

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Preparation for Worship

If we want to be part of these events, Advent and Christmas, we cannot just sit there like a theatre audience and enjoy all the lovely pictures. Instead, we ourselves will be caught up in this action, this reversal of all things; we must become actors on this stage. For this is a play in which each spectator has a part to play, and we cannot hold back.

What will our role be? Worshipful shepherds bending the knee, or kings bringing gifts? What is being enacted when Mary becomes the mother of God, when God enters the world in a lowly manger?

We cannot come to this manger in the same way that we would approach the cradle of any other child. Something will happen to each of us who decides to come to Christ's manger. Each of us will have been judged or redeemed before we go away. Each of us will either break down, or come to know that God's mercy is turned toward us....

What does it mean to say such things about the Christ child?... It is God, the Lord and Creator of all things, who becomes so small here, comes to us in a little corner of the world, unremarkable and hidden away, who wants to meet us and be among us as a helpless, defenseless child.

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

God Calls Us to Worship

O Zion, messenger of good news, shout from the mountaintops!
Shout it louder, O Jerusalem. Shout, and do not be afraid.
Tell the towns of Judah, “Your God is coming!”

Isaiah 40:9

He will tend His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms; He will carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Isaiah 40:11

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel, which means, God with us.

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23(b)

Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee

Words: :Edward Hodges, Henry Van Dyke, 1907 | Music: ODE TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824

Joyful joyful, we adore Thee
God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee
Opening to the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us with the light of day

All Thy works with joy surround Thee
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays
Stars and angels sing around Thee
Center of unbroken praise
Field and forest, vale and mountain
Flowery meadow, flashing sea
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee

Thou art giving and forgiving
Ever blessing, ever blest
Wellspring of the joy of living
Ocean depth of happy rest
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother
All who live in love are Thine
Teach us how to love each other
Lift us to the joy divine

Mortals join the mighty chorus
Which the morning stars began
Father love is reigning o'er us
Brother love binds man to man
Ever singing, march we onward
Victors in the midst of strife
Joyful music lifts us sunward
In the triumph song of life

Lighting of the Advent Wreath — The Angel's Candle

Luke 1:26–33 | The McAlister Family

[26] In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, [27] to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. [28] And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" [29] But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. [30] And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. [31] And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. [32] He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, [33] and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

*He is the image of the invisible God,
the Firstborn of all creation.
For by Him all things were created,
in heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—
all things were created through Him and for Him.
And He is before all things,
and in Him all things hold together.
And He is the head of the body, the church.
He is the beginning,
the Firstborn from the dead,
that in everything He might be preeminent.
For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
making peace by the blood of His cross.*

Silent Night! Holy Night!

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Text: Joseph Mohr, 1818; Tr. ca. 1850 | Music: STILLE NACHT; Franz Gruber, 1818

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night,
Wondrous star, lend thy light
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

We Confess Our Sins | Based on Isaiah 60:1-3

Arise, shine: for your light has come.

O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

We confess that we ignore Christ, the One You sent to be among us, to be in us.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but
the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you.

**We've kept the birth of Your Son confined to the Christmas season and
do not yearn for His birth each moment in our waiting hearts.**
And nations shall come to Your light, and kings to the brightness of Your rising.
**Lord, You came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes
to Your coming. May we prepare for Your coming. Let the earth ring with song.
Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of the Incarnation.
Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION Please pause for a moment of silent confession.

We Hear Words of Assurance and Pardon | Jeremiah 33:15-16

In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: "THE LORD IS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel: in Jesus Christ know that you're forgiven and be at peace.

Thanks be to God!

We Ask for God's Help

We Greet Others with Peace | Romans 5:1

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you!

TrinityKids: During the Greeting of Peace, children 5 & under may be dismissed to walk to TrinityKids. Nursing mothers are welcome to use the Nursing Mothers' room at the back of Trinity Hall, where the service can be viewed on the monitor.

We Are Changed By God's Word | Luke 1:46-55

[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." (ESV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

We Give Regularly, Joyfully, and Sacrificially

Trinity Ensemble

There are six ways to give at Trinity:

1. Online: ***give.trinityowasso.com***
2. Church Center app
3. Text "trinityowasso" to 77977
4. Offering basket during worship

5. Mail your gift to the church office
6. Stock and cash gifts through a foundation like the PCA Foundation, ***pcafoundation.com***

Please take a moment to fill out the Trinity Connect Card & place it in the offering basket when it is passed down the aisle. If you miss the offering basket, please leave your Connect Card in the basket at the Connect Center in the lobby.

If you have children in TrinityKids, please go pick them up at this time.

We Celebrate Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Led us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is right and good and a joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks
unto You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty,

Everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and
archangels, and with all the company of
heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious
name; evermore praising You, and singing:

***Praise God from whom all blessings
flow; Praise Him all creatures here
below; Praise Him above ye heavenly
hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy
Ghost. Amen.***

O Holy Night

Words: Placide Cappeau, 1843, tr. John Sullivan Dwight, 1855 | Music: Adolphe Charles Adam, 1847

O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees

O hear the angel voices

O night divine

O night when Christ was born

O night O holy night

O night divine

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here came the wise men from Orient land
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our Friend
He knows our need

To weakness is no stranger

Behold your King

Before Him lowly bend

Behold your King

Before Him lowly bend

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us praise His holy name
Christ is the Lord

O praise His name forever

His power and glory

Evermore proclaim

His power and glory

Evermore proclaim

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

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Text: Charles Wesley, 1739, 1753 | Music: MENDELSSOHN; Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1840; arr. William H. Cummings, 1856

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th’incarnate Deity,

Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild, he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

God Sends Us Out With His Good Word | Isaiah 60:1

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

We Go Into The World For His Glory

Let us go forth in joyful service to the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we love our neighbors, our city, and the world.

Thanks be to God!

How to Respond to Today’s Service:

1. BE STILL. PRAY AND REFLECT TODAY.
You may want to pray something like this:

Prayer for Those Searching for the 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 me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads me to the life you promise. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Amen.

Prayer of Belief:
Lord Jesus Christ, I confess that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dare imagine, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dare dream. Thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness and making me righteous before my Heavenly

Father. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment:
Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

2. READ SCRIPTURE. Read the sermon passage again and reflect on what the Holy Spirit called to mind. How might you apply it with God’s help?

3. JOIN US AT A COMMUNITY GROUP or REGISTER FOR AN UPCOMING EVENT. We want you to be a part of us.

4. FILL OUT A CONNECT CARD. Let us know how to pray for you and get you the information you seek.



TRINITY

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

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WE ARE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

We want you to be a part of us. We communicate all of our midweek activities through Church Center, and that's where you can join Bible studies, community groups, find out about events, and participate in group chats and prayer.



There's a lot going on at Trinity-
Download the Church Center App today so you can join in!



FILL OUT A CONNECT CARD
Let us know how to pray for you and get you the information you seek.



Assistive Listening Systems available at the sound booth

Grow in Community:

Christmas Eve Services:

5:30PM: Christmas Ensemble
6:00PM: Lessons & Carols Service
10:00PM: Lessons & Carols Service

Guest Preacher:

February 1: Dr. Tom Gibbs,
President of Covenant Theological
Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri

Trinity Women:

DATE CHANGE: January 26
Coffee & Conversations: Stump the
Pastor Edition at the Grove

Deacon on Duty this Sunday: Justin Burns

Trinity Men:

January 17: Men's Breakfast
at The Grove

Trinity Youth:

February 15-16: High School Rest
Retreat

ROOTED New Members' Class:

February 15th, 12:00PM-4:00PM
Signups available in Church Center



ACTS 29
churches planting churches



TGC

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