



**TRINITY**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Love God. Love People. Love Fort Worth.

## Words for Reflection

The faith of the Church finds the single greatest source of her joy, of her preaching, teaching, and singing, of her social and ethical mission, and of her everyday life in this sin-removing Lamb. This Lamb is the center of the Eucharist Service each week in the Church, and his finished work is the power in the water of baptism that changes the estranged into friends and disciples. And this Lamb's presence 'right there in the middle' of the congregation (1:26; 20:19, 26), particularly in proclamation and meal, is what quickens the Church into life more than any other single reality.

– Frederick Dale Bruner

The authentically *hopeful* Christmas spirit has not looked away from the darkness, but straight into it. The true and victorious Christmas spirit does not look away from death, but directly at it. Otherwise, the message is cheap and false.

– Fleming Rutledge

Born as a Son, led forth as a lamb, sacrificed as a sheep, buried as a man, he rose from the dead as God, for he was by nature God and man. He is all things: he judges, and so he is law; he teaches, and so he is wisdom; he saves, and so he is grace; he is begotten, and so he is Son; he suffers, and so he is sacrifice; he is buried, and so he is man; he rises again, and so he is God. This is Jesus Christ, to whom belongs glory for all ages.

– Melito of Sardis

# Order of Worship

## The Third Sunday of Advent

— December 14, 2025 —

### Prelude

*This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air  
Dispels with glorious splendor, the darkness everywhere  
True man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us  
And lightens every load.*

*Words: 15<sup>th</sup> Century German, Trans: Theodore Baker  
Music: Michael Praetorius, 1609*

### Advent Reading & Candle Lighting

Reader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.  
Advent means coming. We are preparing for the full coming of God's kingdom:

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

—Isaiah 11:1-2 ESV

Reader: Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

**People:** Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

# The LORD Calls Us

*God invites and calls us into His presence to worship Him. He enters into our busy lives to speak to us.*

## The Call to Worship

My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
For he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name!  
And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

—Luke 1:46, 48-50 ESV

## Hymn of Praise | Once in Royal David's City

*We sing praises to God and proclaim through song the good news of what He has done in Jesus' death and resurrection. Some songs might be initially unfamiliar, but we believe the rich, true, beautiful words of these hymns will make their way into your heart.*

Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall:  
With the poor, the mean, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love,  
For that Child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in Heav'n above,  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see Him; but in Heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
Where like stars His children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander; Music: Henry J. Gauntlett; Arr. by Sufjan Stevens

## Opening Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*We ask for God to be present among us and conclude with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray.*

**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## Doxology

*Doxology means "glory words." We lift our voices and our hands to give God glory for who He is and all that He has done.*

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

## The LORD Cleanses Us

*God cleanses and restores us through Jesus' death and resurrection. We fight the temptation to hide our sin and instead acknowledge it openly to God, but we do so in light of the grace that is ours in Jesus.*

## Confession of Sin

Most Merciful Father,  
We thank You that through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus, the True Lamb of God, has done everything necessary to take away our sin. He died in order to reconcile us to You. Yet, Lord, we acknowledge the ongoing tendency of our hearts to doubt Your love for us and to live as if we were still Your enemies. Forgive us through the blood of his Cross and enable us by Your Spirit to rejoice in You through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Silent Confession

## Assurance of Forgiveness

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

—Isaiah 53:6-7 ESV

## Song of Response | How Deep

*We respond in thanks and praise for God's redemptive work in Christ.*

You were broken that I might be healed  
You were cast off that I might draw near  
You were thirsty that I might come drink  
Cried out in anguish that I might sing

*How deep is Your love  
How high and how wide is Your mercy  
How deep is Your grace  
Our hearts overflow with praise  
To You*

You knew darkness that I might know light  
Wept great tears that mine might be dried  
Stripped of glory that I might be clothed  
Crushed by Your Father to call me your own  
(Chorus)

Words & Music: Stephen Altrogge

# Confession of Faith | The Heidelberg Catechism #1

*We join the church in history by confessing this basic statement of what Christians believe.*

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

# The LORD Converses with Us

*God speaks to us by His Word, and we respond with prayer, gratitude, and offerings.*

## The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 53:4-12

*God speaks to us by His Word.*

**53:4** Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. **5** But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. **6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. **7** He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. **8** By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? **9** And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. **10** Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. **11** Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. **12** Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

# Baptism | Barrett Thomas Burgess (830am)

## To the Parents (Lauren & Thomas Burgess):

1. Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit? **We do.**
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises in his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do for your own? **We do.**
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord? **We do.**

## To the Congregation:

Pastor: Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

People: **We do.**

"For you Jesus came into the world; for you he lived his life; for you he was crucified; for you he was raised from the dead; and for you he is coming again. You may not know this story now, but we, your church, promise to tell you this story until you make it your own."

*(based on French Reformed Baptismal Liturgy)*

## The Offering

*In gratitude, we offer our gifts to God.*

*Children are now dismissed for TrinityKids (4 years old - 2nd Grade). After the sermon, their teachers will return them to worship where they will come to you or you may meet them in the Galveston foyer.*

## The Prayers of the People

*We lift up our requests to God knowing that He hears us when we pray and conclude with an Advent prayer that focuses on Jesus' coming.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient toward the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found a people acceptable in your sight; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Vocational Prayer Focus: Homemakers

Church Prayer Focus: Citylight Church

Mission Prayer Focus: Kris Kooper – RUF at NC Central University

## The Reading of the Word

*God speaks to us by His Word.*

John 1:29-34

Pew Bible p. 902

**1:29** The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! **30** This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' **31** I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." **32** And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. **33** I myself did not know him, but he who sent



# The LORD Communes with Us

*God invites us to feast with Him at His Table.*

## The Celebration of Holy Communion

*Communion (also called the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist) is the family meal of baptized Christians. It's not a meal for good people. It's a meal for desperate people who trust in Jesus alone for salvation, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength and grace to live more faithfully with Jesus. You will be invited to come forward. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal today, we encourage you to use the prayers printed below and spend this time in reflection or prayer.*

*Children who have not received their first communion are welcome to come forward with their families. We invite children who are ready to make a public profession of faith in Christ to arrange a meeting with the elders, and thus become "communicants" at the Lord's Table.*

*\*Note about communion wine: We serve wine during communion. If you'd prefer non-alcoholic grape juice, please indicate by pointing at the tray.*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.  
Hallelujah!**

Pastor: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.  
Hallelujah!

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God.

## Prayers During Communion

### *A prayer for those searching for 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 to me the reality of who you are. Give me the ability to follow you no matter what it might cost me. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

### *A prayer of belief:*

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead and are now representing me at the Father's right hand in heaven, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen.

### *A prayer for those struggling against sin:*

Lord Jesus, give me the ability to see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and desires, and help me to turn from every false source of satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

### *A prayer for covenant children who have not yet made a profession of faith:*

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow up in a Christian family where I am surrounded by the good news of the gospel. Help me to grow in my understanding of who you are and what you have done for me on the cross. Help me learn what it means for me to turn from my sins and trust in you alone for my salvation. Teach me what it means to follow you as one of your disciples. Amen.

# Hymns for Communion

## Magnificat

My soul magnifies the Lord  
My spirit rejoices in God  
My soul magnifies the Lord  
My spirit rejoices in God

For He Who is mighty  
Has done great things for me  
Holy, holy  
Holy, holy  
Holy, holy  
Is His name.

Words: Mary, mother of Jesus; Music: Flo Paris Oakes

## Who Is This, So Weak, and Helpless?

Who is this, so weak and helpless,  
Child of lowly Hebrew maid,  
Rudely in a stable sheltered,  
Coldly in a manger laid?  
Tis the Lord of all creation,  
Who this wondrous path has trod;  
He is Lord from everlasting,  
And to everlasting God.

Who is this, a Man of Sorrows,  
Walking sadly life's hard way,  
Homeless, weary, sighing, weeping  
Over sin and Satan's sway?  
Tis our God, our glorious Savior,  
Who above the starry sky

Is for us a place preparing,  
Where no tear can dim the eye.

Who is this? Behold him shedding  
Drops of blood upon the ground!  
Who is this, despised, rejected,  
Mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?  
Tis our God, Who gifts and graces  
On His church is pouring down;  
Who shall smite in holy vengeance  
All His foes beneath His throne.

Who is this that hangs there dying  
While the rude world scoffs and scorns,  
Numbered with the malefactors,  
Torn with nails, and crowned with thorns?  
Tis our God Who lives forever  
Mid the shining ones on high,  
In the glorious golden city,  
Reigning everlastingly.

Words: William Walsham How; Music: Christopher Miner

# The LORD Commissions Us

*God blesses us and sends us out to be a part of His mission to Fort Worth & the world.*

## Departing Hymn | Joy to the World

*We respond in faith and song.*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, 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, 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.

Words: Isaac Watts; Music: George F. Handel

## The Benediction

*God sends us out with his blessing. A benediction is not a prayer. We don't bow our heads. We lift them up and even lift up our hands to receive his blessing as we are sent out as participants in His mission to Fort Worth.*

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

—Numbers 6:24-26 ESV

## The Sending

*The people of God are sent into the world to love God, love people, and love Fort Worth.*

Pastor: Let us go forth to serve Fort Worth and the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## Announcements

### Christmas Eve Services RSVP

We're excited to celebrate another Christmas Eve together as a church family! We're planning for two family-friendly Christmas Eve services that will last about one hour each. We'll have one at 4pm and another at 5:30pm. We won't have nursery available at either, because both will be kid-friendly throughout. In order to best accommodate our visitors, members, regular attenders, and guests, we're asking people to RSVP this year. **This doesn't absolutely commit you to the service for which you register! But we need to get some idea of the numbers at each service. If your plans allow for attending either service, please consider the 530pm! Please scan the QR code below to RSVP.**



### Children's Christmas Performance

Make sure to join us on December 21 as our children perform *The Friendly Beasts* during the offering at both services! They have been practicing during Trinity Kids and CF. If your child wants to join, please have them meet in the chapel to line up after the first Scripture reading, right before we pray for the offering. Keep practicing the words this week, too!

### VBS Save the Date

3...2...1 BLAST OFF! Save the date for Trinity's Space Mission VBS the first week of June! Details to come.

## Membership Seminar

If you are interested in becoming a member at Trinity or just want to learn more about who we are as a church, please join us for our membership seminar during the **Christian Formation hour (10 - 10:45am)** on **January 11, 18, 25, and February 1**. We will meet in the Chapel.

## Prayer Guides

Please pick up a copy of our Advent Prayer Guides in the Galveston and Broadway foyers and at the Info Desk in the Fellowship Hall. Join us in the chapel on Friday mornings at 8am for prayer. Anyone is welcome to join!

## Budget Update

Our fiscal year runs June – May. [Here's where we are through Nov:](#)

<b>Giving Budget</b>	<b>\$1,070,186</b>
<b>Monies Received*</b>	<b>\$893,483</b>
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>(\$176,703)</b>

As a reminder, your faithful giving sustains not only our church but also supports other churches and ministries such as Pregnancy Lifeline. If you'd like a YTD statement, please contact John Allison ([operations@trinitypresfw.org](mailto:operations@trinitypresfw.org)). \*Income does not include capital fund giving. Give easily by scanning the QR code below.



## To the Parents of Young Children

Welcome! We are so glad you are here. We believe the church is for all people, even children, and we want Trinity to be a church where children are both seen and heard. So don't worry if your children wiggle in the pews or make a little noise! We invite you to keep your children in our service and help them understand what is going on, sing the songs with you, and participate in worship. Children learn how to worship by imitating you. We say parts of our worship service every week in order to help our non-reading children to participate, and we have children's bulletins available in the back. There are also ages, stages, and times when it might not be best for your children to be in worship. We have a nursery program that is set up to handle children from birth to 4 years old, and a TrinityKids program during the sermon for children 4 years old through 2nd grade. We also have a nursing mothers' room available off of the Fellowship Hall (basement level) if you need to nurse or change a diaper! All nursery staff and volunteers have been through both background checks and Ministry Safe training. Parents often check their children out of the nursery and/or TrinityKids prior to Communion so that they can help lead us in our departing hymn.

## The Liturgy

Our order of worship may be new to you. Every worship service in every church has a structure. We want to be intentional about ours as it is a real back-and-forth conversation between us and God. He calls us to worship, and then we respond and move through the different elements of the service. We have both spontaneous, personal prayers as well as ancient, printed prayers. Please look over the service beforehand to see what we will hear and say along the way.

## Welcome Notepads

At some point during service, a welcome pad will be passed down your row. We would love for you to fill it out and pass it to the person on your right, so that we will have record of your visit. We promise we won't spam you.

## Lost and Found

If you have misplaced something, please check our Lost & Found. It is located in a cabinet behind the Information Desk in the Fellowship Hall.

## Online Giving

If you'd prefer to give online as either a one-time gift or as a recurring gift, you may do so through our website:

[www.trinitypresfw.org/give](http://www.trinitypresfw.org/give). Giving is seen only by the Deacon & the team in charge of counting the offering for that particular day, our Director of Operations, and our Church Administrator.

## Church Office Hours

Our office is closed on Mondays and open Tuesday through Friday 9am – 4pm.

## Christian Formation Classes/Rooms:

- 4s – Room 116
- 5s/Kindergarten – Room 214
- 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grades – Room 215
- 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grades – Room 217
- 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grades – Room 219
- Middle School – Room 220
- High School – Room 221
- Adult – FH

# Church Contact Information

## Pastoral Staff

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## Deacon of the Day

Brendan Reagan

# Trinity Presbyterian Church

## Our Mission

Trinity exists to embrace, embody, and extend the redemptive message of Jesus to the people and places of Fort Worth and beyond.

## Our Core Commitments

Trinity is a gospel-centered church committed to following Jesus by...

- Worshipping God together through historic liturgy that is rich, accessible, and emotionally honest
- Striving to know and be known in our life together
- Engaging in formative spiritual practices
- Extending the welcome of the gospel in word and deed
- Serving our city

Meeting Address: 207 West Broadway, Fort Worth, TX 76104

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100754, Fort Worth, TX 76185

Web: [www.trinitypresfw.org](http://www.trinitypresfw.org)

682.703.2120

*We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).*