



TRINITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Liturgy for Home Worship

The First Sunday of Advent
— November 29, 2020 —

Words for Reflection

The church lives in Advent. That is to say, the church lives between two advents. Jesus Christ has come; Jesus Christ will come. We do not know the day or the hour. If you find this tension almost unbearable at times, then you understand the Christian life.

-Fleming Rutledge

All fear is but the notion that God's love ends.

-Ann Voskamp

Fear is not a Christian habit of mind.

-Marilynne Robinson

The heart converted from mistrust to trust in the irreversible forgiveness of Jesus Christ is redeemed from the corrosive power of fear.

-Brennan Manning

Advent Reading & Candle Lighting

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

—Psalm 27:14 ESV

Reader: Prepare the way of the Lord. We light this candle in longing, waiting for our coming Savior, Jesus, who will come again to make all things new.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

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

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 You've redeemed and ransomed us, and that You will remain with us always. 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 Jesus' sacrificial death on the Cross. 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.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—Romans 8:35, 37-39 ESV

Hymn of Response | His Mercy is More

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

What love could remember, no wrongs we
have done

Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not
their sum

Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

What patience would wait as we constantly
roam

What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the
poor

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

Praise the Lord

His mercy is more

Stronger than darkness

New every morn'

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the
cost

We stood 'neath a debt we could never
afford

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

Words & Music: Matt Papa, Matt Boswell

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. You may give online at www.trinitypresfn.org/give or through the Church Center App.

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 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 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.

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.

Hymn for Communion | We Are Not Overcome

Flesh will fail, bones will break
Thieves will steal, the earth will shake
Night will fall, the light will fade
The Lord will give and take away.

*Because of His great love,
We are not overcome
Because of His great love,
We are not overcome*

Put no trust in the earth
In the sod you stand upon
Flowers fade into dust,
The Lord will make a place for us.

Have no fear for your life;
Turn your cheek, turn your cheek
Bear the yoke of love and death;
The Lord will give life and breath.
(Chorus)

Words & Music: Robert Heiskell & Isaac Wardell

Life at Trinity

Departing Hymn | Father, Long Before Creation

We respond in faith and song.

Father, long before creation
Thou hast chosen us in love,
And that love so deep, so moving,
Draws us close to Christ above.
Still it keeps us, still it keeps us.
Firmly fixed in Christ alone.

Though the world may change its fashion,
Yet our God is e'er the same;
His compassion and His covenant
Through all ages will remain.
God's own children, God's own children
Must forever praise His name.

God's compassion is my story,
Is my boasting all the day;
Mercy free and never failing
Moves my will, directs my way.
God so loved us, God so loved us
That His only Son He gave.

Loving Father now before Thee
We will ever praise Thy love,
And our songs will sound unceasing
'Til we reach our home above,
Giving glory, giving glory
To our God and to the Lamb;

Words: Francis Johnson; Music: Andrew Osenga

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.

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!

* CCLI #5043663 – all songs used by permission

Announcements

Christmas Celebration

Covid may have cancelled our annual Christmas party, but we still want to raise a glass (of hot chocolate) together. Please join us after worship on Dec 6 in the parking lot for a quick treat!

Membership Seminar

We will be having a new member seminar in the sanctuary at Connell on Dec 5, from 9am-1230pm. If you are interested in becoming a member at Trinity or you would like to learn more about Trinity and get the full scoop on becoming a member, please join us! We'll meet at Connell in the sanctuary and will observe all of the same social distancing guidelines that we do on Sundays. Please register on the Church Center app under "Events" or email Courtney (admin@trinitypresfw.org) to get set up.

Women's Fall Bible Study

This fall (September-November) we are studying Genesis: The Savior Behind the Stories and meeting using various small group formats to fit your Covid comfort level and schedule. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Susan (susan@trinitypresfw.org).

Mission Spotlight

Trinity Christmas Giving Tree

Join us in supporting our local ministry partners this Christmas. Look for the tree in the foyer at church. There are ornaments with gifts listed on the back to purchase for our partners. Select an ornament this Sunday and help bless the people served by DASH, the Net, Pregnancy Lifeline, and Rivertree Academy. There will be boxes in the foyer to place gifts through Dec 13.

You can also drop-off here:

Church office: Tues/Thursdays 12-330pm (3750 S. University)
Sherry Denton/Pregnancy Lifeline gifts (2304 Medford Ct., W.)
Emily Williams/Rivertree gifts (5500 Dennis Ave)
Jonathan Dumas/DASH gifts (4416 Stonedale Rd)
Brendan Reagan/the Net gifts (2529 Cockrell Ave)

If you cannot grab one of the physical tree items, or if you are not attending church in person, we have set up a fund specifically for the giving tree on our Church Center giving page. You can give in any amount you like, and funds will be allocated to purchase items for our partner ministries. Please select "Trinity Christmas Giving Tree" in the drop-down menu to make sure your donation is allocated appropriately.

