



TRINITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Liturgy for Home Worship

Christmas Eve

— December 24, 2020 —

Words for Reflection

He is a Light for us when all other lights go out.

-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

The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity—hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory—because at the Father’s will Jesus Christ became poor and was born in a stable so that thirty years later he might hang on a cross. It is the most wonderful message that the world has ever heard, or will hear.

-J. I. Packer

Advent Reading & Candle Lighting

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

—John 1:14 ESV

Reader: Joy to the world, the Lord is come! We light this candle because Jesus, the light of the world, was born among us! The light of his glory will shine forever and will scatter all the darkness away.

People: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

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.

Pastor: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

People: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Pastor: And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

People: Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest!

People: And on earth peace, good will toward men!

—Based on Luke 2:10-15 ESV

Hymn of Praise | O Come All Ye Faithful

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.

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the king of angels:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Words: John F. Wade; Music: Adeste Fideles

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.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7

God speaks to us through His Word.

1:26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" **29** But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. **30** And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." **34** And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" **35** And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. **36** And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God." **38** And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

2:1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** And all went to be registered, each to his own town. **4** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, **5** to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. **6** And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Response | God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

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

God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember, Christ, our Savior
Was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our Heav'nly Father,
A blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by Name.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

"Fear not then," said the angel,
"Let nothing you affright;

This day is born a Savior
Of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's power and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding,
In tempest, storm and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway
The Son of God to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Words & Music: Traditional English Carol

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 Homily

Pastor Brian Davis

"He's Here!"

Hymn for Communion | Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,

Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
Words & Music: Charles Wesley

The Lighting of Candles

An assistant will come to each pew to light the candle of the first person in the row. Please only tilt the unlit candle towards the flame of a lit candle. Once your candle is lit, please keep it upright at all times. Resist the impulse to tilt your candle to light the next person's candle. The person next to you will then tilt their unlit candle to your candle. Use caution and avoid hair, clothing, and other flammables. Also use caution with the hot melted wax. Parents, or other adults, please assist small children.

Departing Hymn | Silent Night

We respond in faith and song.

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heav'n afar,

Heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia,
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr; Music: Franz Gruber

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.

Jesus is the Word made flesh in our midst. May his Incarnation fill your hearts with joy and peace, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.

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.

