

THE LORD'S TABLE

ALL: God of mercy, we come to this table to ground ourselves in your love. As we remember the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, you calm our anxieties by calling us your children. May your love move us see others through your eyes, keeping us from acts of hate and fear.

Leader: The Table of the Lord is open for all who would seek and accept the forgiveness Christ offers us.

++An allergen free communion station is available in the southwest corner, near the sound booth ++

COMMUNITY SINGING

Be the Center

Jesus, be the center
Be my source, be my light, Jesus

Jesus, be the center
Be my hope, be my song, Jesus

Be the fire in my heart
Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live
Jesus, Jesus

Jesus, be my vision
Be my path, be my guide, Jesus

Jesus, be the center
Be my source, be my light, Jesus
Be my source, be my light, Jesus
Be my source, be my light, Jesus

THE BENEDICTION

Leader: On this day, let us go as God's people:

ALL: We will comfort others with the presence of God.

Leader: On this day, let us go as Jesus' followers:

All: We will gather up the forsaken to welcome them into our hearts.

Leader: On this day, let us go as the grace of the Spirit:

ALL: We will share that peace which surpasses all fears, all wars, all violence.

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COMMUNITY SINGING

Here I Am To Worship

Light of the world,
You stepped down into darkness.
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
hope of a life spent with You

Here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely, Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: (Read Isa 12:2-5) This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNITY SINGING

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing ore the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

King of all days, oh, so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

Light of the world,
You stepped down into darkness.
Opened my eyes, let me see.

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

The shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
When lo! throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

The shepherds feared and trembled
When high above the earth
Rang out an angels' chorus
To hail our Savior's birth

For I am like a shepherd
My hopes and faith to guard
Each day I find the answer
And Love is my reward

TRINITY'S MISSION

Trinity is a Community following Jesus on a common mission to love God, one another and a broken world in Jesus' name.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hosting Schedule

20 th 9:00 – Wise	27 th 9:00 – Poe-Pallikan	3 rd 9:00 – Hilger and Foust
10:45 – Wagoner	10:45 – Carmel Group	10:45 - Millikan

Second Sunday Conversation Join us for our monthly Community Conversation next Sunday, December 13 from 5:30-7pm in the Community Room. We'll be discussing the following question: ***Thinking ahead to 2016, what topics or issues would you like to see discussed in future conversations? Why are those topics important to you and our community?*** Childcare, snacks and coffee will be provided, so plan to join us!

Christmas Eve Service On Thursday, December 24, at 5:00 p.m. we will gather together for a Christmas Eve service. This is a family service (there will be no childcare) that will include singing Christmas carols, lighting of the Christ Candle, sharing in the Lord's Table, and a word of good cheer. This time together is sure to be joyful and triumphant!

COMMUNITY CONFESSION

Leader: In the midst of a broken world, it's all too easy to be overcome by fear and darkness, but Christ's coming calls us to more.

Child Reader: Dear God, just as you came in the stillness of night so many years ago, come now and enter our lives, we pray. Fill us with great joy. Overcome darkness with the light of Christ's presence, so that we may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (*Lighting of the Joy/Shepherds Candle*).

ALL: Forgive us, Emmanuel. Called to lives of gentleness, too often we are filled with anger and hurt. Invited to be generous, we tighten our grips on our clothes, our food, and even our love. Called to be just with everyone, it is all too easy to turn away from those who are different from us.

Leader: (*Reading Zeph 3:14-17*) Friends, hear the good news: despite our failures, God rejoices over us, calming our fears with love.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Freed from fear, we will embrace everyone with the love of God!

BLESSING AND PASSING THE PEACE

Adults: The Lord be with you!

Children: And also with you!

++During this time we greet one another, recognizing that we are all a part of the body, as parents lead children to their ministry spaces (nursery through Preschool are in the upstairs hallway and PreK-5th grade are downstairs).++

Waiting for Judgement...Getting a New Perspective

Zephaniah 3:14-17

I will wipe out everything from the earth, says the Lord.

I will destroy humanity and the beasts;

I will destroy the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea.

I will make the wicked into a heap of ruins;

I will eliminate humanity from the earth, says the Lord. (Zeph 1:2-3, CEB)

The Movement of Zephaniah

Total destruction > Refining > Dwelling with > Rejoicing over

¹⁴*Rejoice, Daughter Zion! Shout, Israel!*

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem.

¹⁵*The Lord has removed your judgment; he has turned away your enemy.*

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you will no longer fear evil.

¹⁶*On that day, it will be said to Jerusalem:*

Don't fear, Zion. Don't let your hands fall.

¹⁷*The Lord your God is in your midst—a warrior bringing victory.*

He will create calm with his love; he will rejoice over you with singing. (Zeph 3:14-17, CEB)

The Clarifications About God

God as Merciful vv. 14-15

When Judah was used to harsh, punitive rulers, Zephaniah is showing the God doesn't rule like that. God is full of mercy.

God as Remover of Fear vv. 15-16 (1 Jn 4:18)

When Judah was used to living in fear of attack from a new empire, Zephaniah is showing that when God is present, our lives should not be guided by fear.

God as Love v.17 (1 Jn 4:8)

When Judah was used to a violent, conquering God, Zephaniah shows that God is a warrior who calms us with love and rejoices over us.

Recommended Resources

Tattoos on the Heart by Greg Boyle