



TRINITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023
CHRISTMAS EVE



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PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP | REV. BLAKE ALTMAN, LEAD PASTOR

It is here, in the thing that happened at the first Christmas, that the most profound unfathomable depths of the Christian revelation lie. God became man;... the Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, unable to do more than lie and stare and wriggle and make noises, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child... The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the incarnation.

—J. I. Packer

CALL TO WORSHIP | PASTOR BLAKE

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

Let us go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder:

And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

O COME O COME EMMANUEL

John Mason Neale (origins over 1,200 years ago in monastic life in the 8th or 9th century)

O come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appear

**Rejoice, Rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel**

O come, o come, thou Lord of might
Who to Thy tribes
On Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty, and awe

O come thou Rod of Jesse free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell thy people save
And give them vict'ry o'er the grace

O come thou dayspring
From on high
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

O come thou Key of David come
And open wide our heav'nly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery

Prayer of Adoration | CONCLUDING WITH

*O God, take me in spirit to the watchful shepherds,
and enlarge my mind;
let me hear good tidings of great joy,
and hearing, believe, rejoice, praise, adore,
my conscience bathed in an ocean of repose,
my eyes uplifted to a reconciled Father;
place me with ox, camel and goat,
to look with them upon my Redeemer's face,
and in Him account myself delivered from sin;
let me with Simeon clasp the newborn Child to my heart,
embrace Him with undying faith,
exulting that He is mine and I am His.
In Him, You have given me so much
that heaven can give no more. Amen!*

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Author: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); Translator from Latin to English: Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

**O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten not created;

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

We Confess our Sins

*O Source of all good,
we render to You,
gift of gifts,
only an impoverished soul.
Before Your wisdom,
we are undone,
with no will to return to You,
and no intellect to devise recovery.
You came, God-incarnate,
to save us to the uttermost,
as man to die our death,
to shed satisfying blood on our behalf,*

*to work out a perfect righteousness
for us.
Meanwhile, we live in selfishness,
hard-heartedness,
with a stiff-necked and unforgiving spirit.
We are correct when we say,
"In and of ourselves, there is no health
in us."
We beg You, through Your incarnate life
and willing sacrifice,
to pardon and blot out our sins.
Have mercy upon us, O Lord.*

SILENT CONFESSION *Please pause for a moment of silent confession.*

We Hear Words of Assurance and Pardon | LUKE 2:10-11

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel: in Jesus Christ know that you're forgiven and be at peace.
Thanks be to God!

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

1862 unknown French origin

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see,
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee,
Christ, the Lord, the new-born King

Prayer of Intercession / Offertory Prayer

A portion of tonight's offering will be given to the Presbyterian Church in America Ministerial Relief Fund.

The Christmas Greeting of Peace | LUKE 2:14

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you!

TrinityKids: *During the Greeting of Peace, children five & under may be dismissed to walk to TrinityKids. They will be led by a teacher to return to worship with us before the Lord's Supper.*

Scripture Reading | ISAIAH 7:14 & MATTHEW 1:18-25

Isaiah 7:14

[14] Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (ESV)

Matthew 1:18-25

[18] Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. [19] And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. [20] But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. [21] She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." [22] All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

[23] "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). [24] When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, [25] but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. (ESV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Christmas Meditation | PASTOR BLAKE

Lighting of the Advent Wreath | LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE: JOHN 1:1-5, 14

Emmanuel, God with us, a promise kept, a child. By definition, a baby is dependent on adults for everything—food, shelter, protection, and love. A baby is unable yet to use logic and reason like you and I do. A baby needs constant attention. But the baby Jesus—this child created the world. This child existed before anything or anyone.

This child was God.

Imagine: He's the creator of the world and suddenly He feels cold and hungry.

Imagine: becoming human for Jesus was not a twist of fate, or a punishment from a higher being; it was a choice. God chose to give up everything—to become nothing.

This child was a King.

A King in a dirty stable, wrapped in rags—but a King with a plan.

This child would bring hope.

Not just a wish, but the confidence that God would defeat Satan, that good would win over evil.

This child would bring peace,

Even in the midst of great suffering and trials—a peace that assures His followers that He is in control even when it feels like nobody is.

This child would bring love—

a love that would never be taken away, a love that is beyond our understanding.

And this child would bring joy,

for He has delivered us.

The final white candle is lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.

O HOLY NIGHT

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt His 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 divine,
O night, O night divine

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
Fall on your knees, o hear the angel voices
O night divine,
O night when Christ was born
O night divine,
O night, O night divine

Fall on your knees, o hear the angel voices
O night divine,
O night when Christ was born
O night divine,
O night, O night divine

SILENT NIGHT

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.

Christmas Prayer

JOY TO THE WORLD

George Frederic Handel and Isaac Watts

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world 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 the curse is found, 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

Benediction

Minister: Glory be to Thee, O Father Almighty, who hast given us Thine only-begotten Son, that we might live through Him. Glory be to Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, who became man that we might become sons of God. Glory be to Thee, O Holy Spirit, who directs and rules our hearts.

(with a great voice) **Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! Amen!**

**Thank you for joining us today!
See you next Sunday at 10 am.**



Men's
BREAKFAST
BREAKFAST
BREAKFAST
BREAKFAST
BREAKFAST

JAN 13 8AM



ALL AGES WELCOME!



JAN 28
12-4PM
@THE GROVE

Scan QR code
for address
and to RSVP

ROOTED
NEW MEMBERS' CLASS



How to Respond to Today's Service?

1. SEEK STILLNESS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION 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
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!
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 **ACTS 29**
churches planting churches

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