

16548 Ferris Avenue, Los Gatos, CA 95032

**Indicates those who are able, may stand.*

P = Pastor speaking; AM = Assisting Minister speaks; C = Congregation speaks

GATHERING

Prelude

The Invitation of the Bell

***Gathering Song— “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” See insert
verse 1, 2, 3**

*Greeting

P: From the one who is and who was and who is to come,
grace, light, and peace be with you all.

C: **and also with you.**

Welcome and Praise Reports

Prayer of the Day

C: Eternal light, shine in our hearts. Eternal wisdom, scatter
the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal compassion, have
mercy on us. Turn us to seek your face, and enable us to
reflect your goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord. Amen.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dec. 13, 2015

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle—This week Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo

Give thanks for: Pastors, priests and evangelists and other church
workers for their mission endeavors. Those who search for ways to
provide clean water. The education ministry of churches. Coffee and
cacao, palm groves and coconut, yams and peanuts. The indigenous
woven cloth and work in bronze.

In Our Prayers...

- Nathan Balcomb/Crall
- Sharon Biller
- Elizabeth Krc
- Marie Hughes
- Pastor Kimm
- Lira Kingston
- Connie Zimmerman
- Helen McCrocklin
- Harvey and Arlene Wyckoff
- Elwailly Family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dec. 13, 2015

Youth/Children's Sunday School—8:30 AM, Room 2
Lord's Pantry deliveries are made every Monday
Baby blankets/Jesse Tree Gifts due—Please turn in all gifts as soon as possible. We still have tags on the tree.

Christmas Eve Service— Thurs. Dec. 24, 10:00 PM

Financials/Attendance for Dec. 6th

Attendance: 32 Offering: \$2,788.00
Lord's Pantry: \$140.00 Thanksgiving offering: \$100.00
Social Concern of the Month: \$305.00



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CELEBRATES ADVENT
SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM**

Sun. Nov. 29
Blessing of the Wreaths

Sun. Dec. 6
Blessing of the Christmas Tree

Sun. Dec. 13
Gift of St. Nicholas

Sun. Dec. 20
Blessing of Poinsettias

16548 Ferris Avenue, Los Gatos, Ca 95032 | (408) 356-5055 | www.faithlosgatos.org

Advent Candle Lighting & Time with Kids of the Kingdom

Blessing of the Gifts of Christmas

C: Loving God we bless the gifts we share. May they be given with joy. May our gift giving increase in us a spirit of generosity and fill our hearts with gratitude for the many gifts you have given us, most especially the gift of Jesus. Amen.

**Praise Song: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" ELW See insert
verse 4**



WORD

First Reading:

Zephaniah 3:14-20

AM: ¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸ as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,

so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors

at that time.

Jesse Tree

Jesse Tree tags are on the tree in the Narthex for Boys and Girls. Please pick a tag(s) and purchase a \$20 or \$25 Target gift card to be returned with the tag to the church or submit donation in the offering plate.

For any questions, please call the church



Sermon Notes:



Office Hours
Pastor Anne Carlson
~~~~~  
*Tues. and Thurs. afternoons*  
*And by appointment*  
***For emergencies dial***  
***(408) 406-8749***  
*\*Church phone is answered from*  
*9:00 AM—7:00 PM*

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

AM: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading**                      *Micah 5:2-5*      *Read Responsively*

AM: But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little  
clans of Judah,

**C: from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in  
Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.**

AM: Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who  
is in labor has brought forth;

**C: then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of  
Israel.**

AM: And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the  
Lord,

**C: in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.**

AM: And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

**C: and he shall be the one of peace.**

AM: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation -“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”**

**ELW 247 vs. 3&4**

**Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.**

**Come, O Lord Jesus, Reconcile all nations.**

**Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.**

**Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.**

**The Holy Gospel according to Luke 3:7-14**

**C: Glory to You, O Lord**

<sup>7</sup> John 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? <sup>8</sup> Bear 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. <sup>9</sup> Even 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.”

Term Pastor:

Pastor Anne Carlson

Organist:

Catherine Ellacer

Ushers:

Bob Balcomb/Les Grundy

Reader/Intercessions:

Thelma Spaziani

Refreshments:

Eva Woodall

Flowers:

Altar Care:

Linda Perez

**Christmas Smorgasbord—Today at 4pm**

*Please join Faith Lutheran in celebrating Christ's birth with some holiday music, a feast and good cheer!*

*Appetizers at 4:00 PM*

*Dinner at 5:00 PM*

*Bring friends and family!*



**Offering Song: “Now Thank We All Our God” ELW 840 vs. 1**

Now Thank We All Our God  
Now thank we all our god  
With hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done,  
In whom this world rejoices;  
Who, from our mothers’ arms,  
Has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

**Invitation & Announcements**

**\*Blessing**

P: The blessing of God’s eternal love, the courage to follow the way of Christ’s cross, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the broken places of our world, be upon you and remain with you forever.

**C: Amen**

**\*Sending Hymn—“He Came Down” ELW 253**

**\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.”

<sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup> Soldiers 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.”

P: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

**Pastor Anne Carlson**

**\*Song of the Day - “Oh Come All Ye Faithful”**

**ELW 283 vs. 1-3**

(During the hymn, hand the usher any prayer request cards.)

## **\*Apostles Creed**

P: With the whole Church, let us affirm our faith.

**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 power of 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**

Made alive with God in Christ, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

## **Invitation to the table**

P: Come to the banquet, for nothing and no one can take your place. This is God's table, and Jesus is the host of this meal. It is a table of grace and it is all we will ever need.

Come, for all are welcome.

## **Distribution**

## **Post-Communion Blessing**

P: The life and covenant of Jesus, our companion, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

**SENDING**

## **Offering**

P: In response to all that God does for us, it is appropriate that we give in return . . .

We will now receive our offering.

As we share this bread and cup, may God strengthen our hope in the promises of this season, and give us courage to walk in peace offering kindness and blessings to others.

Holy God, we pray for your Spirit to come.  
Enliven this bread. Awaken this body of Christ.  
Pour us out for each other. Ignite your church.  
Come Holy Spirit in this place. Amen

**P:** Let us join our voices together and pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**C: 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**

AM: For the church throughout the world, for bishops, pastors, and seminaries, for the courage to live out the challenges of our baptism, and for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

AM: For the earth, for glaciers, for the protection of dormant vegetation and hibernating animals, and for wisdom in the use and care of the creatures and landscapes we live among, let us pray.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

AM: For the nations of the world, for soldiers and police, for all who suffer political oppression, and for our enemies, let us pray.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

AM: For all those in need, for those who are sick or cold, injured or outcast, for victims of fraud or extortion, for all who will die today, and especially for . . . , let us pray.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

AM: For this congregation, for joy in Christ, and for our community, for an increase in practices that truly enact justice and compassion, let us pray.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

AM: We pray for the world. This week from the Cycle of World Prayer we especially lift up Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo. May they live in your peace and protection. Lord, in your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

AM: Bless the ministry of Hope Lutheran, Santa Clara, our sister congregation in our parish and we lift them up in prayer. Lord, in your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

AM: We praise you, O God, for the lives of all the faithful departed. That we complete our baptismal journey in you, let us pray.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **\*Sharing of God's Peace**

P: Peace of the Lord be with you

**C: And also with you**

## **MEAL**

### **Communion Prayer**

P: God 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 God thanks and praise.**

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

Come, here is a place where all are welcome.

Here is a place where you will find peace with Christ.

Come all who are longing and seeking light and love in your life.

We prepare now for Emmanuel, God with us.

We remember how this child, born in a stable,  
lived a life of healing, mercy, and wisdom.

We remember his last meal shared with friends.

When He gathered them together, and in the blessing of the bread, asked them to share the bread of life.

Then in the blessing of the cup, He asked them to share the cup of forgiveness and promise.

So too, Jesus asks us always to re-member him as we share this bread and cup.