



**TRINITY**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Trinity Presbyterian Church

Love God. Love People. Love Fort Worth

## Words for Reflection

The incarnation, Christmas, means that God is not content to be a concept or just someone you know from a distance.

-Tim Keller

Christmas does not take away all my pain, but it does give me hope, it does give me confident assurance, that there is joy beyond the sorrow, gain beyond the loss, light beyond the darkness. The light that cut through the darkness on that Christmas night is the light that cuts through my darkness on this Christmas night.

– Tim Challies

In Jesus, we truly meet God face-to-face, not indwelling or overshadowing human flesh but in full undiminished glory.

– Stephen Wellum

The one who dwells in heaven came to dwell on earth, so that the inhabitants of earth might become inhabitants of heaven.

– St. Augustine

# Order of Worship

## The First Sunday of Christmas

— December 26, 2021 —

### 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

*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.*

Heavenly Father,

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.*

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

—Matthew 1:21 ESV

# Hymn of Response | O Little Town of Bethlehem

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

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by:  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth;  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,

Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Words: Phillips Brooks; Music: Lewis Redner

## Confession of Faith | The Nicene Creed

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

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of  
the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and  
the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets;  
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## The Old Testament Reading

Exodus 40:34-38

*God speaks to us by His Word.*

**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 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.*

## The Reading of the Word

John 1:14-18

*God speaks to us by His Word.*

**1:14** 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. **15** (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") **16** For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

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 Incarnation"*



## 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

### Magnificat

My soul magnifies the Lord  
My spirit rejoices in God  
My soul magnifies the Lord  
My spirit rejoices in God

For He Who is mighty  
Has done great things for me  
Holy, holy  
Holy, holy  
Holy, holy  
Is His name.

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

### Draw Nigh

Draw nigh and take the body of the Lord.  
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured.  
Offered was He for greatest and for least,  
Himself the Victim and Himself the Priest.

He that, His saints in this world rules and shields  
To all believers life eternal yields,  
With heavenly bread makes them that hunger whole,  
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

Approach ye, then, with faithful hearts sincere  
And take the pledges of salvation here.  
O Judge of all, our only Savior Thou,  
In this Thy feast of love be with us now.

Words: Latin Hymn, c. 680; Music: The Welcome Wagon

## 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

### Letter from a Birmingham Jail: Reading and Discussion Night

Mark your calendars for 7pm on Thursday, January 13 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 Chapel. Please register in the Church Center App.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:rachelkuchem@gmail.com)), Jeff ([jeffrey.bryant14@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.bryant14@gmail.com)), and Ian ([ianclark2492@gmail.com](mailto:ianclark2492@gmail.com)) or find us in the Church Center app under "groups".

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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

### Pastoral Staff

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Deacon of the Day

Mark Evans

# 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).*