



TRINITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Love God. Love People. Love Fort Worth.

Words for Reflection

Advent is interruption—God showing up in unexpected times, places, and ways. Pay attention to interruptions; discover disruptive grace.

-Duke Kwon

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

The people who were longing for God alone to be their king were clinging to the hope set out in scripture: the hope that, after all these years, Israel's God would return to be with his people, to rescue them, to restore them, to condemn their oppressors, to take charge, to do justice, to sort things out, to rule over them like a good king should, but unlike any actual human king they had ever known.

-N. T. Wright

Order of Worship

The Third Sunday of Advent

— December 17, 2017 —

Prelude

*Therefore God exalted Him
To the place of highest praises
And He gave Him a name above every name
That at the very name of Jesus, Son of God*

*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:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

—Isaiah 9:6-7 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.

I will extol you, my God and King,

and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you

and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,

and his greatness is unsearchable.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

—Psalm 145:1-3, 13 ESV

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 in Heaven,

We praise You for sending Your one and only Son Jesus to be our King who rules in truth and grace. We say that we long for his coming, but in truth we are often more wrapped up in the gifts that You give us than we are in You Yourself. Forgive us through the blood of our King and strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit so that we may delight in his presence with us and long for his return. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

○ 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,
○ who shall stand before Thee?
○ 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

What though I wait the live-long night,
And 'til the dawn appeareth,
My heart still trusteth in His might;
It doubteth not nor feareth;
Do thus, O ye of Israel's seed,
Ye of the Spirit born indeed;
 And wait 'til God appeareth
 And wait 'til God appeareth

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.

Once in Royal David's City

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.

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

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

Luke 1:26-38

God speaks to us through His Word.

1:26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" **29** But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. **30** And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." **34** And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" **35** And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. **36** And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God." **38** And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

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

What Child is This?

What Child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste, to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through;
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh;
Come peasant, king to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Words & Music: Traditional English Carol

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 to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

—Jude 24-25 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



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Announcements

Advent Morning Prayer

On Tuesdays during Advent (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.

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!**

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).

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).

Men's Spring Bible Study

Our Men's Bible Study will also study Hosea. The **Wednesday Breakfast group** will meet from 630-745am at La Madeleine (4626 SW Loop 820). The **Thursday Lunch group** will meet from 1145am - 100pm at Titus Oil & Gas (100 Throckmorton, Ste. 1630). **Start date TBD**. Contact Steve (steve@trinitypresfw.org) for more information.

Trinity Winter Seminar

Join us for **3 Mondays in January (1/15, 1/22, 1/29) from 630pm to 730pm** at Connell for our Winter Seminar. Winter Seminars are an opportunity for some focused teaching on a particular topic. This January, Steve will be teaching on the topic of outreach to our friends and neighbors. More details TBA. Contact Steve (steve@trinitypresfw.org) for more information.

Online Church Directory

Our church directory app is available by searching in your app store for "Instant Church Directory." After downloading, enter your email address, and you'll be sent a password. **Please submit a recent photo** (full family, if applicable) **to Abbie** (admin@trinitypresfw.org). **If you see corrections or additions to be made, contact Abbie.**

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).