

Liturgy for Home Worship

The Second Sunday of Christmas

— January 3, 2021 —

Words for Reflection

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

-John 1:12-13

If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means he does not understand Christianity very well at all.

-J. I. Packer

Knowing that you are not facing the Ultimate Taskmaster and Judge, but the open arms of your loving Father changes everything.

-Kathy Keller

Do not see the Father as one who is angry, but as one who is most kind and gentle. Let us see the Father as one who from eternity has always had kind thoughts towards us. The Father loses the company of his people because they are so ignorant of his love to them. His saints keep thinking only of his terrible majesty, severity and greatness, and so their hearts are not drawn to him in love. We must learn to think of his everlasting gentleness and compassion. Let our hearts and thoughts be filled with his love to us, even though many discouragements may lie in our way.

-John Owen

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.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways,
 God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,
 whom he appointed the heir of all things,
through whom also he created the world.

He is the radiance of the glory of God
and the exact imprint of his nature,
 and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.
—Hebrews 1:1-3 ESV

Hymn of Praise | And Can It Be?

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.

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me who caused His pain!
For me who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, should die for me?

*Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!*

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace!
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!
(Chorus)

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
(Chorus)

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my
own.
(Chorus)

Words: Charles Wesley; Music: Scott Roley

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 when the fullness of time had come, You sent forth Your Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem us who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. Yet, Lord, we confess that we often live as though we were still under the law rather than under grace. We have doubted Your love for us and kept our distance from You. Forgive us through the death and resurrection of Christ, and enable us by Your Spirit to live as Your children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

—Luke 15:22-24 ESV

Hymn of Response | Jesus I Come

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

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Words: William True Sleeper; Music: Greg Thompson

Confession of Faith | Westminster Larger Catechism #37 - #40

We join the church in history by confessing this basic statement of what Christians believe.

Q. 37. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

A. Christ the Son of God became man, by taking to himself a true body, and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance, and born of her, yet without sin.

Q. 38. Why was it requisite that the mediator should be God?

A. It was requisite that the mediator should be God, that he might sustain and keep the human nature from sinking under the infinite wrath of God, and the power of death; give worth and efficacy to his sufferings, obedience, and intercession; and to satisfy God's justice, procure his favor, purchase a peculiar people, give his Spirit to them, conquer all their enemies, and bring them to everlasting salvation.

Q. 39. Why was it requisite that the mediator should be man?

A. It was requisite that the mediator should be man, that he might advance our nature, perform obedience to the law, suffer and make intercession for us in our nature, have a fellow-feeling of our infirmities; that we might receive the adoption of sons, and have comfort and access with boldness unto the throne of grace.

Q. 40. Why was it requisite that the mediator should be God and man in one person?

A. It was requisite that the mediator, who was to reconcile God and man, should himself be both God and man, and this in one person, that the proper works of each nature might be accepted of God for us, and relied on by us, as the works of the whole person.

The Offering

In gratitude, we offer our gifts to God. You may give online at www.trinitypresfw.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

Galatians 4:1-7

God speaks to us through His Word.

4:1 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, **2** but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. **3** In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. **4** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. **6** And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" **7** So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Preaching of the Word

Pastor Brian Davis

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 | Jesus Whispers

Lamb of God, we fall before Thee,
Humbly trusting in Thy cross;
That alone be all our glory;
All things else are vain and loss.

Thee we own a perfect Savior,
Only source of all that's good:
Every grace and every favor
Comes to us through Jesus' blood.

*Jesus whispers this sweet sentence,
"Son, thy sins are all forgiven."
Faith He gives us to believe,
Hearing ears and seeing eyes.*

When we live on Jesus' merit,
Then we worship God aright,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Then we savingly unite.
(Chorus)

Hear the whole conclusion of it;
Great or good, whate'er we call,
God, or King, or Priest, or Prophet,
Jesus Christ is All in All.
(Chorus)

Words: Joseph Hart;
Music: Clint Wells & Brian T. Murphy

Life at Trinity

Departing Hymn | Thy Mercy My God

We respond in faith and song.

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my
song,
The joy of my heart. and the boast of my
tongue;
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the
last,
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul
fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live
here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;
But, through Thy free goodness, my spirits
revive,
And He that first made me still keeps me
alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

Words: John Stocker; Music: Sandra McCracken

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.

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

—Numbers 6:24-26 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

MTW House In Order Seminar

Trinity is hosting a financial seminar on Monday, January 25 with Rev. Bruce Owens, the Director of the Center of Estate Design and Gift Planning at Mission to the World (MTW). The seminar will help families find God's plan for stewardship for their families and estates, and to be wise managers of the resources He has entrusted to us. We will also be led in the service on Sunday, Jan 24 by Dr. Paul Kooistra, former President of Covenant Seminary, and former Coordinator of MTW.

Youth Small Groups

Attention parents and students! Our Sunday night youth small groups will be returning Jan 10. Middle and high school students, along with volunteer leaders, will gather together on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from 530-630pm (after worship) @ Connell to build community and unpack our sermon series together. More details to come. Questions? Contact John (john@trinitypresfw.org) or 615.517.9238.

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.

Women's 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.

