



TRINITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Love God. Love People. Love Fort Worth.

Words for Reflection

I think there must be something wrong with me, Linus. Christmas is coming, but I'm not happy. I don't feel the way I'm supposed to feel. I just don't understand Christmas I guess. I like getting presents, and getting Christmas cards, and decorating trees and all that, but I'm still not happy. I always end up feeling depressed.

– Charlie Brown

The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come.

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The gospel gives me hope, and hope is not a language that the dark voices understand.

– Andrew Peterson

Order of Worship

The First Sunday of Advent

— December 2, 2018 —

Prelude

*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.*

Words: Charles Wesley; Music: Rowland Prichard

Advent Reading & Candle Lighting

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

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

—Isaiah 40:3-5 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.

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
 my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.

Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live;
in your name I will lift up my hands.

—Psalm 63:1-4 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.

Our Father in Heaven,

We thank You that You have sent Your Son into the world to set us free from our fears and to release us from our sins. We praise You that he is the one in whom we find rest. But we confess how easily we return to the fears and sins in which we once walked. We pray that You would have mercy on us through the one who has redeemed those who were under the law. Forgive us and rouse in us by Your Holy Spirit the true hope and expectation of our coming king. In his name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

—Galatians 4:4-5 ESV

Hymn of Response | All I Have is Christ

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

I once was lost in darkest night
Yet thought I knew the way
The sin that promised joy and life
Had led me to the grave
I had no hope that You would own
A rebel to Your will
And if You had not loved me first
I would refuse You still

But as I ran my hell-bound race
Indifferent to the cost
You looked upon my helpless state
And led me to the cross
And I beheld God's love displayed
You suffered in my place
You bore the wrath reserved for me
Now all I know is grace

*Hallelujah! All I have is Christ
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life*

Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone
And live so all might see
The strength to follow Your commands
Could never come from me
Oh Father, use my ransomed life
In any way You choose
And let my song forever be
My only boast is You (*Chorus*)

Words & Music: Jordan Kauflin

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 sanctuary.

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

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 saints Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

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: Sandra McCracken, Derek Webb

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.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Reading of the Word

Galatians 4:1-7

God speaks to us through His Word.

4:1 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, **2** but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. **3** In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. **4** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. **6** And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" **7** So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Preaching of the Word

Pastor Brian Davis

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
"Born to Set Thy People Free"

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.

Hymns for Communion

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? (*Chorus*)

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 (*Chorus*)

Words: Martin Luther
Music: Sandra McCracken

Jesus, I Come

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.

Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.

Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.

Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Words: William True Sleeper; Music: Greg Thompson

Life at Trinity

Departing Hymn | And Can It Be?

We respond in faith and song.

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

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me who caused His pain!
For me who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, should die for me?

*Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!*

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace!
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!
(Chorus)

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
(Chorus)

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
(Chorus)

Words: Charles Wesley
Music: Scott Roley

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

Trinity College Student Dinners

All college students, our next dinner for you is TODAY at the home of Kitty and Mark Wooten (1712 Tremont Ave) directly following worship.

Wassail for Water

We will be hosting a Christmas outreach event at Fort Brewery (1001 Magnolia Ave) on Saturday evening December 8th at 7pm as Wade and members of our amazing music team will lead us in some lively caroling! We will be raising money for a life-giving organization called "The Water Project" (thewaterproject.org). This event is a great opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, and coworkers who may feel more comfortable in a non-church environment. Questions? Contact Maggie (richards.maggie@gmail.com).

Children's Christmas Party

For Second Sundays plan to join us immediately following worship until 7pm on Sunday, Dec. 9 for our Children's Christmas Party! We'll have activities for children up through 4th grade and a pizza dinner for all. The Five Six will have their own Christmas festivities during this time. **Everyone is invited to join us whether you have children or not!** Suggested donation: \$5. Contact Jeanette (children@trinitypresfw.org) with questions and to RSVP for pizza.

Trinity Christmas Party!

Our 4th Annual Trinity Christmas Party for all adults (sorry kids!) is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 13 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!

Advent Morning Prayer

During the Thursdays of Advent (beginning 12/6) we will meet at 645am in the chapel of Connell to pray together as a church. We will conclude by 715am. All are welcome.

John Cox Parenting Seminar

Join us Jan 11-12 at Connell for a parenting seminar with Dr. John Cox entitled "Heads Up Parenting: Learning to Parent Without Fear" The Friday night session will be from 630pm - 830pm. The Saturday session will be 9am - 12pm. Nursery is available on Saturday only by reservation. Register online at www.trinitypresfw.org. Cost is \$100/couple; \$50/individual but scholarships are available. Contact Patsy Butler (pjbutler@sbcglobal.net) with questions.

Christmas Tea and Open House

Ladies & girls of all ages and stages are invited to an afternoon Christmas tea Sunday, Dec. 16 at the home of Mary Bates (3760 Country Club Circle). Details to come!

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!

Plan Ahead for Women's Spring Bible Study

This spring our women will be studying "1 Peter: A Living Hope in Christ" beginning January 18 with a Friday morning 930-11am study with childcare at Connell and Wednesday evenings 7-930pm in Emily Pybus's home beginning January 23. Please mark your calendars, invite friends, and register and pay \$20 online through January 13. Questions? Contact 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 7-12) 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 Church Administrator.

Church Contact Information

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Greg Barker

*On sabbatical

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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).