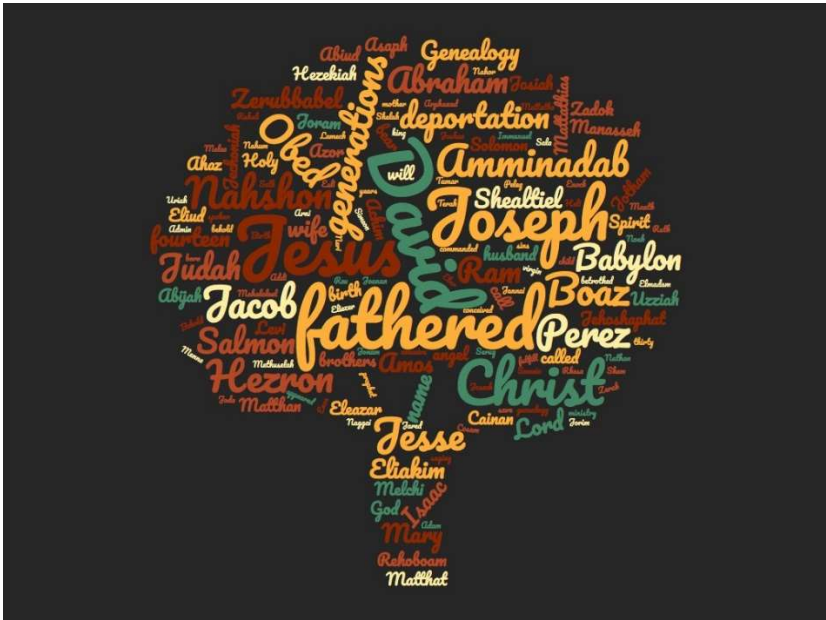


ALAMEDA
Christian Reformed CHURCH



WELCOME TO WORSHIP
DECEMBER 17, 2017



“Jesus’s Family Tree and Ours”

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 am	Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Family Worship Service
12:00 noon	Fellowship Hour
1:00 pm	Choir Practice

WORSHIP SERVICE

December 17, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent



The Third Sunday of Advent focuses on the joy of coming redemption. It is traditionally called **Gaudete Sunday**, a day that takes its common name from the Latin word for "Rejoice." Throughout Scripture, God's people are reminded to take joy in the midst of waiting and to remember what God has done in the past. The Advent process of waiting and gratitude is directed towards contemplating the great depths of God's undeserved gift of grace. One that has come in the past and will be revealed in the future: "Not everyone can wait: neither the sated nor the satisfied nor those without respect can wait. The only ones who can wait are people who carry restlessness around with them and people who look up with reverence to the greatest in the world. Thus Advent can be celebrated only by those whose souls give them no peace, who know they are poor and incomplete, and who sense something of the greatness that is supposed to come, before which they can only bow in humble timidity, waiting until he inclines himself toward us – the Holy One himself, God in the child in the manger. God is coming; the Lord Jesus is coming; Christmas is coming. Rejoice O Christendom." ~Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)

GATHERING

Prelude

Words of Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship (Psalm 126)

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed.

Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.

Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

Restore our fortunes, Lord, like streams in the Negev.

Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them!

Praise

Opening Song of Praise: "Angels, From the Realms of Glory" (#81 vs. 1-2, 4-5)

God's Greeting

As we enter this season of Advent, may the love of God the Father, and the grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be and abide with us all.

Amen!

Children's Christmas Pageant: Signs of Christmas

Renewal

Advent Readings:

Leader: As people in exile looking for redemption, we still experience God's joy during Advent. Hear this vision of God's redemptive plan from Psalm 80: "You, O God, transplanted a vine from Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land. The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches. Its branches reached as far as the Sea, its shoots as far as the River.

Congregation: Why have you broken down its walls so that all who pass by pick its grapes? Boars from the forest ravage it, and insects from the fields feed on it. Return to us, God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see! Watch over this vine, the root your right hand has planted, the son you have raised up for yourself."

Leader: God's promise to bring a son of Israel to restore his people would be fulfilled in the coming of Jesus. Isaiah 61 was a prophecy Jesus spoke about himself: "The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

Congregation: They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Leader: For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Congregation: Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

Leader: I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Congregation: For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations."

Leader: The fulfilled promises of God bring us great joy. Hear now the words of Mary who believed God's promise and was filled with joy: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor 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 forever."

Hymn of Response: "Savior of the Nations, Come" (#74 vs. 1-2, 7)

RESPONSE

Prayers of the People

Offering: General Fund

***Offering Response:** "Have We Any Gift Worth Giving?" (#872 vs. 1)

Dismissal of Children for Kid's Connection

PROCLAMATION

Scripture: Luke 24:13-27 (p. 1106)

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Advent and You

***Hymn of Response:** "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" (#56 vs. 1-4)

SENDING

***Sending & Benediction**

***Doxology** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" (#965)

Postlude

* Please stand if you are able.

Please note: All songs are from the "Lift Up Your Hearts" Hymnal unless otherwise noted.

Participants:

Liturgy and Preaching: Dirk Vanderlaan

Pianist: Joan DeWindt

Children's Readers: Alex Ascarrunz, Grace Lee, Carson Lopez, Asher Hofman, Izzy Ascarrunz, Colin Pero

Advent Readers: The Robles Family

