



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 Eve

— December 24, 2017 —

Prelude

*So in heav'n and earth and below
Every knee would bow in worship
And ev'ry tongue would proclaim
That Jesus, He reigns with the angels*

*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*

*Gather 'round, ye children, come
Listen to the old, old story
Of the pow'r of Death undone
By an infant born of glory
Son of God, Son of 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:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

—Isaiah 9:2 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.

Pastor: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

People: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Pastor: And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

People: Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest!

People: And on earth peace, good will toward men!

—Based on Luke 2:10-15 ESV

Hymn of Praise | O Come, All Ye Faithful

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.

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

Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-20

God speaks to us through His Word.

2:8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. **10** And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" **15** When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." **16** And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. **17** And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. **18** And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. **20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise | 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.

While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks

While shepherds watched their flocks by night
All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around

"Fear not!" said he; for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled minds
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind

To you in David's house this day
Is born of David's line
The Savior who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign:

The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands
And in a manger laid"

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Christ is born
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Christ is born

"All glory be to God on high
And to the earth be peace
Good will henceforth from God to man
Begin and never cease"

Words: Nahum Tate
Music: Andrew Peterson

The Homily
Pastor Brian Davis

"The Light of the Whole World"

Sermon Notes

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.

Hymn for Communion

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

Joy to the World

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

The Lighting of the Candles

Departing Hymn | Silent Night

We respond in faith and song.

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heav'n afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia,
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Words: Isaac Watts

Music: George F. Handel

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.

Jesus is the Word made flesh in our midst. May his Incarnation fill your hearts with joy and peace, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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!

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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).