

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

propeace.org

Worship Videos: [YouTube.com/@princeofpeacesaratoga](https://www.youtube.com/@princeofpeacesaratoga)



January 28, 2024
Third Sunday after Epiphany

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

propeace.org

Welcome!

Everything you need to sing, speak and participate in this worship is in the bulletin.

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Today is a special Sunday for our church

community as we

gather after worship for our Annual Meeting.

We will vote on our 2024 budget

and hear good news of the past

year. This is also the time of year

that we publish our Annual

Report. It is a wonderfully

robust summary of all that has

happened this year---thanks to

all of YOU!

There are some hard copies in the

back of the

church, or you can

access a digital copy here:

Welcome to Prince of Peace! As we begin worship, we hope and pray this will be a time of connecting to God and one another so that we might leave this worship service ready to love and serve our neighbors.

Bold print indicates response from all the people

Gathering

Prelude *Love is of God*

Choir

Music: Ed Harris Text: adapted from James 4:7-11

Welcome

****Please stand as you are able****

*Call to Worship

God our Creator,

we call You Father, Mother, Author of Life:

Draw us closer to You, O God.

Christ our Savior,

we call You the Son, the Messiah, the One who Saves:

Draw us closer to You, O God.

Holy Spirit,

we call You the Advocate, the Inspirer, Breath & Wind of God:

Draw us closer to You, O God.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty;

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory:

Draw us closer to You, O God.

Draw us in, Spirit, Christ and Creator,

**that we might journey with You more fully and deeply,
in this life and beyond. Amen.**

As We Gather at Your Table



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phantly Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

***Prayer of the Day**

L: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

Holy Divine, call us into the Way and life of Christ. It is not enough for us to follow Christ; remind us that we are called to be transformed by Christ, to be a new creation in this world. In Christ's name we pray in anticipation, knowing that we are being transformed into the living hope this world needs. Amen.

The Word

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

“Verse 17 was my favorite verse as a teenager. The idea that the God of the universe would REJOICE over me and my confusing life gave me courage.

*I hope these verses might encourage you today in knowing that God is with you and delights in you.”
-Vicar Sharon*

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

****Please stand as you are able****

Second Reading

1 Timothy 4:1-10

The book of 1 Timothy is in a category named “Pastoral Letters,” which unlike the Gospels that are story-based, these letters are written to a specific person or group of people.

This was often the way specific instructions were given on how to live a faithful and dedicated life approximately 90 years after Jesus was born.

¹ The Spirit clearly says that in latter times some people will turn away from the faith. They will pay attention to spirits that deceive and to the teaching of demons. ² They will be controlled by the pretense of lying, and their own consciences will be seared. ³ They will prohibit marriage and eating foods that God created—and he intended them to be accepted with thanksgiving by those who are faithful and have come to know the truth. ⁴ Everything that has been created by God is good, and nothing that is received with thanksgiving should be rejected. ⁵ These things are made holy by God’s word and prayer. ⁶ If you point these things out to the believers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus who has been trained by the words of faith and the good teaching that you’ve carefully followed. ⁷ But stay away from the godless myths that are passed down from the older women. Train yourself for a holy life! ⁸ While physical training has some value, training in holy living is useful for everything. It has promise for this life now and the life to come. ⁹ This saying is reliable and deserves complete acceptance. ¹⁰ We work and struggle for this: “Our hope is set on the living God, who is the savior of all people, especially those who believe.”

L: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Kid’s Message

Drew Ajer

Sermon

Vicar Sharon

***Song of the Day** *Love Astounding*

(printed on the next page)

Love Astounding



1 Love as - tound-ing, Love con - found-ing lim-its fear - ful minds im-pose.
2 Love re - ceiv-ing, Love be - liev - ing, we re - joice with thanks and song,



Love re - new-ing, Love pur - su - ing ev - 'ry heart un - til it knows
faith re - gain-ing, hope pro - claim-ing; Love has taught us we be - long,



Love's trans-form-ing, heal-ing good-ness, Love's a - bid - ing, gen-tle grace,
safe with - in Love's ten - der keep-ing, safe from fear's per - sis - tent call.



Love's en - dur-ance, Love's as - sur - ance, Love's con - sol-ing, strong em-brace.
Love de - fend-ing, Love un - end - ing, Love of God en-fold - ing all.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

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*** Prayers of the People**

We join together in praying as a church body. Prayers are organized by themes and each prayer ends with...

L: Hear us, O God,

C: **Your mercy is great.**

***Passing of the Peace**

We give one another a word of peace, in the same way Jesus did when he appeared to the disciples in the Upper Room. As we share peace with one another, feel free to share your star words with one another as well.

Deep gratitude for
all that you do to
support the
ministries and
programs of this
congregation!

Offering is an act
of worship that
reminds us where
our security
resides---with
God.

Offering

Your offering makes possible and powerful the ministries of this congregation. You may place your offering in one of the plates in the back of the church. If you wish to give your offering electronically today, please scan this QR code...



The communion bread is vegan and we have gluten free options. Wine is red, grape juice is white. Please be welcome here!

If you chose to not receive communion, you can come up for a blessing instead. If you choose to be blessed, simply cross your arms over your chest so we know.

The Meal

****Please stand as you are able****

***Words of Institution**

***Invitation to Receive Communion**

Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, welcomes everyone (and we mean everyone!) to this table. No matter one's race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, or faith background.

***The 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, the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

Communion Music *"Fairest Lord Jesus"* setting by A. D. Miller

The sending portion of the service is meant to prepare us for leaving and sharing what we have learned and experienced in worship.

The Sending

Announcements

*Blessing

P: God sees you and calls you by name.

God calls you to stand firm in the face of oppression & injustice.

To stand together as community in acts of compassion & justice.

May the Holy Spirit enliven your hope, as Jesus Christ renews your faith, and as God enfolds you in love.

C: Amen.

Closing Song: *To Be Your Presence*

ELW 546

(printed on the next page)

*Dismissal

P: Go forth with hearts transformed by the hope found in a living God.

C: **Thanks be to God, we will!**

To Be Your Presence



1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -
2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the
3 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak for
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your



pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy
poor and shel - ter home - less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,
all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your
peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the



ev - er near,
right up - hold, al - le - lu - ia!
love ex - pressed,
church, re - joice,

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924

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With thanks to our worship leaders:

Todd Hauschildt, *Head Usher*
Connie Chen, *Reader*
Carol Bierach, *Altar Guild*
Connie C., Cammie C., Jessica C., *Coffee Hosts*

Prince of Peace Staff

Rev. Sara Pearson
Drew Ajer, *Director of Youth and Service*
Sharon DeGraw, *Intern Pastor*
Anne Hess, *Office Manager*
Katie Hoffman, *Office Associate*
Barbara Day Turner, *Director of Music*
Michael Touchi, *Pianist/Organist*
Kerry Lewis, *Music Staff Associate*

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Blessing from Cláudio Carvalhaes, *Liturgies from Below*

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Scan this code to connect to our hearing assistance app.



Welcome Visitors!

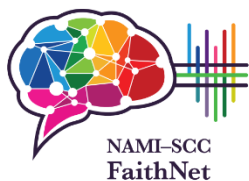
We are so glad you joined us! Please drop by the welcome center and sign our guest book, or use the Visitor Card in the pews and leave it in the offering plate.

Learn about upcoming events: ask for a copy of the “Peace Notes”, our printed announcements and calendar. We invite you to learn more about us on our website at propeace.org.

Prince of Peace is a congregation in the *Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA*.

We are proud to be a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation, publicly affirming our commitment to be a welcoming community of faith for LGBTQ+ people and their families.

We are also a member of *NAMI-FaithNet*, creating mental-health friendly, stigma-free congregations in the Santa Clara Valley.



[namisantacalara.org/
classes/faith-net-2](http://namisantacalara.org/classes/faith-net-2)

