



GETTING READY FOR GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

Peace Lutheran Church

Trinity, FL

December 13, 2020 A.D.

Peace Lutheran Church | Trinity, FL

December 13, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are so blessed to have you worship with us today and we pray that the message of God's love that you hear today will be a blessing to your faith and life. If Peace Lutheran Church can serve your spiritual needs in any way or if you simply have questions about us and what we teach, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our contact information is on the back of this service folder. Or for more information, see our website at www.peacelutherantrinity.com.

- **Restrooms** are located to the left of the worship space.
- **Nursery** We offer a nursery for parents with young children. The nursery is located to the left of the worship space. At Peace Lutheran we love having children in worship.
- **Children's Sunday School** Sunday School is for children ages 3 years old through 6th grade and is offered at the end of worship.
- **Connection Cards** are found at the guest services table in back. If you are a visitor please fill out a card so we have a record of your visit with us and grab the free gift of *Forward in Christ* as well.

SERVICE NOTES FOR ADVENT WORSHIP

We are in the season of the church year called *Advent*. Advent is a Latin word that means "coming." The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to remember the "coming" of the Christ. We celebrate that he came once as a baby in Bethlehem, and that he will come again at the end of time.

What is the best way to get ready for God's Greatest Gift? To be ready is to simply listen to John the Baptist's call to repent, it is to recognize our need for a Savior. To be ready is not in our frantic doing, not getting caught up in the tinsel and twinkling lights. To be ready is to focus on what God is giving. He gives exactly what we need. The best way to get ready for Christmas is a readiness to receive God's Greatest Gift. God bless your Advent worship.



ADVENT GATHERING RITE

The opening song, prayers and sentences are meant to gather individual Christians together into a worshipping assembly. Through the hymn and responsive words that follow we gather preparing our hearts for the coming of our Savior.

OPENING HYMN

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel | 23



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 Oh, come, O Root of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
3 Oh, come, O Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by your
4 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save,
draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
heav'n - ly home. Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re-joice!
And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
And close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 12th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: VENI, EMMANUEL (LM with Refrain) Plainsong melody, 15th century, alt.

LORD, HAVE MERCY or *Kyrie*

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

M: At the end of time the Lord Jesus will come again in glory. It is good for us to be watchful and ready for his return.

Lord Jesus you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom. Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: You come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Christ, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy

M: You will come in glory with salvation for your people. Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

C: Amen.

ABSOLUTION

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his son to die for all. For his sake, he forgives us our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY¹

M: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



The Word

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-3,10,11

Isaiah's prophecy would reach its fulfillment in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendor.

¹ *This prayer has deep roots in Christian worship and marks the beginning of the Word section.*

- ¹⁰ I delight greatly in the LORD;
my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- ¹¹ For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise
spring up before all nations.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 71

Our hope and confidence is in God alone as we face the future

- M:** In you, O Lord, I have taken refuge;
C: Let me never be put to shame.
- M:** Rescue me and deliver in your righteousness;
C: Turn your to me and save me.
- M:** Be my rock of refuge to which I can always go;
C: for you are my rock and my fortress.
- M:** Since my youth O God, you have taught me,
C: and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.
- M:** Even when I am old and gray,
C: do not forsake me, O God.
- M:** till I declare your power to the next generation,
C: your might to all who are to come.

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Cherish the message of God's Word

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil. ²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 11:10

M: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare the way for you." Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL²

John 1:6-8, 19-28

As in John the Baptist's day, many do not want God's offer of life in Jesus, do you?

please stand

M: The Gospel according to John 1.

⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

John the Baptist Denies Being the Christ

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ."

²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

² The congregation stands out of respect for the words of Christ, our king.

He said, "I am not."
"Are you the Prophet?"
He answered, "No."

²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" ²⁴ Now some Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

HYMN

Dawning Light of Our Salvation



1 Long in dark-ness Is-rael wan-dered; Long in mor-tal
2 He shall raise a might-y Sav-ior; Born of Da-vid's
3 Je-sus, Lord, and might-y Sav-ior, Da-vid's Son and



shad-ows, we Walked in bon-dage and self-pit-y,
lin-eage he Comes in cov-'nant love to claim us
yet his King, Dawn-ing light of our sal-va-tion;



Trod in paths of sin and grief. In the proph-ets'
From our sins to set us free. Light to those who
Of your sav-ing pow'r we sing! Stand, oh lame, and



words he told us, Long the God of Is - rael spoke;
dwell in dark-ness. Life to those from death who flee.
dance, ye bro - ken. Know the Sav - ior's heal - ing grace.



He a - lone in strength would save us From the hands of
Joy un - to the earth, and glad-ness, To your path - ways
Come, oh deaf and hear him sing - ing; Turn, oh blind, be -



Refrain

all our foes. Ev' - ry val - ley be ex - alt - ed!
dawn - ing peace!
hold his face!



Ev' - ry moun - tain be made plain! Crook - ed ways re -



pent and straight-en, All cre-a-tion bend in praise!

SERMON

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11 (same as first lesson)

Sermon Theme: Joy – All the Time



Confession of Faith and Thanksgiving

Please stand

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

be seated

PEW REGISTER & OFFERING

"If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. -2 Corinthians 8:12. God wants us to give in proportion to the gifts he has given to us.

Peace Lutheran offers a secure Give by Text option. To donate via text, send the dollar amount you wish to give, including a dollar sign, to 888-314-2975. Example: \$40. You will receive a registration link.

PRAYER of THE CHURCH

O Lord, our Father and Redeemer, from everlasting You are God. **With joy and thanksgiving we acknowledge that we are indebted to You for our existence.** Without You we cannot live, and apart from You life has no meaning. **Bend down Your ear and listen as we pray.**

For permitting us to celebrate another thanksgiving, **we give you thanks.** For finding us and willingly leading us lost sinners, **accept our praise.** For keeping Your promise to send a Savior, **we adore Your name.** As we look at all the grace you have given us through Your Church, **may we show our gratefulness with our words and actions.**

As we begin to prepare for our Savior's birthday, send us the Holy Spirit. **Give us true spiritual insight that we may recognize Him as David's Son and David's Lord.** May we welcome Your Son Jesus Christ into our hearts year around. **Grant that he enrich our lives as we work for Him.** Keep us all busy serving in Your kingdom. **Give us wisdom to give back to You an offering of thanks because You have given us so much.**

These requests we bring along with our private prayers and requests... *Silent Prayer.*

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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; Lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil; For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the cap - tives to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 pris - on held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst; The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51, abr., alt.
 Tune: CHESTERFIELD (CM) Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.

PRAYER

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with his favor + and give you peace.

C: Amen.

+ + +

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAILY MEDITATIONS BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

Advent/Christmas Devotionals

Each family is welcome to take with them a *Meditations* booklet for your Advent and Christmas Meditation. Each meditation is clearly written and easy to understand, with a special Scripture reading, devotion, and prayers for each day. Meditations provides scriptural guidance and encouragement for daily living. Take home your copy today!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday Evening, December 20, 4:00 PM

Bring Christmas joy and cheer to those members of our church who are not able to get out at this time. Join Pastor Schwartz for Christmas Caroling to Peace shut in members. We will meet at Pastor's home on Sunday evening at 4:00 PM and travel to a few different member homes. This will be an outdoor activity. Afterwards, we will return to Pastor's backyard and enjoy some hot chocolate around the fire.

DECEMBER WORSHIP LOCATION

During December we plan to be worshipping on Sundays at Cunningham Hall at 10:30 am. Continue to check our website, email and Facebook page for the latest news regarding worship and Christmas services. Why is our worship location changing during December? The school district has informed us that due to Pasco County positivity rates they are suspending our use of the facility at the elementary school. We hope we will be able to return to worship at Trinity Elementary soon.

Note: Our Christmas Eve/Day worship location is yet to be determined.

CALENDAR

SUN. DEC. 13	10:30 am	Worship @ Cunningham Hall
	11:30 am	Fellowship
	5:29 pm	Youth Confirmation Class In-Person @ Longleaf Office
TUESDAY	6:00 pm	CAP Class
WEDNESDAY	1:30 pm	<i>Cross Connections</i> Bible Study Online
	7:00 pm	<i>Cross Connections</i> Bible Study Online
SATURDAY	10:00 am	New Mover Visits – Starts at Longleaf Office
SUN. DEC. 20	10:30 am	Worship @ Cunningham Hall
	11:30 am	Bible Study/Children’s Sunday School
	4:00 pm	Caroling to Peace Shut-in Members (outdoor activity)

FRUITS OF FAITH

Worship Attendance 11/29:	49
Worship Attendance 12/06:	44
Cumulative gifts given in December 2020:	\$11,658
Budgetary funds needed for December 2020:	\$15,770
Cumulative gifts given in November 2020:	\$13,770
Budgetary funds needed for November 2020:	\$15,770
<hr/>	
Total cong. commitment for “Building Peace for the Future”:	\$159,942
Total gifts and pledges received to date:	\$171,751

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

Joel Schwartz

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Service items are printed under OneLicense.net #A-716075 and CCLI #11178521

Artwork by Ian M. Welch. Copyrighted by Ian M. Welch 2013. All Rights Reserved. www.paramentics.com

Cover Artwork by Clemens Schmidt and Placid Stuckenschneider. Copyrighted by The Order of Saint Benedict, 1996, 2003. All rights reserved. Clip Art for the Liturgical Year.



peacelutherantrinity.com

Mission Statement

Peace Lutheran's mission is to build a Christ-centered community on God's Word

Growing in God's grace

Telling of his love to all people

Peace Lutheran Church

3030 Starkey Blvd. (Suite 227)

Trinity, FL 34655

727.938.6321

staff@peacelutherantrinity.com

Staff

Joel Schwartz, Pastor

727.938.6321

pastorofpeace@hotmail.com

