



**TRINITY**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Trinity Presbyterian Church

Love God. Love People. Love Fort Worth.

## Words for Reflection

To crave and to have are as like as a thing and its shadow. For when does a berry break upon the tongue as sweetly as when one longs to taste it, and when is the taste refracted into so many hues and savors of ripeness and earth, and when do our senses know any thing so utterly as when we lack it? And here again is a foreshadowing—the world will be made whole. For to wish for a hand on one's hair is all but to feel it. So whatever we may lose, very craving gives it back to us again. Though we dream and hardly know it, longing, like an angel, fosters us, smooths our hair, and brings us wild strawberries.

-Marilynne Robinson

What is the basis for our assurance that a radically different kind of world is possible? It is that this radically different kind of world has already broken into this world and that its powers and its standards have begun already to work. Here we touch upon the other side of the Advent message. We do not merely - like Old Testament prophets - speak about an unknown day in the future; we speak about a known person who has already come, in whom Advent has begun. We speak about a new world whose powers are already at work in our own experience. What we look forward to, therefore, is not a wholly unknown event; it is the completion of what has already been begun in the coming of Jesus; it is the victory of the powers which are already at work in this world, grappling with the powers of evil; it is the public manifestation and acknowledgment of the reign of Jesus at the right hand of God which is now hidden, an object of faith but not yet of sight.

-Lesslie Newbigin

# Order of Worship

The Third Sunday of Advent

— December 11, 2016 —

## Prelude

*O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel*

## Advent Reading & Candle Lighting

Reader: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming. We are preparing for the full coming of God's kingdom:

He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

—Isaiah 2:4 ESV

Reader: Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

People: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

## The Call to Worship

*God invites and calls us into His presence to worship Him. He enters into our busy lives to speak to us.*

My soul magnifies the Lord,  
    **and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**  
For he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
    **and holy is his name!**  
And his mercy is for those who fear him  
    **from generation to generation.**

—Luke 1:46, 48-50 ESV

## Hymn of Praise | Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*We sing praises to God and proclaim through song the good news of what He has done in Jesus' death and resurrection. Some songs might be initially unfamiliar, but we believe the rich, true, beautiful words of these hymns will make their way into your heart.*

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
Behold, the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here!

A helper just he comes to thee,  
His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness,  
His scepter, pity in distress.

Redeemer, come, I open wide;  
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
Let me thy inner presence feel;  
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in!  
Let new and nobler life begin!  
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,  
Until the glorious crown be won.

Words: Based on Psalm 24; Georg Weissel  
Music: Arr. by Jacob Tilton

## Opening Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*We ask for God to be present among us and conclude with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray.*

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Doxology

*Doxology means "glory words." We lift our voices and our hands to give God glory for who He is and all that He has done.*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Confession of Sin

*We fight the temptation to hide our sin and instead acknowledge it openly to God, but we do so in light of the grace offered in Jesus.*

Lord God, our lives are filled with sin. We forget our neighbor's needs, and do not love You above all else. We need a Savior. Help us to be ready for Jesus in our own hearts. O come, O come, Savior of the world. Forgive us and renew in us the joy of Your salvation. Amen.

## Silent Confession

### Assurance of Forgiveness

*God reminds our forgetful hearts of the grace that is ours in Jesus.*

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

—Psalm 130:7-8 ESV

### Hymn of Response | Psalm 130 (From the Depths of Woe)

*We respond in thanks and praise for God's redemptive work in Christ.*

From the depths of woe I raise to Thee  
The voice of lamentation;  
Lord, turn a gracious ear to me  
And hear my supplication;  
If Thou iniquities dost mark,  
Our secret sins and misdeeds dark,  
    O who shall stand before Thee?  
    O who shall stand before Thee?

To wash away the crimson stain,  
Grace, grace alone availeth;  
Our works, alas! Are all in vain;  
In much the best life faileth;  
No man can glory in Thy sight,  
All must alike confess Thy might,  
    And live alone by mercy  
    And live alone by mercy

Therefore my trust is in the Lord,  
And not in mine own merit;  
On Him my soul shall rest, His word  
Upholds my fainting spirit;  
His promised mercy is my fort,  
My comfort and my sweet support;  
    I wait for it with patience  
    I wait for it with patience

Though great our sins and sore our woes  
His grace much more aboundeth;  
His helping love no limit knows,  
Our upmost need it soundeth.  
Our Shepherd good and true is He,  
Who will at last His Israel free  
    From all their sin and sorrow  
    From all their sin and sorrow

Words: Martin Luther; Music: Christopher Miner

# Confession of Faith | The Apostles' Creed

*We join the church in history by confessing this basic statement of what Christians believe.*

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,  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He 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 catholic\*\* church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*\*While Jesus didn't literally descend to hell, he did endure the torment of hell on the cross and remained under the power of death until his resurrection.*

*\*\*universal*



# The Offering

*In gratitude, we offer our gifts to God.*

*Children are now dismissed for TrinityKids (4 years old -2nd Grade). After the sermon, their teachers will return them to worship where they may come directly to you, or you may meet them in the back of the auditorium.*

## Labor of Love

It was not a silent night  
There was blood on the ground  
You could hear a woman cry  
In the alleyways that night  
On the streets of David's town

And the stable was not clean  
And the cobblestones were cold  
And little Mary full of grace  
With the tears upon her face  
Had no mother's hand to hold

*It was a labor of pain  
It was a cold sky above  
But for the girl on the ground in the dark  
With every beat of her beautiful heart  
It was a labor of love*

Noble Joseph at her side  
Callused hands and weary eyes  
There were no midwives to be found  
In the streets of David's town  
In the middle of the night

So he held her and he prayed  
Shafts of moonlight on his face  
But the baby in her womb  
He was the Maker of the moon  
He was the Author of the faith  
That could make the mountains move

Words & Music: Andrew Peterson

## The Prayers of the People

*We lift up our requests to God knowing that He hears us when we pray and conclude with an Advent prayer that focuses on Jesus' coming.*

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Reading of the Word

Isaiah 22:15-25; Revelation 3:7

*God speaks to us through His Word.*

**Isa. 22:15** Thus says the Lord GOD of hosts, "Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the household, and say to him: **16** What have you to do here, and whom have you here, that you have cut out here a tomb for yourself, you who cut out a tomb on the height and carve a dwelling for yourself in the rock? **17** Behold, the LORD will hurl you away violently, O you strong man. He will seize firm hold on you **18** and whirl you around and around, and throw you like a ball into a wide land. There you shall die, and there shall be your glorious chariots, you shame of your master's house. **19** I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from your station. **20** In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, **21** and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. **22** And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. **23** And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honor to his father's house. **24** And they will hang on him the whole honor of his father's house, the offspring and issue, every small vessel, from the cups to all the flagons. **25** In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, the peg that was fastened in a secure place



## The Celebration of Holy Communion

*Communion (also called the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist) is the family meal of baptized Christians. It's not a meal for good people. It's a meal for desperate people who trust in Jesus alone for salvation, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength and grace to live more faithfully with Jesus. You will be invited to come forward. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal today, we encourage you to use the prayers printed below and spend this time in reflection or prayer.*

*Children who have not received their first communion are welcome to come forward with their families. We invite children who are ready to make a public profession of faith in Christ to arrange a meeting with the elders, and thus become "communicants" at the Lord's Table.*

*\*Note about communion wine: The red inner cups in each tray contain non-alcoholic grape juice. The clear outer cups and the common cup contain wine.*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.  
Hallelujah!**

Pastor: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.  
Hallelujah!

**People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God.

## Prayers During Communion

### *A prayer for those searching for truth:*

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me the ability to follow you no matter what it might cost me. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

### *A prayer of belief:*

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead and are now representing me at the Father's right hand in heaven, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen.

### *A prayer for those struggling against sin:*

Lord Jesus, give me the ability to see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and desires, and help me to turn from every false source of satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

### *A prayer for covenant children who have not yet made a profession of faith:*

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow up in a Christian family where I am surrounded by the good news of the gospel. Help me to grow in my understanding of who you are and what you have done for me on the cross. Help me learn what it means for me to turn from my sins and trust in you alone for my salvation. Teach me what it means to follow you as one of your disciples. Amen.

# Hymns for Communion

## How Long?

How long? Will You turn Your face away?  
How long? Do You hear us when we pray?  
On and on, still we walk this pilgrim way - How long?

How long 'til Your children find their rest?  
How long 'til You draw them to Your breast?  
We go on holding to Your promises - How long?

*'Til You wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye  
'Til we see our home descending from the sky  
Do we wait in vain? Jesus, give us hope again!*

How long 'til Your word will still the storm?  
How long 'til You bare Your mighty arm?  
How we groan 'til You snatch us from the thorns - How long?

How long? Sweet the dawn that ends the race.  
How long? Weak our hearts but strong our legs.  
Looking on - great that cloud of witnesses! How long?

Words & Music: Isaac Wardell

## Magnificat

My soul magnifies the Lord	For He Who is mighty
My spirit rejoices in God	Has done great things for me
My soul magnifies the Lord	Holy, holy
My spirit rejoices in God	Holy, holy
	Holy, holy
	Is His name.

Words: Mary, mother of Jesus  
Music: Flo Paris Oakes

## Life at Trinity

### Departing Hymn | Once in Royal David's City

*We respond in faith and song.*

\*Children are invited to come to the front to lead & sing. Parents are also welcome.

Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid here baby  
In a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall:  
With the poor, the mean, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love,  
For that Child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in Heav'n above,  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see Him; but in Heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
Where like stars His children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander  
Music: Henry J. Gauntlett; Arr. by Sufjan Stevens

## The Benediction

*God sends us out with his blessing. A benediction is not a prayer. We don't bow our heads. We lift them up and even lift up our hands to receive his blessing as we are sent out as participants in His mission to Fort Worth.*

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

—1 Thessalonians 4:23-24 ESV

## The Sending

*The people of God are sent into the world to love God, love people, and love Fort Worth.*

Pastor: Let us go forth to serve Fort Worth and the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God!**



## Announcements

### Officer Nominations

Nominations to the offices of Elder and Deacon close TODAY.

Copies of the informational letter and the nomination form are available in the back of the sanctuary. Please submit signed nomination forms to Brian ([brian@trinitypresfw.org](mailto:brian@trinitypresfw.org)).

### Advent Morning Prayer

On Fridays during Advent (12/16, 12/23), we will meet at 645am in the sanctuary at Connell to pray together as a church. We will conclude by 715am. All are welcome.

### Trinity Christmas Party!

Our 2nd Annual Trinity Christmas Party for all adults (sorry kids!) is THIS THURSDAY (12/15) at the home of Mary Bates (3760 Country Club Circle), and we'd love for you to invite your friends & neighbors! Please RSVP to the email invitation by Monday, Dec. 12.

### Men's Hebrews Study

Guys, join one of two men's weekly studies. One meets from 1130am - 1245pm Tuesdays at Reata. The other meets 1130am - 1pm Thursdays at the Percifield house (3800 Arroyo). Contact Steve for more details ([steve@trinitypresfw.org](mailto:steve@trinitypresfw.org))

### Trinity Christmas Eve Service

Join us at 3pm on Dec. 24 for our family- & kid-friendly Trinity Christmas Eve Service! While there will be no nursery available, the entire service will involve children. **Please invite your friends and neighbors!**

# Information

## To the Parents of Young Children

Welcome! We are so glad you are here. We believe the church is for all people, even children, and we want Trinity to be a church where children are both seen and heard. So don't worry if your children wiggle in the pews or make a little noise! We invite you to keep your children in our service and help them understand what is going on, sing the songs with you, and participate in worship. Children learn how to worship by imitating you. We say parts of our worship service every week in order to help our non-reading children to participate, and we have children's bulletins available in the back. There are also ages, stages, and times when it might not be best for your children to be in worship. We have a nursery program that is set up to handle children from birth to 4 years old, and a TrinityKids program during the sermon for children 4 years old through 2nd grade. All nursery volunteers have been through both background checks and Ministry Safe training.

## The Liturgy

Our order of worship may be new to you. Every worship service in every church has a structure. We want to be intentional about ours as it is a real back-and-forth conversation between us and God. He calls us to worship, and then we respond and move through the different elements of the service. We have both spontaneous, personal prayers as well as ancient, printed prayers. Please look over the service beforehand to see what we will hear and say along the way.

## 4pm

We plan on meeting at 4pm for the foreseeable future. We hope you will enjoy a Sunday morning to sleep in, spend time with your non-church going friends and neighbors or relax with your family and friends.

## Welcome Notepads

At some point during service, a welcome pad will be passed down your row. We would love for you to fill it out and pass it to the person on your right, so that we will have record of your visit. We promise we won't spam you.

## Youth Group @ FWPC

The youth group (grades 6-12) at our sending church meets on Sunday evenings at FWPC (6251 Oakmont Trail) at 530pm. All youth volunteers have been through both background checks and Ministry Safe training. If you're interested in joining the carpool of Trinity students attending, please contact Wade Jewett ([jewettwade@gmail.com](mailto:jewettwade@gmail.com)).

## Interested in Helping with Music?

We are always looking to add to our great team of musicians. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Wade Jewett ([jewettwade@gmail.com](mailto:jewettwade@gmail.com)).

## Online Giving

If you'd prefer to give online as either a one-time gift or as a recurring gift, you may do so through our website: [www.trinitypresfw.org/give](http://www.trinitypresfw.org/give)

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## Pastoral Staff

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*Trinity exists to embrace, embody, and extend the redemptive message of Jesus to the people and places of Fort Worth and beyond.*

*We are a church plant of Fort Worth Presbyterian Church and a part of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).*