



*a Gospel*

# MISSION & VISION



ADVENT

*Acts 20:17-21,  
24, 26-32*



TRINITY  
Presbyterian Church

## ORDER OF WORSHIP | December 3, 2023

*Listening devices are available for the hearing impaired.*

*Please speak with a greeter or visit the sound booth upstairs for a listening device.*

### CELEBRATING THE SEASON - 2023

The earth holds its breath, waiting. Advent is a season of longing. It is a yearly representation in our church calendar of the eons spanning from the moment Eve took the first bite of the fruit until that starry night when Heaven touched earth and Christ incarnated, becoming God-man. Fully human. Fully God. Advent culminates in the arrival of Jesus—Messiah, born in the flesh to the last people on earth who anyone would have chosen to parent a king!

### SONG OF GATHERING & PREPARATION

The people of God always sang as they ascended the hill in Jerusalem up to the temple to worship (see Psalms 120-134). We, as well, prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for worship by singing about the God we serve.

Prepare Him Room

### EXPLANATION OF ADVENT THEME | Creation

### CALL TO WORSHIP | Ephesians 4:7, 11-16 (ESV)

We read God's Word, the Bible, together. It reveals to us who God is and what He expects of us.

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ... And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

### PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

We pray together praising God for who He really is (Adoration) and admitting our inability to live up to what He expects of us (Confession).

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON | John 10:10-11, 18 (ESV)

We read God's Word together and are reminded that mercy and grace are freely given to all who have faith in Jesus Christ.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ... No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

### WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace for us in Jesus by giving generously to the work of His church and the kingdom of God.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

## **PRAISE & CELEBRATION**

Our response to God's free grace is celebratory worship. We express our praise to God for who He is and what He has done for us.

Great Are You Lord

Who You Say I Am

## **KIDS' WORSHIP & COMMUNITY KIDS' DISMISSAL (Infants - 5th Graders)**

*Please see your child's check-in name tag for class assignment.*

## **GREETING**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION**

We express in prayer our gratitude to God for what He has done and ask Him to continue to act for our good and the good of others in our community and world.

### **PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD | Tim Rice, Lead Pastor and Director of Church Planting**

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our lives and circumstances.

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

*As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ in solidarity with his people, we declare the substance of what we believe.*

*The Apostles' Creed:* I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*The ritual meal of Communion is a sign and seal of the grace we have in Jesus. That is, it symbolizes the work Christ did for our salvation (sign) and communicates the grace and mercy we have been given (seal) as a result of His death and resurrection.*

### **SONG OF RESPONSE**

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace by singing again of His goodness and greatness.

You've Already Won

### **BENEDICTION**

Because the hand of God's wrath was raised against Jesus, we now receive the hand of God's blessing as we are sent out to live our lives to the glory of God.

May the LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn His face toward you and give you His peace,  
both now and forevermore. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGE & SERMON OUTLINE

### Proclamation of God's Word

**Text:** Acts 20:17-21, 24, 26-32 (ESV)

**Title:** A Gospel Mission & Vision

**Teacher:** Tim Rice

17 Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. 18 And when they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, 19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; 20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, 21 testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ... 24 But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ... 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, 27 for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. 28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. 32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

**INTRO:** *Why is it critical to train up the next generation of believers?*

### ALL IN THE FAMILY

How are Gospel-relationships at the core of the church's mission?

## THE CORROSION OF SELF-INTEREST

What are the key threats to the health of a church?

## THE RHYTHM OF HOPE

What can give us hope in an unsettling time of transition?

## YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD, who is our Shepherd. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that He watches over us to lead, feed, and defend us as His very own and that no one can snatch us from His hand.
2. How have you loved your own comfort or desires more than you have loved others, even in the Church? Confess your pride to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you for your selfishness and that He would change your heart.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for being the LORD our Shepherd. Thank Him for shedding His blood to spare us from death and hell, and for giving His Spirit to us to change our heart from selfishness to real love.
4. Who do you know that does not care well for others? Pray for them, asking the Lord to care for them and open their eyes — and even that He would use you to help them to grow to be a blessing to others.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow you in your generosity of heart, especially for those under your care. Ask the Spirit to grow you in wisdom and love for others in keeping with how He has loved you by His Grace.

Welcome to Trinity!  
We would love to connect with you.  
Please scan on the QR code to get connected  
and let us know of any prayer requests  
you may have.



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### Communication

Visit [trinitylakeland.org/events](http://trinitylakeland.org/events) to register.



#### Congregational Budget Q&A

December 3, following the 2nd service.  
Contact the church office for information.



#### Retirees Prayer Luncheon

December 7, 12p in the Fellowship Hall.  
Contact [John Tucker](#) for information.



#### Women's Ministry Cookie Exchange

December 8, 7p  
Contact [Theresa Riggs](#) for information.

### Community Bible Reading

[communitybiblereading.org](http://communitybiblereading.org)

**December 4-9, 2023**

(3-year plan: read [blue](#) passages | 1-year plan: read [all](#))

Monday	Matthew 9 Proverbs 23	1 Samuel 5 Haggai 2
Tuesday	Matthew 10 Proverbs 24	1 Samuel 6 Zechariah 1
Wednesday	Matthew 11 Proverbs 25	1 Samuel 7 Zechariah 2
Thursday	Matthew 12 Proverbs 26	1 Samuel 8 Zechariah 3
Friday	Matthew 13 Proverbs 27	1 Samuel 9 Zechariah 4
Saturday	Psalm 102	Psalm 50 Psalm 147

### Scripture Memory for the Week:

**Acts 20:24 (ESV)**

24 But I do not account my life of any value  
nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish  
my course and the ministry that I received  
from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of  
the grace of God.

### Office Hours:

Mon - Fri | 8:30a - 5:00p  
Sunday Worship | 8:45a & 10:30a  
301 N Florida Ave, Lakeland, FL 33801  
863-603-7777 | [trinitylakeland.org](http://trinitylakeland.org)

### Mission

A city transformed: Loved by God the Father, saved by Jesus His Son,  
empowered by His Spirit, called by God to reach our city with His love.