

# ***St. Stephen Lutheran Church***

## ***West & East Bay, Central Valley, and Southern California***

Member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

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**Websites: ststephenclc.org (East Bay) - sslcwest.org (West)**

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St. Stephen Lutheran School Staff: Isaac & Mikkela Schmitt (Teachers),  
Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Pastor Luke Bernthal (Principal)

**School Office: (650) 961-2071**

**School Website: ssls.org**

**December 3, 2023 ☩ Advent 1**

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**We Welcome Our Visitors** who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.

We invite you to join us every Sunday. Please sign our guestbook in the entry.

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☩ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 25 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ☩

**Advent 2023**

**"Stop! Look! Listen!"**

**Our Worship Services will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.  
To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

**<https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>**

## Opening Hymn: 350 *Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come*

LSB 350



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for  
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and  
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -  
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our

sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!  
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,  
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,  
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,

O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty  
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es  
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I  
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er

let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.  
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!  
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.  
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Advent Invocation

*We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

**P** In the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

*We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

**P** Jesus is the Light of the World, and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C** If we walk in the light as He is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another,  
and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.

**P** In this Advent season we celebrate the *coming* of Jesus, the Light of the World.

**C** **Dear Jesus, we celebrate Your coming at Your birth in Bethlehem.**  
**We thank You for coming into our hearts by Your gift of faith,**  
**and we look forward to Your coming on the Last Day when You will take us,**  
**and all believers, to be with You forever in heaven.**

**P** As we meditate on Your manger, Your cross, Your empty tomb, and Your Word,  
we come before Your throne today confessing our sins and asking for Your  
forgiveness.

**C** **Lord of heaven and earth, forgive us all our sins.**  
**As we see the world in darkness and in need of Your light,**  
**increase our faith, love, courage, and strength.**  
**Give us Your power to be lights in this world, reflecting Your love. Amen.**

**P** Our Father in Heaven has been good and merciful to us.  
In His love He has given us, His children, the greatest Gift: He sent His Son Jesus,  
the Christ Child, whose birth in Bethlehem so long ago we celebrate.  
Jesus came as a lowly servant to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins,  
and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. By His shed blood  
on the cross we are forgiven! In peace and joy let us sing of our salvation!

### 344 v. 2, 5 Then Cleansed Be Ev'ry Life from Sin

LSB 344 v. 2, 5

2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent  
way for God with - in, And let us all our  
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther  
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite  
Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

**P** We pray:

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## First Reading

*Isaiah 64:1-9 (EHV)*

*Oh, that you would rip open the heavens and come down.  
Mountains then would quake because of your presence.*

<sup>2</sup> *As fire ignites stubble and as fire makes water boil,  
make your name known to your adversaries.*

*Then nations would quake in your presence.*

<sup>3</sup> *You did amazing things that we did not expect.  
You came down. Mountains quaked because of your presence.*

<sup>4</sup> *From ancient times no one has heard.  
No ear has understood.*

*No eye has seen any god except you,  
who goes into action for the one who waits for him.*

<sup>5</sup> *You meet anyone who joyfully practices righteousness,  
who remembers you by walking in your ways!*

*But you were angry because we sinned.  
We have remained in our sins for a long time.*

*Can we still be saved?*

<sup>6</sup> *All of us have become like something unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like a filthy cloth.*

*All of us have withered like a leaf, and our guilt carries us away like the wind.*

<sup>7</sup> *There is no one who calls on your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you.  
So you hid your face from us. You made us melt by the power of our guilt.*

<sup>8</sup> *But now, LORD, you are our father. We are the clay, and you are our potter.  
All of us are the work of your hand.*

<sup>9</sup> *Do not be angry, LORD, without limit. Do not remember our guilt forever.  
Please look closely. All of us are your people.*

## Gospel Reading

Luke 2:15-20 (NKJV)

**P** The Gospel reading is from Luke 2:15-20.

**C** Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!

<sup>15</sup> *So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."*

<sup>16</sup> *And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.*

<sup>18</sup> *And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.*

<sup>19</sup> *But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.*

<sup>20</sup> *Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.*

**P** Here ends our Scripture readings.

## 357 v. 1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357 v. 1

I O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Apostle's Creed *with explanation from Luther's Catechism (Sydow, p. 87)*

**C** 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, dead, and buried;  
He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;  
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God,  
begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man,  
born of the virgin Mary is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,  
purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil,  
not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood  
and His innocent suffering and death.

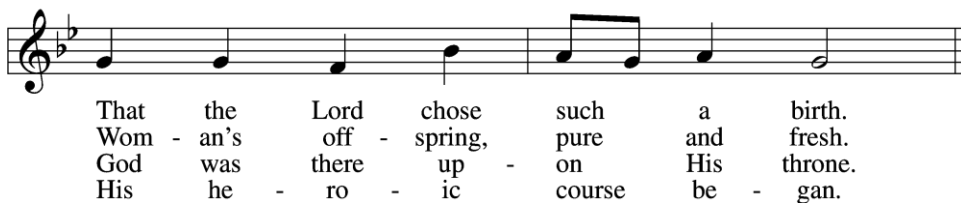
He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom,  
and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy;  
just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.

This is most certainly true!

### Hymn of the Day: 332 *Savior of the Nations, Come* *(please stand for last verse)*

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and

here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



**5 God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.**

**6 For You are the Father's Son Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.**

**7 From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.**

**△ 8 Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.**

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2); tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6); tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8); tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7); tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973  
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter  
Text (sts. 3, 6–7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 4–5, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House.  
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Text (sts. 1–2) and tune: Public domain

## **Sermon Text: Isaiah 1:16-18 (EHV)**

**<sup>16</sup> Wash yourselves. Purify yourselves.**

**Remove your evil deeds from my sight.**

**Stop doing evil. <sup>17</sup> Learn to do good.**

**Seek justice. Relieve the oppressed.**

**Seek justice for the fatherless. Plead for the widow.**

**<sup>18</sup> Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD.**

**Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow.**

**Though they are as red as crimson, they will be like wool.**

## **Sermon Theme: “Stop!”**

✠ What does God tell His people to “Stop!” in these verses from Isaiah?

† In what other way should we "Stop!" during this Advent season? **(see Luke 2:19)**

## Offertory

LSB 956

### 956 Create in Me

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Public domain

**Offering** *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

**Prayer of the Church / Prayer Requests** *We bring our prayers to God.*

## Lord's Prayer

☐ **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.**



## Sermon Hymn: 369 *Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*

LSB 369



1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,  
2 In that un - like - ly place I find Him as they said:  
3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,  
4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred;  
Sweet new - born babe, how frail! And in a man - ger bed:  
His proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:  
Its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



But there is room and wel - come there for me.  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.  
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929

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## Service of the Sacrament

*Now we approach the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in which Jesus comes to bless us with His very body and blood.*

*We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration.*

## The Words of Institution

*The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper, by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His body and blood in the Sacrament.*

## Prayer Before the Lord's Supper

Adapted from *The Lutheran Hymnal*, p. 4

**C** Dear Savior, upon Your gracious invitation I come to Your altar.  
Let me find favor in Your eyes that I may approach Your table in true faith  
and receive the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of my sins and the  
strengthening of my faith. Amen

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**C** Amen.

## Hymn of Preparation

### 619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

LSB 619 v. 1

1 Thy bod - y, giv'n for me, O Sav - ior, Thy blood which  
Thou for me didst shed, These are my life and  
strength for - ev - er, By them my hun - gry soul is fed.  
*Refrain*  
Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862

Tune: Public domain

## The Distribution

Note to our Guests: We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning!

The Word of God treats the Lord's Supper with great care. The Word of God considers the Lord's Supper to be a wonderful Means of Grace – a way in which Christ forgives and blesses. It is also considered an opportunity for congregations to express unity and oneness (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) – that is, to say to the world "This is what we believe!" But God's Word also warns against taking the

*Sacrament to our judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For these reasons our congregation asks that you fully understand our teachings before partaking. We respectfully ask that those who have joined this congregation through public confession of faith, or who are members of another congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) approach the altar at the usher's direction. Speak to our pastor anytime and he will be glad to provide the information you would need – and want. We look forward to communing together, Lord willing, in the future.*

## Prayer After the Lord's Supper

*Adapted from The Lutheran Hymnal, p. 4*

**☐ O blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to me in this holy Sacrament, keep me in Your faith and favor. As You live in me, let me also live in You. May Your body and blood preserve me in the true faith unto everlasting life! Amen.**

**☐ Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness!**

## The Thanksgiving

### 619 My Heart Has Now Become Thy Dwelling

*LSB 619 v. 5*

5 My heart has now be - come Thy dwell - ing, O bless - ed,  
ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Thy  
prais - es tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly.  
*Refrain*  
Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig

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Tune: Public domain

**Benediction** *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

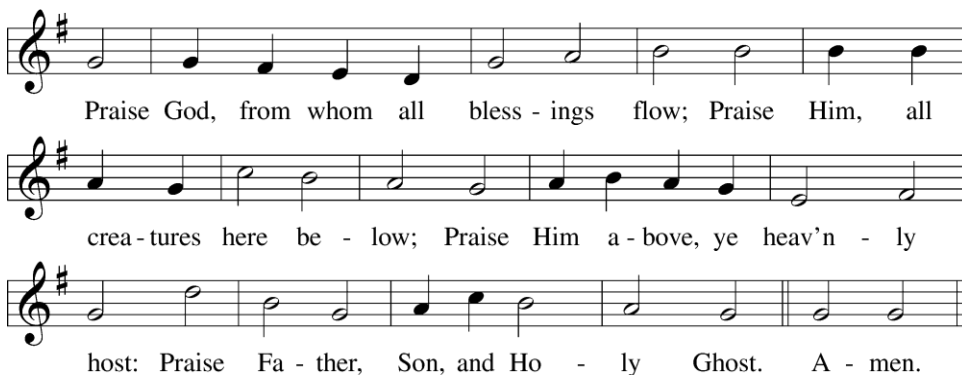
**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

## The Doxology

LSB 805

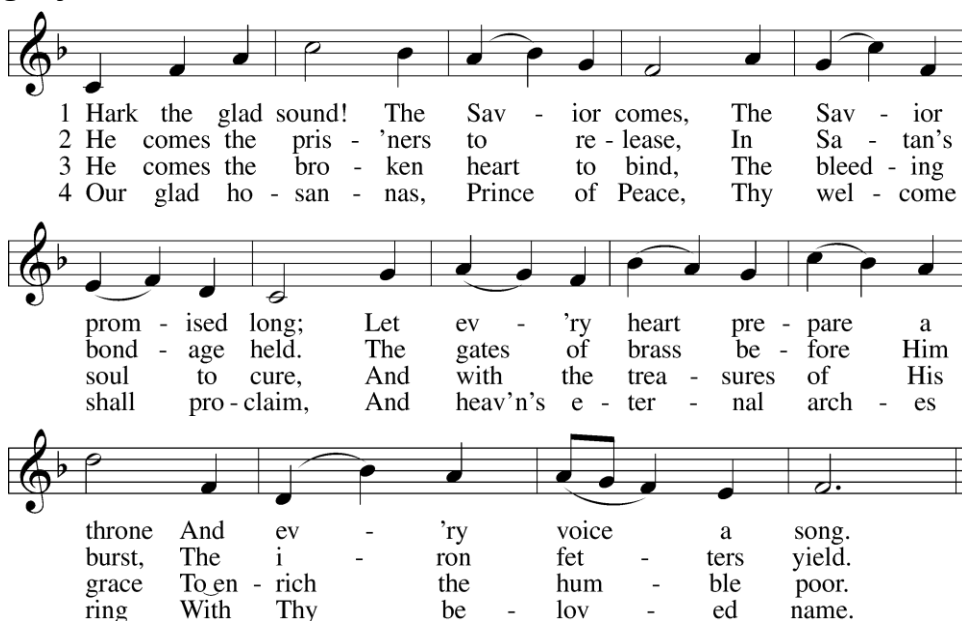


Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly  
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Public domain

## Closing Hymn: 349 *Hark the Glad Sound* (please stand for last verse)

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners 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, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51 Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820 Text and tune: Public domain

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: After Worship Service: **Church Christmas Decorating & Soup Lunch – 11am**  
12/3/23 **Children’s Christmas Eve Practice – 12:30pm**

This Week: Tuesday - **Bible Instruction Class** (Fenton) (Mt. View) – **11:30am**  
Friday - **Confirmation Class** (Lang) (Mt. View) – **4pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **NO Bible Class**  
12/10/23 **Worship – 10am**  
**Choir/Children’s Christmas Eve Practice-11am**

**St. Stephen – East Bay** (Hayward): **Worship – 1pm**  
**NO Bible Class**

**St. Stephen South** (Huntington Beach): **Worship – 6:30pm**

**In Your Mailbox** – St. Stephen Church Calendar – *December*

### **Christmas Tree and Church Decorating & Soup Lunch** (Mt. View) – **TODAY (12/3)**



We plan to put up the Christmas tree and church Christmas decorations **TODAY Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** after the worship service (approx. 11:15am). The Women’s Auxiliary is providing a soup lunch for those who are able to stay for the decorating. Please come and join us if you are able!

**Food Donations for Thanksgiving and Christmas** – We are collecting non-perishable food items to deliver to the Community Service Agency (CSA) in Mountain View for Thanksgiving and Christmas. There is a large box in the church entry marked “Food Drive.”

## **Southern California Advent/Christmas Worship – NEXT Sun. 12/10 @ 6:30pm –**

Our next Southern California Worship Service and Bible Study will be held **NEXT Sunday, December 10th @ 6:30pm.** Our service will have an Advent/Christmas theme including the singing of some familiar Christmas hymns. Seth and Alyssa Hamblin will be hosting it again this year at their residence in Huntington Beach. Their address is:

**9842 Hamilton Ave. Apt. 11  
Huntington Beach, CA 92646**

Note from Alyssa & Seth Regarding Parking: "Park on the street around the corner on St. John Lane to the west of our apartment to avoid having to walk across 4 lanes of traffic."

### **The Advent Wreath**



The Advent wreath is rich in symbolism, and as such it aids our worship as it reinforces our hope in the ultimate coming of our Lord. The wreath is covered with evergreen. Just as this species of tree is always green, so our hope for eternity is always alive because it rests upon the living Christ. The wreath is also in the form of a circle, which has no beginning and no end. What better way to picture that our life with God is everlasting.

The lighted candles are symbolic of the light of Christ and His Gospel, which alone can lift us out of our sin & spiritual darkness. The 4 Advent candles remind us of the 4000 years of waiting for Christ by the Old Testament world. The 3 purple candles are the color for repentance. The rose candle is the color for **joy**. Each of the 4 candles has been assigned a special name with special significance: **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.**

**The Christ Candle** is the white candle in the center, and is lit on Christmas Eve. It signals that He Who is the Light of the world has been born.

The light these candles put forth seems small; so does the gospel at times. But to those in lonely darkness, it is the powerful light which shows the way to Heaven.

### **Christmas Season Worship Schedule 2023**

**Advent Worship Carols & Christmas Cookies – Wed. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> - 7pm (Mt. View)**

**Christmas Eve – Sun. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – 10am (Mt. View)** – Christmas Eve Joint Worship  
& Children's Program

**Christmas Day – Mon. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – 11am (Hayward)** Christmas Day Worship



