



**TRINITY**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Trinity Presbyterian Church

Love God. Love People. Love Fort Worth.

## Words for Reflection

He is a Light for us when all other lights go out.

-Timothy Keller

Christmas is God's yes to the question: Does God want anything to do with my messy life?

-Darrin Patrick

# Order of Worship

Christmas Day

— December 25, 2016 —

## 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.*

Christ is born!

**Alleluia!**

Jesus is among us!

**Alleluia!**

The Word has become flesh!

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Hymn of Praise | Joy to the World

*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.*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let men their songs employ;

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Words: Isaac Watts; Music: George F. Handel

## 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.*

Our Father and Our God,

We confess our indifference and distraction towards the Incarnation of Your Son Jesus that arises so easily in our hearts. Forgive us for our sins, which are many. Thank You for sending Jesus into the world to rescue us from our sin. Create awe in our hearts for the wonder of Your condescending love. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

## Silent Confession

## Assurance of Forgiveness

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

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

—Luke 2:10-11 ESV

# Hymn of Response | God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

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

God rest ye merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
Remember, Christ, our Savior  
Was born on Christmas day,  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray;  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our Heav'nly Father,  
A blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by Name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

"Fear not then," said the angel,  
"Let nothing you affright;  
This day is born a Savior  
Of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in Him  
From Satan's power and might."  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding,  
In tempest, storm and wind:  
And went to Bethlehem straightway  
The Son of God to find.  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Words & Music: Traditional English Carol

## The Offering

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

## The Reading of the Word

John 1:1-5

*God speaks to us through His Word.*

**1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## The Preaching of the Word

Pastor Brian Davis

*That You May Have Life: The Gospel According to John  
"By Shining Light Into Our Darkness"*





## 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

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him, born the king of angels:

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, in the highest:

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord.

Words: John F. Wade

Music: Adeste Fideles

## Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Words & Music: Charles Wesley

Life at Trinity

## Departing Hymn | Go Tell It on the Mountain

*We respond in faith and song.*

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

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching  
Over silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens,  
There shone a holy light:

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth:

Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born  
And God send us salvation,  
That blessed Christmas morn:

Words & Music: African-American Spiritual; Arr. by John W. Work

## 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 True Light shine on you. May the Son of God be your guide and strength. May you go in peace and live in hope.

## 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

### Men's Hebrews Study

The Men's Hebrews Study will break for Christmas and pick up again after the holidays. Contact Steve ([steve@trinitypresfw.org](mailto:steve@trinitypresfw.org)) with any questions.

### Interested in Becoming a Member of Trinity?

If you're interested in joining Trinity or learning more about who we are as a church, we'd love for you to join us for our membership seminar on **Saturday, January 21 from 9am to 1230pm at the Davis home**. Please RSVP to Brian ([brian@trinitypresfw.org](mailto:brian@trinitypresfw.org)).

# 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.

## 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.

## 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).*