



TRINITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Liturgy for Home Worship

The First Sunday of Christmas
— December 27, 2020 —

Words for Reflection

Corporate worship is designed to present the gospel so hearts gripped with complaint become ignited by worshipful gratitude.

-Paul Tripp

Christianity says God has been all the places you have been; he has been in the darkness you are in now, and more. And, therefore, you can trust him; you can rely on him, because he knows and has the power to comfort, strengthen, and bring you through.

-Tim Keller

Thankfulness is a soil in which pride does not easily grow.

-Michael Ramsey

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.

The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
 on them has light shone.
For to us a child is born,
 to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
 and his name shall be called
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

—Isaiah 9:2, 6 ESV

Hymn of Praise | Joy to the World

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.

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

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 and Our God,

We confess our indifference and distraction towards the Incarnation of Your Son Jesus that arises so easily in our hearts. Forgive us for our sins, which are many. Thank You for sending Jesus into the world to rescue us from our sin. Create awe in our hearts for the wonder of Your condescending love. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

—Luke 2:10-11 ESV

Hymn of Response | Hast Thou Heard Him, Seen Him, Known Him?

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

Hast thou heard Him, seen Him, known
Him?
Is not thine a captured heart?
Chief among ten thousand own Him,
Joyful choose the better part.

*Captivated by His beauty,
Worthy tribute haste to bring,
Let His peerless worth constrain thee,
Crown Him now unrivaled King.*

What can strip the seeming beauty,
From the idols of the earth?
Not a sense of right or duty,
But the sight of peerless worth. *(Chorus)*

'Tis that look that melted Peter,
'Tis that face that Stephen saw,
'Tis that heart that wept with Mary,
Can alone from idols draw. *(Chorus)*

Words: Ora Rowan; Music: Joel Littlepage

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.

The Reading of the Word

Colossians 3:12-17

God speaks to us through His Word.

3:12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect

harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Preaching of the Word

Pastor Andy Wood

"And Be Thankful"

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 | Magnificat

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| My soul magnifies the Lord | Holy, holy |
| My spirit rejoices in God | Holy, holy |
| My soul magnifies the Lord | Holy, holy |
| My spirit rejoices in God | Is His name. |

For He Who is mighty
Has done great things for me

Words: Mary, mother of Jesus
Music: Flo Paris Oakes

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.

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.