

ADVENT

*Faith In The  
Midst of War*

*Matthew 2:12-21*



TRINITY  
Presbyterian Church

## ORDER OF WORSHIP | December 29, 2024

*Listening devices are available for the hearing impaired.  
Please speak with a greeter or visit the sound booth upstairs for a listening device.*

### 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.

Power To Redeem

### CALL TO WORSHIP | Luke 24:25-27, 44-47 (ESV)

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

Jesus said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. ... Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations. ...

### 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 | 2 Corinthians 4:7-11, 5:11, 14-15 (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.

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ... Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ... For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

### 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.

Grace

### 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.

God Is Love  
King Of Kings

## 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. 96. What is the Lord's Supper?

A. The Lord's Supper is a sacrament, where, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, his death is showed forth; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace.

Q. 97. What is required for the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?

A. It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthy, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.

## KIDS' WORSHIP & COMMUNITY KIDS' DISMISSAL (Infants - Kindergarten)

*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.

## WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING | Mercy Fund Offering

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.

## 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:** Matthew 2:12-21 (ESV)

**Title:** Faith In The Midst of War

**Teacher:** Tim Rice

12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. 13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." 14 And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." 16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: 18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more." 19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." 21 And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

**INTRO:** What is the bloodiest book you've ever read?

### CLEAR PROBLEM, HIDDEN CAUSE

If the problem of evil is vivid, how is its source veiled or obscure?

## MYSTERIOUS INTERVENTION

How is God's involvement surprising?

## PAINFUL FAITH

What are we to do with death – and the death of martyrs *now*?

## YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD for His conquering power and the security that comes with His reign. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that rather than destroy us in His justice, that He offers to save us instead.
2. How have you lived defiantly toward, or covetous of, God's power? Confess your rebellion to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and change your state of mind to be humble, loyal, and truly loving.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for His willingness to go into suffering and obscurity to save us (Egypt, Nazareth, death and hell). Thank Him for *entering suffering we caused to actually accomplish our salvation and Satan's undoing*.
4. Who do you know that is defenseless? Or who do you know that is lustful for power? Pray for them, calling upon the Lord who defends the helpless and overthrows the arrogant.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear His fruit of faithfulness in you. Ask that you would grow in what it means to hold to His will and priorities even in the face of opposition (even suffering) from the powers of this world.

## 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

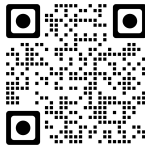


## The Compass And Map

now streaming on Apple Podcasts and Spotify



Apple



Spotify

## Communication

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



### Middle School Winter Retreat

January 10-12

Contact [Brown Peterson](#) for details.



### The Weekender - New Members' Class

January 31 & February 1

Contact [Ashley Coleman](#) for details.



### High School Winter Retreat

February 21-23

Contact [Brown Peterson](#) for details.

## Community Bible Reading

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

**December 30, 2024 - January 4, 2025**

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

Monday	-----	-----
	Ecclesiastes 12	Psalms 149
Tuesday	-----	-----
	-----	Psalms 150
Wednesday	Luke 1	Genesis 1
	1 Samuel 25	Song of Solomon 1
Thursday	Luke 2	Genesis 2
	1 Samuel 26	Song of Solomon 2
Friday	Luke 3	Genesis 3
	1 Samuel 27	Song of Solomon 3
Saturday		Psalms 1
	Psalms 53	Psalms 105

## Scripture Memory for the Week:

**Matthew 2:14-15 (ESV)**

14 And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

## Office Hours:

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

Sunday Worship | 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.