



**TRINITY**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Trinity Presbyterian Church

Love God. Love People. Love Fort Worth.

## Words for Reflection

The church lives in Advent. That is to say, the church lives between two advents. Jesus Christ has come; Jesus Christ will come. We do not know the day or the hour. If you find this tension almost unbearable at times, then you understand the Christian life.

- Fleming Rutledge

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 Harrison Warren

The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

# Order of Worship

The First Sunday of Advent

— December 3, 2023 —

## Prelude

*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.*

## Advent Reading & Candle Lighting

Reader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming. We are preparing for the full coming of God's kingdom:

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

—Isaiah 40:3-5 ESV

Reader: Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

**People:** Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

# The LORD Calls Us

*God invites and calls us into His presence to worship Him. He enters into our busy lives to speak to us.*

## The Call to Worship

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

**His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

The LORD has made known his salvation;

**he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

—Psalm 98:1-3 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.

## The LORD Cleanses Us

*God cleanses and restores us through Jesus' death and resurrection. We fight the temptation to hide our sin and instead acknowledge it openly to God, but we do so in light of the grace that is ours in Jesus.*

### Confession of Sin

Our Father in Heaven,

We thank You that in the fullness of time, You sent forth Your Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we would receive adoption as sons. And we praise You for the promise that he will come again. Yet Lord, we confess our struggle to believe Your promises to us. Our hearts are plagued with doubt, impatience, and unbelief. Forgive us and enable us by Your Holy Spirit to wait faithfully and joyfully for our Coming King. In his name we pray. Amen.

### Silent Confession

### Assurance of Forgiveness

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

—Psalm 130:7-8 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 LORD Converses with Us

*God speaks to us by His Word, and we respond with prayer, gratitude, and offerings.*

### The Old Testament Lesson

1 Samuel 1:1-20

*God speaks to us by His Word.*

**1:1** There was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephrathite. **2** He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

**3** Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the LORD. **4** On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. **5** But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb. **6** And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because



the LORD had closed her womb. **7** So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. **8** And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

**9** After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. **10** She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. **11** And she vowed a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head."

**12** As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. **13** Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. **14** And Eli said to her, "How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you." **15** But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. **16** Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation." **17** Then Eli answered, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him." **18** And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your eyes." Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

**19** They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. **20** And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, "I have asked for him from the LORD."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## The Offering

*In gratitude, we offer our gifts to God.*

## 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.*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Reading of the Word

Luke 1:5-25

*God speaks to us by His Word.*

**1:5** In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. **6** And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. **7** But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

**8** Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, **9** according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. **10** And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. **11** And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. **12** And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. **13** But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your

wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. **14** And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, **15** for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. **16** And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, **17** and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

**18** And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." **19** And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. **20** And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." **21** And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. **22** And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. **23** And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

**24** After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, **25** "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## The Preaching of the Word

Pastor Brian Davis

*Longing for Good News: The Gospel According to Luke*

"Longing for Joy"

[illegible]

# The LORD Communes with Us

*God invites us to feast with Him at His Table.*

## 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

## Psalm 126

Our mouths they were filled,  
filled with laughter;  
Our tongues they were loosed,  
loosed with joy.  
Restore us, O Lord! Restore us, O Lord!

*Although we are weeping,  
Lord, help us keep sowing  
The seeds of Your Kingdom  
for the day You will reap them!  
Your sheaves we will carry;  
Lord, please do not tarry!  
All those who sow weeping  
will go out with songs of joy!*

The nations will say,  
"He has done great things!"  
The nations will sing songs of joy.  
Restore us, O Lord! Restore us, O Lord!  
(Chorus)

Words & Music: Bifrost Arts



# The LORD Commissions Us

*God blesses us and sends us out to be a part of His mission to Fort Worth & the world.*

## Departing Hymn | But for You Who Fear My Name

*We respond in faith and song.*

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

But for you who fear my Name,  
The son of righteousness will rise,  
With healing in his wings  
And you shall go forth again,  
And skip about like calves coming from their stalls at last

You shall be my very own  
On the day that I cause you to be My special home  
I shall spare you as a man  
Who has compassion on his son,  
who does the best he can.

Words: Lenny Smith; Music: Lenny Smith; arr. by The Welcome Wagon

## 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

### Men's Book Discussion

Our next discussion on "Raising Worry-Free Girls" by Sissy Goff will be **Tuesday, December 6 at John Allison's home (3952 Bishops Flower Rd 76109) at 730pm.** Please bring some beverages to share. Join us if you're a dad, grandpa, or single guy!

### Local Missions Angel Tree – Due December 10

Trinity is delighted to again serve our local ministry partners this Christmas with gifts for their clients, residents, teachers, and students. If you picked up an ornament or two on Trinity's Local Missions Angel Tree in the church foyer, please bring your gift items to the church by **Sunday, December 10.** Questions? Contact Sherry ([sherrydenton@me.com](mailto:sherrydenton@me.com)).

### Budget Update through October

Our fiscal year runs June – May. Here's where we are through Oct:

Total Income*	Actual Expenses	Net Income
\$386,891.33	\$487,229.96	(\$100,338.63)

As a reminder, your faithful giving sustains not only our church but also supports other churches and ministries such as RUF. If you'd like a YTD statement, please contact Courtney ([admin@trinitypresfw.org](mailto:admin@trinitypresfw.org)). **\*Income does not include capital fund giving.**

### Christmas Cards for the Krumms

Let's bless the Krumms with our family Christmas cards! You can get special postage at USPS and mail to: Soddo Christian Hospital, Attn Jason & Ellisa Krumm, PO Box 305, Soddo Walaitta Ethiopia or drop yours off in the foyer and we will mail it for you!

## Trinity Christmas Party

We are excited to celebrate together again this year! **Invite a friend and join us at Mary Bates' home (3760 Country Club Cir) on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 7pm.** Sorry, kids, this one is college-age and up! Want to help? It's a great way to get to know other Trinity folks! You can sign up in the Church Center app under "events"!

## Tea and Open House

Girls of all ages! **Please join us for a Christmas tea at Mary Bates' Magical Christmas House (3760 Country Club Cir) on December 17 from 130-330pm.** Friends and family are welcome to come and get a taste of Trinity fellowship!

## Winter Conference

**Save February 16-17 for our annual winter conference.** We will hear from Tim Lane on marriage. Details to come.

## Young Adult 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 after worship. Today we will eat at Central Market.** Details about dinners and other events are in the Church Center app or contact Rachel ([rachelkuchem@gmail.com](mailto:rachelkuchem@gmail.com)) or Jeff ([jeffrey.bryant14@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.bryant14@gmail.com)).

## Advent & Christmas at Trinity

- 12/3 Advent Begins
- 12/10 Children's & Five Six Christmas parties, after worship
- 12/10 Youth Christmas Party, after worship @ the Bateses' home
- 12/14 Trinity Christmas Party, 7pm
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Service, 3pm

## 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.

## Our New Building

We are so excited and grateful for our new building at 207 W. Broadway in the Near Southside! We are in process of renovating and will move in in 2024. We will continue to worship at 4pm at Connell until then. Please continue to pray for all of the work being done! Check Church Center for periodic updates and photos.

## 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.

## 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.

## Community Groups

Our Community Groups are essential to our life at Trinity. Jesus never intended for the Christian life to be lived alone. Community Groups meet weekly in homes throughout the city on various nights. If you'd like more information or you'd like to visit a group, please contact Andy ([andy@trinitypresfw.org](mailto:andy@trinitypresfw.org)).

# Church Contact Information

## Pastoral Staff

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## Staff

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## Deacon of the Day

Ryan Opgenorth

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# 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

Meeting Address: 4736 Bryce Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76107

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100754, Fort Worth, TX 76185

Church Office Address: 3750 S. University, Suite 101, Fort Worth, TX 76109

Web: [www.trinitypresfw.org](http://www.trinitypresfw.org)

682.703.2120

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