



TRINITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Love God. Love People. Love Fort Worth

Words for Reflection

To practice Advent is to lean into an almost cosmic ache: our deep, wordless desire for things to be made right and the incompleteness we find in the meantime. We dwell in a world still racked with conflict, violence, suffering, darkness. Advent holds space for our grief, and it reminds us that all of us, in one way or another, are not only wounded by the evil in the world but are also wielders of it, contributing our own moments of unkindness or impatience or selfishness.

– Tish Warren

In Advent, we don't pretend, as I once thought, that we are in the darkness before the birth of Christ. Rather, we take a good hard look at the darkness we are in now, facing and defining it honestly, so that we will understand with utmost clarity that our great and only hope is in Jesus's final victorious coming.

– Fleming Rutledge

The story of the Bible isn't primarily about the desire of people to be with God; it's the desire of God to be with people.

– John Ortberg

To be near God and to have God near us is the whole purpose of human life.

– Jack Miller

Order of Worship

The Second Sunday of Advent

— December 5, 2021 —

Prelude

*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.*

Words: Isaac Watts; Music: G. F. Handel

Advent Reading & Candle Lighting

Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants!

—Psalm 90:13 ESV

Reader: Prepare the way of the Lord. We light this candle in lament, grieving for our broken world that Jesus, our Savior, will come to heal. He will wipe away every tear.

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.

Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

—Psalm 147:1-3 ESV

Hymn of Praise I Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

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 Fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Words: Robert Robinson; Tune: Folk Song

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

Doxology means "glory words." We lift our voices and our hands to give God glory for who He is and all that He has done.

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,

Forgive us our sins, and cleanse our hearts through the shed blood of Your Son Jesus. Fill us with hope where there has been despair, compassion where there has been indifference, and faith where there has been unbelief. Help us to live in reliance upon Your grace. Protect us from growing callous to the glory of Christ's Incarnation and the hope of his return. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

—Hebrews 4:15-16 ESV

Hymn of Response | O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appears.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel*

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory over the grave.
(Chorus)

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
(Chorus)

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
(Chorus)

Words: Latin Hymn; Music: Thomas Helmore; Arr: Sufjan Stevens

Confession of Faith | The Heidelberg Catechism #1

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

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

The Offering

In gratitude, we offer our gifts to God.

Children are now dismissed for TrinityKids (4 years old -2nd Grade). After the sermon, their teachers will return them to worship where they may come directly to you, or you may meet them in the back of the sanctuary.

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.

Merciful God, who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Reading of the Word

Selections from Exodus

God speaks to us by His Word.

25:8 And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. **9** Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

21 And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. **22** There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.

26:33 And you shall hang the veil from the clasps, and bring the ark of the testimony in there within the veil. And the veil shall separate for you the Holy Place from the Most Holy. **34** You shall put the mercy seat on the ark of the testimony in the Most Holy Place.

29:42 It shall be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there. **43** There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory. **44** I will consecrate the tent

of meeting and the altar. Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate to serve me as priests. **45** I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. **46** And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.

40:34 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. **35** And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. **36** Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. **37** But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. **38** For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Preaching of the Word

Pastor Brian Davis

Drawing Near

“Dwelling with God in the Tabernacle”

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 use the prayers printed below and 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.

**Note about communion wine: We serve wine during communion. If you'd prefer non-alcoholic grape juice, please indicate by pointing at the tray.*

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.

Prayers During Communion

A prayer for those searching for truth:

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me the ability to follow you no matter what it might cost me. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

A prayer of belief:

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead and are now representing me at the Father's right hand in heaven, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen.

A prayer for those struggling against sin:

Lord Jesus, give me the ability to see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and desires, and help me to turn from every false source of satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

A prayer for covenant children who have not yet made a profession of faith:

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow up in a Christian family where I am surrounded by the good news of the gospel. Help me to grow in my understanding of who you are and what you have done for me on the cross. Help me learn what it means for me to turn from my sins and trust in you alone for my salvation. Teach me what it means to follow you as one of your disciples. Amen.

Hymns for Communion

This Is the Christ

Good news from heaven the angels bring,
Glad tidings to the earth they sing
To us this day a child is given
To crown us with the joy of heaven

This is the Christ, our God and Lord
Who in all need shall aid afford
He will himself our savior be
And from our sins will set us free

All hail, thou noble guest this morn
Whose love did not the sinner scorn
In my distress thou come'st to me
What thanks shall I return to thee?

This is the Christ, our God and Lord
Who in all need shall aid afford
He will himself our savior be
And from our sins will set us free

Were earth a thousand times as fair
Beset with gold and jewels rare
She yet were far too poor to be
A narrow cradle, Lord, for thee...

Praise God upon his heavenly throne
Who gave to us his only son
For this his hosts on joyful wing
A blest New Year of mercy sing.

This is the Christ, our God and Lord
Who in all need shall aid afford
He will himself our savior be
And from our sins will set us free.

Words: Martin Luther; Music: Sandra McCracken

Heal Us, Emmanuel

*Heal us, Emmanuel, here we are
We long to feel Thy touch
Deep wounded souls to Thee we fly
Oh Savior, hear our cry*

Our faith is feeble, we confess
We faintly trust Thy word;
But will You pity us the less?
Be that far from You Lord!
(Chorus)

Remember him who once applied
With trembling for relief;
"Lord, I believe," with tears he cried;
"O help my unbelief!"
(Chorus)

She, too, who touched You in the press
And healing virtue stole,
Was answered, "Daughter, go in peace;
Thy faith has made thee whole."
(Chorus)

Like her, with hopes and fears we come
To touch You if we may;
O send us not despairing home;
Send none unhealed away.
(Chorus)

Words: William Cowper; Music: Kevin Twit

Life at Trinity

Departing Hymn | All Must Be Well

We respond in faith and song.

*Children are invited to come to the front to lead & sing. Parents are also welcome.

Through the love of God our Savior,
All will be well
Free and changeless is His favor,
All is well
Precious is the blood that healed us
Perfect is the grace that sealed us
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us
All must be well

Though we pass through tribulation,
All will be well
Ours is such a full salvation,
All is well
Happy still in God confiding
Fruitful if in Christ abiding
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding
All must be well

We expect a bright tomorrow;
All will be well
Faith can sing through days of sorrow,
All is well
On our Father's love relying
Jesus every need supplying
Yes in living or in dying
All must be well

On our Father's love relying
Jesus every need supplying
Yes in living or in dying
All must be well

Words: Mary Bowley Peters, Matthew S. Smith; Music: Matthew S. Smith

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.

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen.
Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

—Revelation 22:20-21 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!

Announcements

Trinity Christmas Party

Our Christmas party is **Thursday, Dec 9!** Details can be found in the Church Center app.

Trinity Local Missions Angel Tree

Thank you, Trinity family, for your great participation in our Local Missions Angel Tree again this year!

IMPORTANT - All NET gifts must be delivered TODAY clearly labeled with the child's ornament in time for The NET's Christmas party. If you forgot yours, please contact Brendan (reagan.brendan@gmail.com) to let him know you'll be delivering yours to his home (2529 Cockrell Avenue, 76109) tomorrow!

Bring all other wrapped gifts and gift cards to the church foyer by Sunday, Dec 12. Questions? Contact Sherry (sherrydenton@me.com).

For those giving to Rivertree, we are delivering gifts on Thursday, Dec 16 at 1230. Rivertree has invited us to do a craft with the PreK students, have Christmas cookies, and celebrate Christmas! All are invited and welcome. Email Emily Williams if you'd like to participate (williams.emmie13@gmail.com).

Sunday School Christmas Party

Join us on **December 12 after worship @ Connell until 630pm** for our Sunday School Christmas Party! Sunday School is for ages 4 through 4th Grade (Five Six will be having their party during this time as well). We will start in the Fellowship Hall with pizza and then head upstairs to O'Malley Alley for some Christmas fun. Even if you haven't made it to Sunday School yet this year we would love for your children to come

celebrate with us! If you would like to help contact Megan Granaghan (mgranaghan@gmail.com).

Five Six Christmas Party

Join us for our Christmas party **after worship @ Connell Dec 12 until 630pm**. We will have pizza and festivities.

Young Adults Group

Trinity Young Adults is a group for post-undergrad, in grad school, career, single, or young marrieds. Come join us after church on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at Central Market. **Our last dinner for the year is TODAY, but we are having a Christmas party on Dec 17 @ 630pm!** Details can be found in the Church Center app or for more information contact Rachel (rachelkuchem@gmail.com), Jeff (jeffrey.bryant14@gmail.com), and Ian (ianclark2492@gmail.com).

Youth Group Christmas Party

Calling all 7th-12th graders! Please join us on **Dec 12 for our end of the year Christmas party (tacky sweaters welcome) at the Bates' home (3817 Mockingbird Lane) from 6-8pm**. There will be food, desserts, group games, and fellowship with friends and small group leaders. To help give an idea of numbers, please register through Church Center app under "events"; there are also helpful party details there.

Trinity Christmas Eve Service

Join us on **Dec 24 @ 3pm** for our family- & kid-friendly Trinity Christmas Eve Service. While there will be no nursery available, the entire service will involve children. Invite your friends and neighbors!

To the Parents of Young Children

Welcome! We are so glad you are here. We believe the church is for all people, even children, and we want Trinity to be a church where children are both seen and heard. So don't worry if your children wiggle in the pews or make a little noise! We invite you to keep your children in our service and help them understand what is going on, sing the songs with you, and participate in worship. Children learn how to worship by imitating you. We say parts of our worship service every week in order to help our non-reading children to participate, and we have children's bulletins available in the back. There are also ages, stages, and times when it might not be best for your children to be in worship. We have a nursery program that is set up to handle children from birth to 4 years old, and a TrinityKids program during the sermon for children 4 years old through 2nd grade. We also have a nursing mothers' room available across from the library if you need to nurse or change a diaper! All nursery volunteers have been through both background checks and Ministry Safe training. Parents often check their children out of the nursery and/or TrinityKids prior to Communion so that they can help lead us in our departing hymn.

The Liturgy

Our order of worship may be new to you. Every worship service in every church has a structure. We want to be intentional about ours as it is a real back-and-forth conversation between us and God. He calls us to worship, and then we respond and move through the different elements of the service. We have both spontaneous, personal prayers as well as ancient, printed prayers. Please look over the service beforehand to see what we will hear and say along the way.

4pm

We plan on meeting at 4pm for the foreseeable future. We hope you will enjoy a Sunday morning to sleep in, spend time with your non-church going friends and neighbors or relax with your family and friends.

Welcome Notepads

At some point during service, a welcome pad will be passed down your row. We would love for you to fill it out and pass it to the person on your right, so that we will have record of your visit. We promise we won't spam you.

Youth Group

Our youth group intern is John Porter. Please email him @ john@trinitypresfw.org for more information.

Interested in Helping with Music?

We are always looking to add to our great team of musicians. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Wade Jewett (jewettwade@gmail.com).

Online Giving

If you'd prefer to give online as either a one-time gift or as a recurring gift, you may do so through our website: www.trinitypresfw.org/give. Giving is seen only by the Deacon & the team in charge of counting the offering for that particular day and by our Church Administrator.

Church Contact Information

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Deacon of the Day

Brendan Reagan

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Our Mission

Trinity exists to embrace, embody, and extend the redemptive message of Jesus to the people and places of Fort Worth and beyond.

Our Core Commitments

Trinity is a gospel-centered church committed to following Jesus by...

- Worshipping God together through historic liturgy that is rich, accessible, and emotionally honest
- Striving to know and be known in our life together
- Engaging in formative spiritual practices
- Extending the welcome of the gospel in word and deed
- Serving our city

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We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).