



TRINITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Liturgy for Home Worship

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
— December 20, 2020 —

Words for Reflection

Jesus' mission was to die. The shadow of the cross fell across his cradle. The only Son of God was born in Bethlehem in order to absorb the inevitable penalty of our sin.

-Cornelius Plantinga

[Christmas] means not just hope for the world, despite all its unending problems, but hope for you and me, despite all our unending failings.

-Tim Keller

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

But this child was a new kind of king. Though he was the Prince of Heaven, he had become poor. Though he was the Mighty God, he had become a helpless baby. This King hadn't come to be the boss. He had come to be a servant.

-Sally Lloyd-Jones

Advent Reading & Candle Lighting

"Because of the tender mercy of our God, the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

—from the Benedictus, Luke 1:78-79 ESV

Reader: Prepare the way of the Lord. We light this candle in *peace*, the peace that Jesus, our Savior, gives to the world. He has reconciled us to the Father and to one another.

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.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David
to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

—Luke 1:68-69, 72, 79 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.

Most Merciful Father,

We thank You that through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus, the True Suffering Servant, has done everything necessary to take away our sin. He died in order to give us peace with You. Yet, Lord, we acknowledge the ongoing tendency of our hearts to doubt Your love for us and to live as if we were still Your enemies. Forgive us through the blood of his Cross and enable us by Your Spirit to rejoice in the hope of his coming Kingdom. 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

Hymn of Response | What Child Is This?

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

What Child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste, to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through;

The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh;
Come peasant, king to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Words & Music: Traditional English Carol

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.trinitypresby.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.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by Your daily visitation, that Your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Reading of the Word

Isaiah 53:1-6

God speaks to us through His Word.

53:1 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? **2** For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. **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.

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 Guilt"

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 | Who Is This, So Weak and Helpless?

Who is this, so weak and helpless,
Child of lowly Hebrew maid,
Rudely in a stable sheltered,
Coldly in a manger laid?
Tis the Lord of all creation,
Who this wondrous path has trod;
He is Lord from everlasting,
And to everlasting God.

Who is this, a Man of Sorrows,
Walking sadly life's hard way,
Homeless, weary, sighing, weeping
Over sin and Satan's sway?
Tis our God, our glorious Savior,

Who above the starry sky
Is for us a place preparing,
Where no tear can dim the eye.

Who is this? Behold him shedding
Drops of blood upon the ground!
Who is this, despised, rejected,
Mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?
Tis our God, Who gifts and graces
On His church is pouring down;
Who shall smite in holy vengeance
All His foes beneath His throne.

Who is this that hangs there dying

While the rude world scoffs and scorns,
Numbered with the malefactors,
Torn with nails, and crowned with thorns?
Tis our God Who lives forever
Mid the shining ones on high,

In the glorious golden city,
Reigning everlastingly.

Words: William Walsham How; Music: Christopher Miner

Life at Trinity

Departing Hymn | Go Tell It on the Mountain

We respond in faith and song.

*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.

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.

Christmas Eve Services

Join us 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. We will have a 1pm service and a 3pm service. You can RSVP on the Church Center app. **It is very important that you RSVP so that we can safely follow our usual social distancing protocols.** Please invite your friends and neighbors!

Five Six

We are excited to announce we will be (safely) resuming our Five Six program January 10! Details to come. Questions? Contact Wade (jewettwade@gmail.com).

Letter from a Birmingham Jail: Reading and Discussion Night

Mark your calendars for 7pm on Thursday, January 14 as we read and discuss Dr. Martin Luther King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." Dr. King wrote this letter while imprisoned for participating in nonviolent protests against racial injustice in 1963, and it eventually became a central text for the Civil Rights movement. It's also essential reading for Christians who want to learn more about race and justice in society and cross-cultural community in the Church. We'll meet at Connell in the Sanctuary and will observe all of the same social distancing guidelines that we do on Sundays. More info to come.

