

ADVENT

*The Joy of*  
*the* LORD

*Luke 1:39-55*



TRINITY  
Presbyterian Church

## ORDER OF WORSHIP | December 15, 2024

*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 - 2024

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.

Gratitude

### EXPLANATION OF ADVENT THEME | Law

#### CALL TO WORSHIP | Romans 8:18-23; 28 (ESV)

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

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ... And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

#### 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 | Acts 10:38-43 (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.

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did. ... They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear ... to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses ... after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

#### 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.

It Is Well With My Soul

## **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.

Graves Into Gardens

Abide With Me

## **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.

From the Westminster Shorter Catechism:

**Q. 91. How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?**

A. The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that administers them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in them that by faith receive them.

**Q. 92. What is a sacrament?**

A. A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ; wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.

## **RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS | 10:30a Service**

We are called to publicly confess our faith in the grace of God, to participate in the rituals of entrance into the people of God and to acknowledge our membership with His people.

Erica Blanco

Craig & Hannah Cummings

Charles & James (*non-communing*)

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM | 10:30a Service**

The ritual of baptism is a sign and seal of the grace we have in Jesus. It symbolizes the cleansing all people need before they are acceptable to God (sign), and it makes how real God's promise is for who will trust in Him (seal).

Charles Morris Cummings

Joseph James Cummings

## **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, *Founding & Teaching Pastor***

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

## **SONG OF RESPONSE**

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

Prince Of Heaven

## **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:** Luke 1:39-55 (ESV)

**Title:** The Joy of the LORD

**Teacher:** Tim Rice

39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." 46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; 52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

**INTRO:** When were you last so joyful that you jumped or shouted aloud?

### JOY INEXPRESSIBLE

How can we account for the things that Mary and Elizabeth experienced?

## OR JOYLESS AND CAST DOWN?

How can we lose our joy or fail to connect our joy to God?

## MAGNIFY THE LORD

What was it that Mary could envision?

## YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD for His wisdom and love. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for His ways of working through loss, humility, suffering and even death in order to save His people and reveal His glory.
2. How have you lived more loyal to this world (*and therefore to forces of spiritual darkness*) than you have to Jesus? Read Colossians 1:13-14 and confess your antagonism to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and free you the dominion of darkness.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for how He has worked His mighty power to free us from the power of sin and death. Thank Him that He was willing to bear His strong arms to save us by having them nailed open on the Cross!
4. Who do you know that shows no loyalty to Jesus? Pray for them, asking the Lord to open their eyes to their guilt and their need for a Savior so that they would see how trustworthy Jesus truly is.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow in you a greater and greater confidence in Jesus' rule and authority. Pray that He would increase your trust in His wisdom and that He would help you to forsake this world's ways.

## 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.

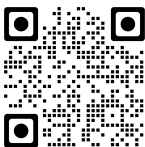


Follow Us! @TrinityLakeland

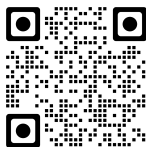


### The Compass And Map

now streaming on Apple Podcasts and Spotify



Apple



Spotify

### Communication

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

#### Women's Ministry Cookie Exchange

December 17, 7p

Contact the [JoAnn Johnson](#) for details.



#### Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

December 24, 4p & 5:30p

Contact the Church Office for details.



#### The Weekender - New Members' Class

January 31 & February 1

Contact [Ashley Coleman](#) for details.



## Community Bible Reading

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

December 16-21, 2024

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

Monday	Matthew 19 Ecclesiastes 2	1 Samuel 15 Zechariah 11
Tuesday	Matthew 20 Ecclesiastes 3	1 Samuel 16 Zechariah 12
Wednesday	Matthew 21 Ecclesiastes 4	1 Samuel 17 Zechariah 13
Thursday	Matthew 22 Ecclesiastes 5	1 Samuel 18 Zechariah 14
Friday	Matthew 23 Ecclesiastes 6	1 Samuel 19 Malachi 1
Saturday	Psalms 103	Psalms 51 Psalms 145

### Scripture Memory for the Week:

**Luke 1:46-49 (ESV)**

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,  
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
48 for he has looked on the humble estate  
of his servant. For behold, from now on all  
generations will call me blessed; 49 for he who  
is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name."

### Office Hours:

Mon - Fri | 8:30a - 5:00p

Sunday Worship | 8:45a & 10:30a

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### 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.