



TRINITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Liturgy for Home Worship

The Third Sunday of Advent
— December 13, 2020 —

Words for Reflection

No matter how much the world shatters us to pieces, we carry inside us a vision of wholeness that we sense is our true home and that beckons us.

-Frederick Buechner

Certainly there was an Eden on this very unhappy earth. We all long for it, and we are constantly glimpsing it: our whole nature at its best and least corrupted, its gentlest and most humane, is still soaked with the sense of "exile."

-J. R. R. Tolkien

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

-Andrew Peterson

Look up, you whose eyes are heavy with tears and who are heavy and who are crying over the fact that the earth has gracelessly torn us away. Look up, you who, burdened with guilt, cannot lift your eyes. Look up, your redemption is drawing near. Something different from what you see daily will happen. Just be aware, be watchful, wait just another short moment. Wait and something quite new will break over you: God will come.

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Advent Reading & Candle Lighting

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior . . ."

—from the Magnificat, Luke 1:46-47 ESV

Reader: Prepare the way of the Lord. We light this candle in *joy*, the joy that we have in Jesus, our Messiah and greatest treasure. He loves us with an everlasting love.

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.

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

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 confess that we long for joy and gladness but that we are frequently overcome by our sin and disgrace. We acknowledge our tendency to look elsewhere for the joy and gladness that only You can provide. Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive us and rouse in us by Your Holy Spirit a joyful hope and expectation for our Coming King. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.
—Matthew 1:21 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. 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.

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 35:1-10

God speaks to us through His Word.

35:1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; **2** it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. **3** Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. **4** Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." **5** Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; **6** then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; **7** the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. **8** And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. **9** No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. **10** And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Preaching of the Word

Pastor Brian Davis

A Weary World Rejoices

"Weary from Our Exile"

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 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 Will Feast in the House of Zion

*We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
“He has done great things,” we will say
together.
We will feast and weep no more.*

We will not be burned by the fire,
He is the Lord our God.
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up.

In the dark of night before the dawn,
My soul be not afraid.
For the promised morning, o how long?
O God of Jacob be my strength.

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the faithful one.
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together bring shalom.

Words & Music: Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore

Life at Trinity

Departing Hymn | Joy to the World

We respond in faith and song.

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 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

Women's Fall Bible Study

Our study on Genesis is a wrap! Thanks to all who participated in our women's bible study, covid-style! We look forward to studying "Hebrews: Jesus Seals the Deal" beginning in late January. More info to come after the holidays on how to participate.

Mission Spotlight

Trinity Christmas Giving Tree

Join us in supporting our local ministry partners this Christmas. Today is the last day to bring your unwrapped gifts!

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.

