



TRINITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Love God. Love People. Love Fort Worth

Words for Reflection

The Advent season is a season of waiting, but our whole life is an Advent season, that is, a season of waiting for the last Advent, for the time when there will be a new heaven and a new earth.

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

To hope does not mean to dream ourselves into a different reality, but to embrace the promise that this reality, suffused with suffering, will be transformed into God's new world.

– Miroslav Volf

If we have any hope at all, our hope is eschatological—that God will at last make this sad, old world new again. Jesus is our first aural reminder that winter will fade. His resurrection is a real and fleshy reminder.

– Tish Warren

We are on our way home, and home will be glorious. And contemplating that glory, however inadequately we do it, will brace minds and hearts to resist the weakening effect, the down-drag into apathy and despair, that pain, hostility, discouragement, isolation, contempt, and being misunderstood—and all the rest of the suffering—might naturally have on us otherwise.

– J. I. Packer

Order of Worship

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
— December 19, 2021 —

Prelude

*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: G. F. Handel

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

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 God,

We thank You that You have created us to draw near to You, and that in Your mercy, You have drawn near to us in Jesus. Yet, we confess the ways we have not sought You or enjoyed Your presence among us. Instead, we have wandered and strayed from You. We pray that You would forgive us through the death of Your Son who is the True Temple, and enable us by Your Spirit to draw near. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

—John 1:29 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 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 Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 47:1-2, 6b-12

God speaks to us by His Word.

47:1 Then he brought me back to the door of the temple, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. **2** Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east; and behold, the water was trickling out on the south side.

6b Then he led me back to the bank of the river. **7** As I went back, I saw on the bank of the river very many trees on the one side and on the other. **8** And he said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and enters the sea; when the water flows into the sea, the water will become fresh. **9** And wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish. For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may

become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. **10** Fishermen will stand beside the sea. From Engedi to Eneglaim it will be a place for the spreading of nets. Its fish will be of very many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. **11** But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. **12** And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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.

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

Revelation 21:22-22:5

God speaks to us by His Word.

21:22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. **23** And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. **24** By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, **25** and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. **26** They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. **27** But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb **2** through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. **3** No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. **4** They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. **5** And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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 New Jerusalem”

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

How Long?

How long? Will You turn Your face away?
How long? Do You hear us when we pray?
On and on, still we walk this pilgrim way - How long?

How long 'til Your children find their rest?
How long 'til You draw them to Your breast?
We go on holding to Your promises - How long?

*'Til You wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye
'Til we see our home descending from the sky
Do we wait in vain? Jesus, give us hope again!*

How long 'til Your word will still the storm?
How long 'til You bare Your mighty arm?
How we groan 'til You snatch us from the thorns - How long?
(Chorus)

How long? Sweet the dawn that ends the race.
How long? Weak our hearts but strong our legs.
Looking on - great that cloud of witnesses! How long?
(Chorus)

Words: Samuel John Stone; Music: Brian Moss

Come Then, Lord Jesus

The Church has waited long, her absent Lord to see,
And still in loneliness she waits, a friendless stranger she.
Age after age has gone, sun after sun has set,
And still, in weeds of widowhood, she weeps a mourner yet.

Come then, Lord Jesus, come
Come then, Lord Jesus
Come then, Lord Jesus, come, come, come.

We long to hear Thy voice, to see Thee face to face,
To share Thy crown and glory then, as now we share Thy grace.
Should not the loving bride, the absent Bridegroom mourn?
Should she not wear the weeds of grief, until her Lord return?

Come then, Lord Jesus, come
Come then, Lord Jesus
Come then, Lord Jesus, come, come, come.

The whole creation groans, and waits to hear that voice
That shall restore her comeliness, and make her wastes rejoice.
Come, Lord, and wipe away, the curse, the sin, the stain,
And make this blighted world of ours, Thine own fair world again.

Come then, Lord Jesus, come
Come then, Lord Jesus
Come then, Lord Jesus, come, come, come.

Words: Horatius Bonar, Katy Bowser, Kenny Hutson; Music: Katy Bowser & Kenny Hutson

Life at Trinity

Departing Hymn | Go Tell It on the Mountain

We respond in faith and song.

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

*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.

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!

Announcements

Building Update Meeting Today

Now that we've gotten keys to 207 W. Broadway, what's next? **Please stay after worship** today for a congregational meeting with the latest numbers and ways to participate in the next phase of making this address our new church home!

Young Adults' Dinners

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. We are on break during Christmas, but will resume our dinners Jan 2.** 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) or find us in the Church Center app under "groups".

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. **Please register in the Church Center app** so we can plan accordingly. Invite your friends and neighbors!

Winter Conference—Save the Date

Mark your calendars for a winter conference with Tom Gibbs on **Feb 4 & 5**.

TrinityKids Break

We will not have TrinityKids during our **Dec 26 and Jan 2 services**.

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

Cameron Pybus

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).