



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 authentically *hopeful* Christmas spirit has not looked away from the darkness, but straight into it. The true and victorious Christmas spirit does not look away from death, but directly at it. Otherwise, the message is cheap and false.

– Fleming Rutledge

Nothing was so necessary in order to raise our hope, as that we should be shown how much God loves us. What could more plainly declare this to us than that the Son of God should deign to take our nature upon himself?

– St. Augustine

Order of Worship

The Third Sunday of Advent

— December 16, 2018 —

Prelude

*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 the Lord of all.*

Words: Mark Hunt; 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:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

—Isaiah 7:14 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 | Once in Royal David's City

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.

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.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in Heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander

Music: Henry J. Gauntlett; Arr. by Sufjan Stevens

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.

Gracious Father and Loving God,
Forgive us our sins, and cleanse our hearts through the shed blood of Your Son Jesus. Fill us with hope where there has been despair, compassion where there has been indifference, and faith where there has been unbelief. Help us to live in reliance upon Your grace. Protect us from growing callous to the glory of Christ's Incarnation and the hope of his return. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

—Isaiah 53:4-5 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
(Chorus)

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 sanctuary.

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 forever. Amen.

The Reading of the Word Isaiah 53:3-6; Hebrews 4:14-16

God speaks to us through His Word.

Isa. 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. **4** Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. **5** But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. **6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

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

Heal Us, Emmanuel

*Heal us, Emmanuel, here we are
We long to feel Thy touch
Deep wounded souls to Thee we fly
Oh Savior, hear our cry*

Our faith is feeble, we confess
We faintly trust Thy word;
But will You pity us the less?
Be that far from You Lord!
(Chorus)

Remember him who once applied
With trembling for relief;
"Lord, I believe," with tears he cried;
"O help my unbelief!"
(Chorus)

She, too, who touched You in the press
And healing virtue stole,
Was answered, "Daughter, go in peace;
Thy faith has made thee whole."
(Chorus)

Like her, with hopes and fears we come
To touch You if we may;
O send us not despairing home;
Send none unhealed away.
(Chorus)

Words: William Cowper
Music: Kevin Twit

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: *(Chorus)*

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

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

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.

And Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

—Romans 15:12-13 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
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Announcements

Advent Morning Prayer

During the Thursdays of Advent 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.

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.

Budget Update through October

Our fiscal year runs June – May. Here’s where we are through Oct:

Total Income	Actual Expenses	Net Income
\$321,927.34	\$266,884.19	\$55,043.15

As a reminder, your faithful giving sustains not only our church but also supports other churches and ministries such as RUF campus pastors and interns. If you’d like a YTD statement, please contact Courtney (admin@trinitypresfw.org).

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 Courtney (admin@trinitypresfw.org). If you see corrections or additions to be made, contact Courtney.

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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Deacon of the Day

Mark Evans

*On sabbatical

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Love God. Love People. Love Fort Worth.

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Web: www.trinitypresfw.org

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).