

**We are church together!** St. Paul is collaborating with St. John's and Immanuel for virtual worship. You can call and listen to Tri Church worship on Sundays at 7 a.m., noon, and 4:30 p.m. by calling (508) 924-5733. There is NO access code needed. You will be connected to the conference line automatically. You can watch the service by clicking [HERE](#).

**First Sunday in Advent**  
**November 28, 2021**  
**Tri Church Worship**

**PRELUDE**

**Welcome**

**ADVENT LITANY & PRAYER**

Roth Family

L: When we wait for Christ to come,

**All: God is with us.**

L: When we wait in the deep of the night,

**All: God is with us.**

L: When we wait as the dawn draws near,

**All: God is with us.**

L: Today, as we wait, we light the first candle to remind us that

**All: we have love.**

L: Jesus came that we and all

**All: may have love.**

L: We praise God today for

**All: God's abounding love through Jesus Christ.**

(The first Advent wreath candle is lit.)



L: Let us pray, O God for whom we long,

**All: We praise you for walking with us while we wait. We praise you for keeping your promises. Stir up our hearts to join the song that all creation sings in praise of how you bring love to the world. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**ADVENT SONG**

*"He Came Down"*

1 He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.

Text: Cameroon traditional

**GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you this day and always; enjoy it and share it!

**Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection turn us from sin to live for you alone. Make us new through Jesus Christ. Come, Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

## Introducing the Gospel of Luke

### GOSPEL

#### Luke 1:1-4 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, <sup>2</sup>just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, <sup>3</sup>I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup>so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

### SONG

#### "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"

#### *Refrain*

God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!  
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!  
God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!  
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version

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### GOSPEL

#### LUKE 1:5-25 (NRSV)

P: The Holy Gospel of Luke, chapter 1, verses 5-25.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>5</sup>In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup>Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. <sup>7</sup>But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

<sup>8</sup>Once when [Zechariah] was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, <sup>9</sup>he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. <sup>10</sup>Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. <sup>11</sup>Then there appeared to [Zechariah] an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>When Zechariah saw [the angel of the Lord], he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to [Zechariah], "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. <sup>14</sup>You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup>for [John] will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup>[John] will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>With the spirit and power of Elijah [John] will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." <sup>18</sup>Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." <sup>19</sup>The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup>But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

<sup>21</sup>Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. <sup>22</sup>When [Zechariah] did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. [Zechariah] kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. <sup>23</sup>When his time of service was ended, [Zechariah] went to his home.

<sup>24</sup>After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, <sup>25</sup>“This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

## MESSAGE

**Pastor Bree Truax**

### Hymn of the Day

*"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

- 1       Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
          born to set thy people free;  
          from our fears and sins release us;  
          let us find our rest in thee.  
          Israel's strength and consolation,  
          hope of all the earth thou art,  
          dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
          joy of ev'ry longing heart.
  
- 2       Born thy people to deliver,  
          born a child, and yet a king;  
          born to reign in us forever,  
          now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
          By thine own eternal Spirit  
          rule in all our hearts alone;  
          by thine all-sufficient merit  
          raise us to thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

## APOSTLES' CREED

P: Trusting in the Holy Spirit who calls, gathers, enlightens and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith\*\* we profess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed.

**All: 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.**

\*\*These words are from Luther's explanation to the Third Article of the Apostle's Creed found on page 1162 in the back of the ELW (cranberry color hymnal).

## PRAYERS

P: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*Each petition ends with these words:*

P: God of new beginnings,

**All: Your will be done.**

*The prayer conclude with these words:*

P: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ is with you always! Enjoy it and share it!

*Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of Tri Church congregations! Your prayers, service and giving makes a difference at Immanuel, St. John's & St. Paul. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel!*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## **COMMUNION LITURGY**

P: The Lord is with you.

**All: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: 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 in remembrance of me. Again, after supper, Jesus 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.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**All: 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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

## **COMMUNION & SPECIAL MUSIC**

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ spur you on to share God's love with all of humanity, God's children everywhere.

**All: Amen.**

P: Let us pray. Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**All: Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**All: Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG**

*“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”*

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

4 Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

### **DISMISSAL**

P: Go forth as people loved by God. Go forth forgiven and being made new. God forth and live out love and grace!

**All: With God's help, we will!**

### **POSTLUDE**

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**Thank you for joining us in worship today!** Thank you for your on-going support of the mission and ministry of St. Paul through your prayers, service and giving!