



TRINITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Love God. Love People. Love Fort Worth.

Words for Reflection

Advent isn't a holiday party. It doesn't pressure us to conjure up a hopeful face, ring bells, and dismiss the foulest realities we face. Advent isn't about our best world, it's about our worst world. I think we eat the chocolate and put on the pageants because we don't want to face the worst.

-Christena Cleveland

Self-invented punishment does not cleanse. Christ alone cleanses. Christ all by himself. Now and forever. And on terms of grace.

-Ray Ortlund

Ironically, our desire to clean ourselves actually minimizes the problem of uncleanness. It assumes we can give ourselves a good enough scrubbing to get a little holy before we meet the Holy One. But beware of any approach to uncleanness that doesn't rely on the cleansing power of God. The reality is that unclean people can't wash anything. Only the Holy One can make us holy.

-Ed Welch

Order of Worship

The Second Sunday of Advent
— December 10, 2017 —

Prelude

*Gather 'round, remember now
How creation held its breath
How it let out a sigh
And it filled up the sky with the angels
Son of God, Son of Man*

*So sing out with joy for the brave little boy
Who was God, but He made Himself nothing
He gave up His pride and He came here to die
Like a man*

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:

I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and rebuild them as they were at first. I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.

—Jeremiah 33:7-8 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 | Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

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.

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee
Day-spring from on high appear
Come thou promised Rod of Jesse
Of Thy birth we long to hear
O'er the hills the angels singing
News glad tidings of a birth
Go to him your praises bringing
Christ the Lord has come to earth.

Come to earth to taste our sadness
He whose glories knew no end
By his life he brings us gladness
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend
Leaving riches without number
Born within a cattle stall
This the everlasting wonder
Christ was born Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley
Music: Rowland Prichard

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.

Most Merciful God,

We confess to You that the filth and stain of sin in our lives is very real. We have run from You and in so doing, have defiled ourselves. We acknowledge that we cannot wash ourselves or make ourselves clean. We pray that You would cleanse us through the single sacrifice of Christ for our sins. O come, O come, Savior of the world. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

—Ezekiel 36:25-27 ESV

Song of Response | How Deep

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

You were broken that I might be healed
You were cast off that I might draw near
You were thirsty that I might come drink
Cried out in anguish that I might sing

*How deep is Your love
How high and how wide is Your mercy
How deep is Your grace
Our hearts overflow with praise
To You*

You knew darkness that I might know light
Wept great tears that mine might be dried
Stripped of glory that I might be clothed
Crushed by Your Father to call me Your own

Words & Music: Stephen Altrogge

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.

This is the Christ

Good news from heaven the angels bring
Glad tidings to the earth they sing
To us this day a child is given
To crown us with the joy of heaven

*This is the Christ, our God and Lord
Who in all need shall aid afford
He will himself our savior be
And from our sins will set us free*

All hail, thou noble guest this morn
Whose love did not the sinner scorn
In my distress thou come'st to me
What thanks shall I return to thee?

Were earth a thousand times as fair
Beset with gold and jewels rare
She yet were far too poor to be
A narrow cradle, Lord, for thee...

Praise God upon his heavenly throne
Who gave to us his only son
For this his hosts on joyful wing
A blessed New Year of mercy sing

Words: Martin Luther
Music: Sandra McCracken

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.

Merciful God, who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Reading of the Word

Hebrews 10:1-4, 11-14, 19-25

God speaks to us through His Word.

10:1 For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. **2** Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? **3** But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. **4** For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. **12** But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, **13** waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. **14** For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, **20** by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, **21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean

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

Magnificat

My soul magnifies the Lord
My spirit rejoices in God
My soul magnifies the Lord
My spirit rejoices in God

For He Who is mighty
Has done great things for me
Holy, holy
Holy, holy
Holy, holy
Is His name.

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

Nothing But the Blood

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

*Oh! Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

For my pardon, this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing, this my plea,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Naught of good that I have done,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Words & Music: Robert Lowry

Departing Hymn | Thy Mercy My God

We respond in faith and song.

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

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart. and the boast of my tongue;
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;
But, through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive,
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

Words: John Stocker

Music: Sandra McCracken

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!

Join us for

CHRISTMAS EVE AT TRINITY

3PM | 4736 BRYCE AVE



TRINITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Announcements

Nominations to the Diaconate

Nominations for Deacon & Deaconess close TODAY (Sunday, Dec. 10). 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).

Advent Morning Prayer

During the Tuesdays of Advent (12/12 & 12/19), we will meet at 645am in the Chapel at Connell to pray together as a church. We will conclude by 715am. All are welcome.

Children's Christmas Party

Join us immediately following worship TODAY until 7pm for our Children's Christmas Party! We'll have activities for children up through 5th grade and a pizza dinner for all. **Everyone is invited to join us whether you have children or not!** Suggested donation: \$5. Contact Jeanette Davis (children@trinitypresfw.org) with questions.

Christmas Tea & Open House

Ladies & girls of all ages and stages are invited to a Christmas tea Sunday, Dec. 17 at the home of Mary Bates (3760 Country Club Circle). Please drop in for punch, cookies, and Christmas cheer **between 130pm and 330pm**. Pick up an invitation for details. Consider this a great opportunity to invite a friend, roommate, or family member to a Trinity event. **Please RSVP to Sherry (sherrydenton@me.com)**.

Trinity Christmas Party!

Our 3rd Annual Trinity Christmas Party for all adults (sorry kids!) is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 14 at 730pm at the home of Mary Bates (3760 Country Club Circle), and we'd love for you to invite your friends and neighbors who might like to meet some other folks from Trinity!

Trinity Women's Spring Bible Study

Trinity will host an 10-week Spring Women's Bible Study in the book of Hosea beginning Friday, Jan. 12. The morning study with child-care meets Fridays 930-11am at Connell. The evening home group meets Wednesdays 7-8:30pm in the TCU area. Register and pay \$10 for your study materials online Dec 1-31 at www.trinitypresfw.org. Questions? Contact Kitty Wooten (kawooten@sbcglobal.net).

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!**

Budget Update through October

Our fiscal year runs June - May. Here's where we are through Oct:

Total Income	Actual Expenses	Net Income
\$282,015.16	\$229,843.41	\$52,171.75

As a reminder, your faithful giving sustains not only our church but also supports other churches and ministries such as Rivertree Academy. If you'd like a YTD statement, please contact Abbie (admin@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. Parents often check their children out of the nursery and/or TrinityKids prior to Communion so that they can help lead us in our departing hymn.

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).

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).

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. Giving is seen only by the deacon & the team in charge of counting the offering for that particular day and by our Administrative Assistant.

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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 congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).