



## Trinity Lutheran Church

Advent Week 4: We Sing Songs of Hope  
December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024



**Trinity Lutheran Church**

304 E. Ferris Street

Galesburg, IL 61401

*“the welcome place”*

Advent Week 4: We Sing Songs of Hope

December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

*As soon as Zechariah’s voice returns, his first words are gratitude and blessing. He sings a story of praise for God’s protection and promise, and then he showers a blessing on his newborn son. He sings a story of hope. After Elizabeth proclaims blessings upon Mary, Mary sings: “My soul magnifies God; my spirit rejoices in God.” Mary sings about a God of liberation who pulls the powerful from their thrones and lifts up the lowly. Mary sings a story of hope, one in which justice and joy are interwoven. As we prepare to celebrate Christ’s birth, may we also sing stories of hope, justice, and joy.*

**+++GATHERING+++**

**Prelude** ..... “Blessed Be the God of Israel” .....Marilyn Biery

**Welcome & Announcements - Please Sign Friendship Registry**

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

**Call to Worship -**

How does a weary world rejoice?

**We sing songs of hope.**

**We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us. We tell the stories of what could be.**

**We listen for God’s word.**

**We resist the temptation to give up or give in. We remember Mary’s song.**

**We gather for worship.**

**We hope.**

**We hope.**

**Against all odds, we hope.**

Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making.

Let us worship holy God.

*(Stand)*

## Gathering Hymn ELW (red) #250....."Blessed Be the God of Israel"

### Call to Confession

Family of faith, we all know that a small group of convicted people can change the world. That's how it's always been. People like Mary, people like Zechariah, people like John the Baptist. And yet, we rarely feel like we can be one of those people. We downplay our ability to make a difference. We choose pessimism over optimism. We sweep hope under the rug for the sake of realism. We forget the words to Mary's song.

Fortunately for us, our God carries enough hope and grace for all of us. So let us go to God in prayer. Let us speak the truth of our lives, and let that honesty change us. Friends, let us pray:

### Prayer of Confession

**Holy God,**

**More days than not, hope feels like the rain.**

**We try to hold onto it with cupped hands,  
but eventually, it slips right on through.**

**Forgive us for holding hope so loosely.**

**Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define  
tomorrow. We know that this world needs people of hope, so  
today we pray: turn us into those people.**

**Teach us how to sing Mary's song of hope for the world.**

**With open hearts we pray, amen.**

### Words of Forgiveness

Body of Christ, no matter how many times we let hope slip through our fingers, we still belong to God. So hear and repeat these words after me:

I am God's beloved.

**I am God's beloved.**

I am forgiven.

**I am forgiven.**

I am blessed and sent to serve.

**I am blessed and sent to serve.**

This is the good news of the Gospel. This is a hope we can hang our hats on. Thanks be to God for God's unending love. **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.**

*(Sit)*

## Candle Lighting Liturgy

**A:** How does a weary world practice love?

**B:** By sending cards, and picking up the phone. By practicing empathy, and assuming the best in others. By learning people's stories, and finding common ground. By advocating for justice, and saving a place at the table.

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

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Loving God,  
the grass withers and the flowers fade,  
but your Word stands forever.

So today we pray—  
help us to truly hear it.

Allow your words to sink deep into the marrow of our bones. Allow your words to lift our hearts in hope, that we might feel one day closer to your promised day. With hopeful and grateful hearts we pray,  
**amen.**

## +++WORD+++

### First Reading: Luke 1: 46-55

And Mary said,  
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Poem – The Sound of Hope

We've been singing a sad song  
for quite some time,  
the melody syncing with our heartbeats,  
the lyrics stamped to the front of our minds.  
You say, *sad songs are honest.*  
It's hard to disagree,  
for sad songs tap us on the shoulder.  
Sad songs remind us  
of the 100 different corners  
heartbreak could be behind.  
  
But I don't have it in  
me to sing a sad song forever.  
  
So despite the news,  
despite the aches in my body,

despite the phone call last night  
that says she's waiting for the test results, despite yesterday's  
shooting,  
despite the unknown and unchanged,  
I am going to sing a song of hope.

Like a canary in a snowstorm,  
I don't need another song of what is;  
I need a song of what could be.

So sing with me.

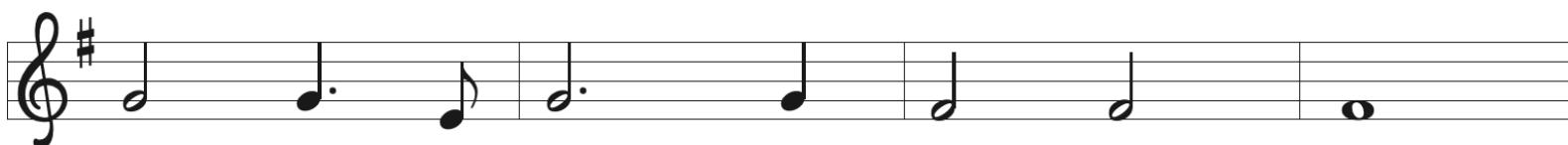
Our voices may get drowned out by the wind, but surely someone  
will ask:

Was that a flash of yellow in the snow?

Was that the sound of hope?

*(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: 67-80**

The holy gospel according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and  
spoke this prophecy:

‘Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty saviour for us

in the house of his servant David,

as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of  
all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and has remembered his holy covenant,  
the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our  
enemies,  
might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness  
before him all our days.  
And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of  
death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the  
wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

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

*(Sit)*

## **Children's Message**

**Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Carrie Carnes

*(Stand)*

**Hymn of the Day**..... "How Can It Be" .....Carolyn Winfrey Gillette  
*To the Tune of "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

*How can it be, that the wicked ones prosper?  
How can it be, that the greedy ones thrive?  
How can it be, that oppression and anger  
Hold such control, while the poor just survive?*

*Refrain:*

*Though hope is hidden now, God changes nations.  
God brings the powerful down to their knees.  
God sets a table of great celebration.  
God sent us Jesus who welcomes and frees.*

*Old ways of selfishness, old ways of sinning,  
Old ways of apathy seem to go on.  
Old angry patterns still seem to be winning,  
Old fears and prejudice shadow the dawn.*

*Refrain*

*Prophets proclaim it in times of despairing,  
Pushing toward justice while others destroy.  
Precious the gift! And it's ours for the sharing!  
Precious is Christ, who brings hope, giving joy.*

*Refrain*

*Evil may prosper, but God's love is stronger.  
Everyone, some day, will know this is true:  
Envy and strife will not win any longer.  
Eternal God, all our hope is in you!*

*Refrain*

*Though hope is hidden now, God changes nations.  
God brings the powerful down to their knees.  
God sets a table of great celebration.  
God sent us Jesus who welcomes and frees.*

*Refrain*

## **Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe  
that hope can change the world.**

**We believe  
that God uses ordinary people,  
like an unwed teenage mother,  
for extraordinary good.**

**And we believe  
that each of these ordinary people  
can make a difference.**

**We know that grief, fear, and suffering abound.  
We know that suffering quells joy and makes it harder to  
hope.**

**But we choose hope anyway.**

**In the face of hardship,  
we hope together.**

**We hope with God.**



**We hope for a better world.  
This is our song.  
We believe; help our unbelief.  
In Christ's name we pray, amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

God of today and tomorrow,  
We take a deep breath in and fill our lungs with you.  
For we know that you are here, present with us as we pray.  
We know that you are listening.

So with gratitude, we join our voices with Mary's song.  
For we understand that some days you just have to sing— sing  
gratitude for what exists; sing praise for what could be.  
Today, we follow in Mary's footsteps and we start with gratitude.  
Thank you, Creator God, for filling our days with  
beautiful things like candlelight and freshly baked bread,  
evergreen trees, and family dinner,  
creases in a good book,  
the sound of our dog running to meet us,  
and the comfort of our own bed beneath weary bones.  
We have so much to be grateful for.  
We sing a song of praise.  
However, Mary did not only sing in response to your goodness.  
Mary also sang for the future of your goodness.  
The Magnificat was a song of protest, a song declaring what the  
world could be, would be, should be. So today, holy God, we also  
bring you prophetic prayers of hope.  
Turn injustice on its head.  
Lift up the poor and the hungry.  
Comfort the sick and the aching.  
Tend the lonely and the lost.  
And then, plant a fire in our hearts to do the same. For we know  
that you are here.  
We know that you are present with us as we pray. We know that  
you join our voices as we sing.

### **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*(Sit)*

## +++MEAL+++

**Offering Music** ..... "An English Carol" ..... Charles Callahan  
(Stand)

### **Offering Prayer**

Promised One, always here and always coming, you bring joy to this weary world. We give thanks for the gift of your very self, for meeting us in our waiting, and kindling our hope. Receive these offerings and draw us near to you. Fill us with awe and expectation as we gather around this bread and cup, joining in the life you offer.

**Amen.**

### **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.**

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Lord of Hosts through our Savior Jesus Christ . You answer sighs of weary disappointment with new dreams and renewed promises, transforming our doubts into laughter and our grief into joy. With all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

# 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.  
As the world lay in sin and error,  
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 our weary souls 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**

This is a season for singing—singing stories of hope, justice, and joy. When Zechariah's voice returned, he sang of God's faithfulness and promise. When Mary's heart was filled with wonder, she sang of a God who lifts the lowly and fills the hungry. These songs remind us that God's promise is alive and at work among us, drawing near in ways both unexpected and extraordinary.

Here at this Table, we join the chorus. In this bread and cup, we encounter Christ's real presence—a promise of liberation, hope, and joy. This is a meal of grace, where all are invited to sing the story of God's love with their lives.

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 ..."Blessed Be the God of Israel"...David Maxwell*

**Post Communion Hymn ELW (red) #487....."What Feast of Love"**

(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) #282....."It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

### **Dismissal**

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

**Postlude**....."It Came Upon a Midnight Clear".....Jeffrey Bolersch  
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***As you leave, please take a moment to greet one another.***

### **Worship Participants**

Audio: Matt Warner  
Video: Sarah Brakenbury  
Ushers: Erin Crawford, Lucia Craford, Carol Brown  
Communion Setup: Nick Elders  
Assisting Minister: Nick Elders  
Readers: Julie Wiegand  
Wine Servers: Julie Wiegand, Annie Maier  
Coffee Fellowship: John & Lynn Armstrong  
Acolyte: Cecilia Crawford  
Closing Duties: Nick Elders  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Carrie Carnes  
Organist: Bette Mohr  
Advent Wreath Lighting: Sarah, Avery, and Emma Helvey

### **Announcements**

**Coffee Fellowship** will be immediately after service.

**Our Christmas Eve Service will be on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.** All are encouraged to join us for this special evening service!

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

**Committee Final Reports Due:** All committees must have their final, end-of-year reports submitted to the office by **Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

### **Cover Art Info**

*“Embroidered Borders”*

by Nicolette Peñaranda

Inspired by Luke 1:46-55

*Acrylic, ink, and mixed media collage on canvas*

*Two years before the birth of Jesus, during the Pax Romana, one of the worst public executions happened a half day’s walk away from where Mary grew up.<sup>3</sup> She came of age during a time of occupation, more than likely unable to recall a time of true peace and liberation. Mary’s song rings of a dream that not only she but her ancestors dreamed of, and she would be the one to give birth to the savior of her people.*

*Fast forward thousands of years and the same land where Mary grew up is still being occupied. One can imagine that the cries for liberation and the prayers for justice still ring down the streets of Bethlehem. To me, Mary’s song of praise is still valid for the women of Palestine and for the people who still raise their children under the duress of war and occupation.*

*This image is a nod to Palestine. The background operates as a foundation, built with the colors of the Palestinian flag and with collaged scriptures that celebrate women. Elizabeth and Mary are both in Palestinian regalia but from different generations. Elizabeth, centered and holding her belly, is in an outfit inspired by a photograph of a woman from Ramallah, dated sometime between 1929-1946.<sup>4</sup> This was intended to emphasize the generational differences between the two. Mary, on the other hand, is in more contemporary Palestinian fashion. A stipple effect is used to highlight the intricacy of Palestinian embroidery in both garments.*

*What felt important to me is the placement of Mary and Elizabeth. Rarely does Elizabeth get to be the center of the story, as her pregnancy becomes an accompaniment piece to the birth of Jesus. But here, Elizabeth is in the foreground. She gets to be the star while Mary places her arms around her, comforting her, and proclaiming the good news of what is to come. Mary is the hope that we see in all youth. —Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda*

**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.

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Prayer</u></b>
Jim Musolf	Prayers for Healing & Recovery
Kinleigh	Prayers for Healing
Lydia	Prayers for Healing & Recovery
Sally	Prayers for Healing & Recovery
Kate	Prayers for Healing & Recovery
The Family of Annabelle Burgland	Prayers for Peace

### **This Week at Trinity**

Sun, Dec. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
	10:45 am	Sunday School
	5:30 pm	Youth Group/PRISMS
Tues, Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 pm	<b>Grace</b> Christmas Eve Service
	6:00 pm	<b>TLC</b> Christmas Eve Service
		<b>Office Closed</b>
Wed, Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>		
Thurs, Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Tidings/Label & Seal
Sat, Dec. 28 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm	<b>Grace</b> 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  
 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.