11

Digital painting

I wanted to create an image that spoke tenderly to the viewer as this text does to the reader. "Comfort, O comfort my people" (Isaiah 40:1). When I've read this text before, the shepherding metaphor has only yielded masculine imagery in my mind. It makes sense with the text's pronouns that I would imagine a masculine figure. It was also ingrained in me— through translations, biblical art, movies, children's pageants, etc.—that shepherds were always men. I learned recently, however, that women were shepherds too. Some young women were trained and worked as shepherds before they were married; this notion completely added new dimension and depth to the shepherding metaphor. I decided to use imagery of modern-day shepherds to inspire this image. A shepherd is at once fierce and tender, willing to face the most dangerous of predators in the dead of night while warmly cradling the most vulnerable of the flock.

In this image, the shepherd nurtures a lamb while leading the flock through fields of tall grasses and flowers. The fuschia flowers in the foreground are marjoram flowers that represent comfort and the steadfastness of God's word even in the midst of the leveling of the land. The shepherd's clothes have repeated medallions with simplified imagery of a straight highway in the wilderness. Within the stylized landscape, a voice proclaims the coming glory of the Lord.

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Prayer List: If you or loved ones need prayers, please fill out the salmon-colored form located on the bulletin table in the Narthex, and return it to the Office mailbox or drop it in the offering plate.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Prayer</u>
Duane Anderson	Prayers for Recovery
Jenna	Prayers for Healing
Nathan	Prayers for Strength
Jim Musolf	Prayers for Healing & Recovery
Kinleigh	Prayers for Healing
Lydia	Prayers for Healing & Recovery

This Week at Trinity

Sunday, Dec. 15 th	10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
	10:45 am	Sunday School
	1:00 pm	PRISMS/Adult Caroling
Wed, Dec 18 th	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Fri, Dec. 20 th	12:00	Tidings Article Submission Deadline
Sat, Dec.21 st	5:00 pm	TLC Sat. Worship

Rev. Dr. Carrie Carnes, Pastor, Out-of-office: Friday
 Cell phone: 618-803-8778
 Church Office: Phone 309-343-4191
 Hours 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, Monday-Friday
 1st & 3rd Saturdays; Worship 5:00 pm; Holy Communion
 Sunday Worship at 9:30 am; Holy Communion
 Sunday Radio Ministry at 9:30 am on WRAM – 1330 AM, Facebook

trinitylutheran@trinitygalesburg.org

Vision Statement
Developing Disciples – Connecting to Christ

Mission Statement
Led by the Spirit, we receive Christ's love, share God's forgiving grace, and reach out to welcome, encourage and serve all.

Welcome Statement
 At Trinity Lutheran Church, we believe God's grace is extended to everyone. Members of Trinity Lutheran Church are freed by the Gospel to seek reconciliation and wholeness. We welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, whether believer, doubter, or seeker. In Christ's love we invite you, so that led by the power of the Holy Spirit we will join together to strive for racial equity, justice, peace, and love in all the earth.

- Our Guiding Principles**
1. Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior.
 2. We faithfully worship through Word and Sacrament.
 3. We invite and welcome everyone.
 4. We engage all generations in education and ministry.
 5. We serve local and global communities.