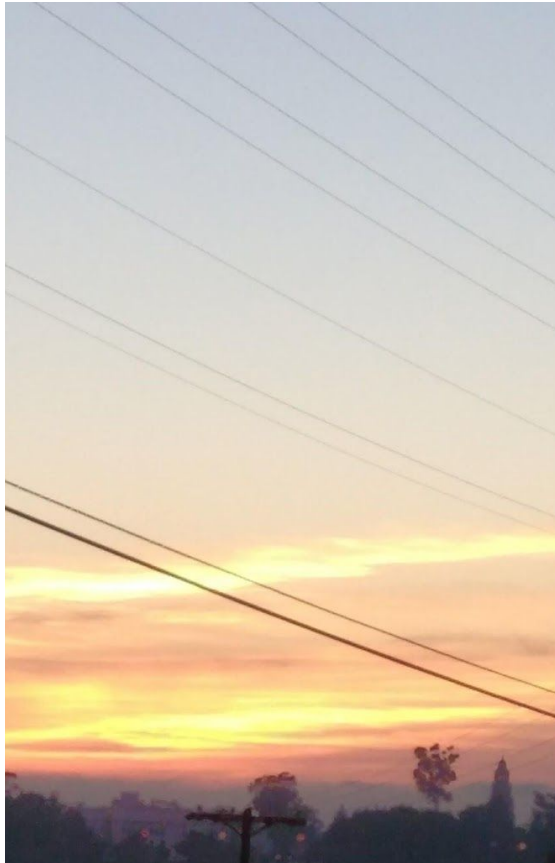


# Year A

Written in 2016-2017



**Rev. Matthew Hambrick**  
**Trinity United Methodist Church, San Diego**

## Nativity of the Lord - I

### Community Prayer:

Holy God, you sent your son, Jesus, to save the world and to make our hearts your home. Tonight we look back on this gift, knowing that your love shines through when we tell this story. May we always look to you when we celebrate Christmas and may we keep praising you now as we continue in worshipping your precious son. **Amen.**

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## Second Sunday after the Epiphany

### Community Prayer (John 1:29-42):

Almighty God, you brought light into the world, through your son, that we might be guided to become your people. In response to his radiance, may we proclaim, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" Let us do this so that all may hear the good news of our savior, Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

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## Fourth Sunday of Lent

### Community Prayer (John 1:29-42):

Gracious God, you created us in your image. We give thanks for all that you have done for us, for all that you are doing within us, and for all that you will do through us. Open our eyes to your presence among us, moving in powerful ways at all times and in all places. Give us the courage to leave the darkness and move into the light of Jesus Christ, that we may serve you by serving others, through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## Second Sunday after Easter

### Community Prayer:

Living God, you walked beside the disciples, you understood their lack of faith, and you offered them assurance. We stand before you now, knowing that we too lack faith, and ask to be assured of our hope that rests in you. As we worship, find us where we are and speak to our hearts, that we may know the depths of your love in Christ. Amen.

## Third Sunday after Pentecost

### Community Prayer:

Almighty God, our habit is to try to control our own destiny, to force our own will. Our fears lead us to believe that if we get what we want then we will be happy. Guide us away from fear and into life, showing us how to love in spite of ourselves. Allow us to worship you with all that we have, that the world might know all that you have done for us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

### Prayer of Confession:

Holy One, we have lost ourselves in busyness and fear and, instead of sharing your story of grace to those we meet, we duck our heads and walk by, pretending we have not seen them. Guide our hearts, O God, that we might grow in boldness in both our listening and our sharing of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Offertory Prayer:

Eternal God, through our offerings we find ourselves aligned with the cause of Christ. We express our concern for all people and name them as our own family. We recognize their pain and their suffering and our own

struggle to find ways to help. We offer our resources to assist in proclaiming the name of Jesus Christ and to carry on your mission in our neighborhood and in the rest of the world. Amen.

## Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

### Community Prayer:

God of life, your word is gracious. It illuminates our lives and lights our paths. Righteous are your ways and you have called us to follow your example. You gave your own son for that purpose. In times of desperation, you remind us of your holy presence and, in good times, you guide us toward thankfulness. Remain at the forefront of our hearts and minds as we continue to worship you this day, through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

### Offertory Prayer:

O Lord, you have searched us and you have known us. When we rest and when we rise, you know our hearts. You have made our beds and you have tucked us in. You are our source of comfort. There is nowhere that we could hide from you. Morning and evening, you guide us to life everlasting. Use these gifts that come from the generosity that you placed inside of us to bring forth new creation in your world. Amen. (Psalm 139)

## Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

### Call to Worship:

O give thanks to the Lord, calling out and making known God's deeds among all people.

**Sing praises to God; sing of grace and mercy. Sing of all of God's wonderful works.**

Glorify the Lord's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek also rejoice.

**Seek the strength of Lord; seek to be in God's presence continually.**

The Lord gives good things to us as our inheritance.

**Praise the Lord! Amen.**

#### **Community Prayer:**

Gracious Lord, your kingdom is a treasure that we cannot hoard, but must share freely with others. We are thankful for all that you do for us in bringing us together to be a part of your people, a community of faith that we call Church. Guide us to greater understanding of the gifts that our sisters and brothers bring to the ministry of all believers, that we may see your glory made known through our work in this place. Do all this in the name of your blessed son, Jesus. Amen. (Matthew 13)

### **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

#### **Prayer of Confession:**

God of reconciliation, when we want to argue and fight, you teach how to be united. When we seek discord and not harmony, you guide us toward integrity in peace. We know your way is marked with self-sacrificing love, yet we choose to go our own ways. Rather than learning to love you better and seeking to love one another as we should, we try to be right instead of compassionate. Forgive us, O God, that we might turn to your ways instead of our own, living the gospel more fully, because of the

love made known in Christ Jesus. Amen.

#### **Offertory Prayer:**

Lord of all understanding, you give us so many good things and we come before you in gratitude. We stand in awe and in wonder at the truth brought forth by your Holy Spirit that we might know the heart of our creator. As a sign of our thankfulness, we bring forth an offering devoted to you and your mission in this place. May it be used to share our joy with those who do not yet know the peace of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen. (Romans 9:1)

### **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

#### **Call to Worship:**

**Let us hear what the Lord God will say.**

For God speaks peace and faithfulness to the people.

**Salvation is here for those who fear and serve in God's glory.**

Love and truth meet in God and we learn how to live by the example.

**Beauty and goodness are God's to give and God gives freely.**

Praise the Lord, our God, for giving us a message of love! Amen. (Psalm 85)

#### **Community Prayer:**

Let us pray: Our God, creator and sustainer of all things, you are the one who gives us the hope of things to come. Remind us of your holy presence in our lives and of the plans that you have for us, that we might better do your will in this world, through your son, Christ Jesus. Amen.

## Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Call to Worship:

We are here to praise and thank our gracious and blessed God.

### The Lord is with us and shines upon us.

In the spirit of our gladness and because of our joy, let us praise God with loudest voices.

### May we make God known to everyone everywhere.

Let the nations come and find us kneeling in adoration of our king.

### May we be found singing the glory of our Lord, now and forevermore. (Psalm 67)

### Offertory Prayer:

Gracious God, it is with joy that we offer these gifts to you. We know that everything, the whole cosmos, is yours and we give back a small portion of what you have given to us. Use what we have given for your mission in our midst, and beyond the walls of this church, to bring comfort and gladness to all people through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

### Call to Worship:

We give thanks to the Lord with our whole hearts.

### We bow down and give thanks for God's unending love.

We exalt the name of the Lord above all else because God is faithful.

### We called out and our prayers were answered; God strengthened us when we were weak.

In the spirit of our thankfulness, we worship our glorious God.

### May we shout praises for the glory of the Lord. Amen . (Psalm 138)

### Community Prayer

Lord of will and of wonder, we praise you for the gift and sacrifice of your son, Christ Jesus, whose example we seek to follow. May we, likewise, give ourselves for you, no longer living for selfish ambition. Send your Holy Spirit, that we may know your love. Amen.

## Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Prayer of Confession:

O God, you are our hope when we are not enough. It is by your grace that we are made whole. But, instead of looking to you, we look to ourselves, and our own power, and force our own wills upon each other. We watch our neighbors and we judge their actions, even when you have told us not to. Forgive us for these sins that we commit more often than we would like to admit; so that we can make your gospel known through our love and our lives. Do this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Call to Worship:

Teach us, O Lord, the ways of your love.

### So that we might walk in your truth.

Show us the Law of your heart.

### So that we might follow it wholeheartedly.

Turn our eyes upon your face.

### So that we might keep our feet firmly on your path.

In all things, O God, remind us that you are good and your way is love.

**So that we might begin to live compassion in peace with you. Amen.**

**Community Prayer:**

O God, king of the universe and all that is in it, we praise you for the life you give and the love you share. You could have forced us to do anything you wished, but you wanted to be loved authentically. Guide us toward your truth, a truth that speaks your word of love. Lead us onward, through your blessed son, Jesus Christ. One Lord, forever. Amen.

## **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Call to Worship:**

Bless the Lord, our God, who heals, who forgives, and who redeems.

**The Lord gives us all good things, showering us with love and mercy.**

God showed the truth to Israel and yet they turned away.

**But the Lord is forgiving and does not hold our sins against us.**

May we remember all the gracious gifts of God as we worship.

**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.**

## **Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Call to Worship**

We will lift up the name of the Lord on high.

**We will bless your name, our God and king, for you are mighty and worthy of our unending praise.**

When we did not follow you, you still had mercy on us.

**When we did nothing to deserve it, you still poured grace upon us.**

And so we praise you, for everything you do is right.

**May we glorify you, our God, from now into eternity. Amen. (Psalm 145)**

**Community Prayer:**

Creator God, you make your Church in the most unexpected places. In Ur you made covenant with Abraham. In Israel you kept your promise in Christ Jesus. In Rome your servant Paul cultivated a people from a new creation. Because we love you, lead us to keep our promises to you and to our neighbors. Amen.

## **Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Call to Worship:**

Listen up, church. Listen to what I say.

Listen and also teach that the Lord, our God, is good.

**We will remember what we have learned and share what our ancestors told us: that the Lord, our God, is good.**

God has done amazing things. God has freed us from slavery, led us away from our prison cells, and sent us to lead others into freedom.

**The Lord has quenched our thirst and fed us when we had nothing to eat. May we always remember that the Lord, our God, is good. Amen. (Psalm 78)**

## **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Call to Worship (Psalm 80):**

God of nature and grace, save us from all that would cause us harm.

Clear out the thorns and the thistles in our hearts and minds

**Make us like good soil that is ready to do**

**grow.**

Let our roots grow deeper and giving shade  
to all who need rest.

**O Lord, when it feels like you no longer  
protect us,  
may we know your love and never turn our  
backs on your grace. Amen.**

## Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

**Call to Worship (Psalm 96):**

God is singing to us a brand new song,  
a happy song to teach us, and we all should  
sing along.

Sing in celebration that Christ has freed us;  
Shout the news of his glory!

God is great and worthy of anything we  
would do for him.

We should always tell the story of his great  
love.

Our Lord comes in righteousness and truth,  
creativity and justice, and we sing the good  
news of our praise. Amen.

## Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Call to Worship (Psalm 90):

If only we would begin to think of God like a  
house,  
a fort in the mountains that saves us from  
harm,

**where time passes slowly and it always  
feels like home.**

God have compassion on us your servants!  
Show us the light of morning with our faith  
renewed from you.

**Teach us to live well and to live our lives in  
you our God.**

**Amen.**