



**TRINITY**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Love God. Love People. Love Fort Worth.

## Words for Reflection

What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.

– A. W. Tozer

For as long as we hold on to any pretense of having it all together we are prevented from deepening and maturing in the Christian faith. For as long as we avoid recognition of our lostness we are prevented from experiencing the elegant profundities of foundness. For as long as we insist on maintaining safe moral grids in which we always know where we stand (and where everyone else stands!), these poses of self-sufficiency, we disenfranchise ourselves from the company of the found sheep, the found coin, the two found brothers, and the celebrating angels.

– Eugene Peterson

This world *is* our home. Our bodies, formed of dust, were always intended for a life on earth. The great promise has always been, not that we would go to live with God, but that God would come to make His home with us. If we are homesick it is because our home is not yet as it will one day be.

– Christina Purifoy

Look up, you whose eyes are heavy with tears and who are heavy and who are crying over the fact that the earth has gracelessly torn us away. Look up, you who, burdened with guilt, cannot lift your eyes. Look up, your redemption is drawing near. Something different from what you see daily will happen. Just be aware, be watchful, wait just another short moment. Wait and something quite new will break over you: God will come.

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

# Order of Worship

The Third Sunday of Advent

— December 15, 2024 —

## Prelude

*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.*

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

## Advent Reading & Candle Lighting

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior . . ."

—from the Magnificat, Luke 1:46-47 ESV

Reader: Prepare the way of the Lord. We light this candle in joy, the joy that we have in Jesus, our Messiah and greatest treasure. He loves us with an everlasting love.

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

## 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

My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
For he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name!  
And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

—Luke 1:46, 48-50 ESV

## Hymn of Praise | Once in Royal David's City

*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.*

Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall:  
With the poor, the mean, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love,  
For that Child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in Heav'n above,  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see Him; but in Heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
Where like stars His children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander; Music: Henry J. Gauntlett; Arr. by Sufjan Stevens

## 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 to make all things new. 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

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

—Luke 15:20-24 ESV

## Song of Response | How Deep

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

You were broken that I might be healed  
You were cast off that I might draw near  
You were thirsty that I might come drink  
Cried out in anguish that I might sing

*How deep is Your love  
How high and how wide is Your mercy  
How deep is Your grace  
Our hearts overflow with praise  
To You*

You knew darkness that I might know light  
Wept great tears that mine might be dried  
Stripped of glory that I might be clothed  
Crushed by Your Father to call me your own  
(Chorus)

Words & Music: Stephen Altrogge



# 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

Hosea 11:1-9

*God speaks to us by His Word.*

**11:1** When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. **2** The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols. **3** Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them. **4** I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them. **5** They shall not return to the land of Egypt, but Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. **6** The sword shall rage against their cities, consume the bars of their gates, and devour them because of their own counsels. **7** My people are bent on turning away from me, and though they call out to the Most High, he shall not raise them up at all. **8** How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How

can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. **9** I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

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 will come to you or you may meet them in the Galveston foyer.*

## 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.*

**O Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient toward the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found a people acceptable in your sight; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Vocational Prayer Focus: Law & Law Enforcement**

**Church Prayer Focus: Southside Fellowship**

**Mission Prayer Focus: Eduardo Ovalle – UTEP RUF**

# The Reading of the Word

Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

*God speaks to us by His Word.*

**15:1** Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. **2** And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

**11** And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. **12** And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. **13** Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. **14** And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. **16** And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

**17** "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! **18** I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.' **20** And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. **21** And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' **22** But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. **23** And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. **24** For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

**25** "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. **26** And he called one of the

servants and asked what these things meant. **27** And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' **28** But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, **29** but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. **30** But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' **31** And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. **32** It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## The Preaching of the Word

Pastor Brian Davis

*Longing for Home*

"Welcomed Home"

### Sermon Notes

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# 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

## 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

## 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

### 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 | Joy to the World

*We respond in faith and song.*

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

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

## 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

### Christian Formation Class Break

We will not have Christian Formation (adults and children) December 22, 29, and January 5. Join us December 22, between services for Christmas treats and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall.

### TrinityKids Break

We will not have TrinityKids on December 29 and January 5.

### Young Adult Christmas Party

Join us TODAY from 2-5pm at Becca Boswell's home, 3318 S University Dr. for a present wrapping party! Bring a couple of gifts and a pair of scissors, and let's wrap presents and enjoy each other's company. Wrapping paper, ribbons, and tape provided. Text Becca at 817-617-9572 with any questions!

### Young Adult Lunches

Trinity Young Adults is a group for post-undergrad, in grad school, career, single, or young marrieds. Come join us weekly after the second service for lunch. **We gather as a group at the back of the sanctuary around 12:30pm and decide together where to go to lunch.** Details about other ongoing young adult events are in the Church Center app or contact: Jack ([jacksonkassing@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonkassing@gmail.com)) or Rebecca ([rebecca.boswell17@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.boswell17@gmail.com)).

### Coming Up

- 12/24 Christmas Eve Services, 4 and 6pm
- 1/12 Membership Seminar (1/12, 1/19, 1/26)
- 1/12 Visitors' Lunch

## Budget Update through November

Our fiscal year runs June – May. Here’s where we are through Nov:

Total Income*	Actual Expenses	Net Income
\$623,109	\$715,236	(\$92,126)

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

## Our Building

Please visit our Building Updates and Prayer page on Church Center to see the ongoing list of needs and ways to contribute toward them. So far we have received \$47,724 toward the playground area, \$3,185 for misc/ffe, and \$9,160 for our landscaping needs. At the link below, you can see more details of our specific needs, as well as give to them. Also, the page includes a way to let us know if you see any issues in the building that need addressing. Thanks for your help!



## 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 off of the Fellowship Hall (basement level) 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.

## 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.

## Lost and Found

If you have misplaced something, please check our Lost & Found. It is located in a cabinet behind the Information Desk in the Fellowship Hall.

## 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 Office Hours

Our office is closed on Mondays and open Tuesday through Friday 9am – 4pm.

## Christian Formation Classes/Rooms:

- 4s – Room 116
- 5s/Kindergarten – Room 214
- 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grades – Room 215
- 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grades – Room 217
- 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grades – Room 219
- Middle School – Room 220
- High School – Room 221
- Adult – Chapel

# Church Contact Information

## Pastoral Staff

**Brian Davis, Lead Pastor**

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**Andy Wood, Associate Pastor**

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## Staff

**John Allison, Director of Operations**

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**Jeanette Davis, Children's Ministry Coordinator**

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**Courtney Jewett, Administration**

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**John Porter, Youth Director**

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**Susan Tyner, Women's Ministry Coordinator**

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**Amy Wood, Nursery Coordinator**

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## Women's Shepherding Team

**Amy Barker**

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**Amy Wood**

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## Deacon of the Day

Brendan Reagan

## Elders

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## Deacons

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## Deaconesses

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**Meggie Schissler**

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**Emily Williams**

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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: 207 West Broadway, Fort Worth, TX 76104

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

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

682.703.2120

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