



TRINITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Love God. Love People. Love Fort Worth.

Words for Reflection

The Advent season is a season of waiting, but our whole life is an Advent season, that is, a season of waiting for the last Advent, for the time when there will be a new heaven and a new earth.

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

If we have any hope at all, our hope is eschatological—that God will at last make this sad, old world new again. Jesus is our first aural reminder that winter will fade. His resurrection is a real and fleshy reminder.

– Tish Harrison Warren

There is a kind of Christianity that looks like a wedding feast.

– Brian Zahnd

And so it is fitting that the Bible ends where it began, with an invitation to a feast, with the promise of food so satisfying that those who eat and drink shall never hunger nor thirst again

– Peter Leithart

Order of Worship

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

— December 21, 2025 —

Prelude

*O Savior, Child of Mary, who felt our human woe,
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know;
Bring us at length we pray, to the bright courts of Heaven,
And to that endless day!*

*Words: 15th 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:

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

—Isaiah 25:6-9 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

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

—Revelation 5:11-13 ESV

Hymn of Praise | Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

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.

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of every nation,

Joy of every longing heart.
Joy to those who long to see thee
Day-spring from on high appear
Come thou promised Rod of Jesse
Of Thy birth we long to hear
O'er the hills the angels singing
News glad tidings of a birth
Go to him your praises bringing
Christ the Lord has come to earth.

Come to earth to taste our sadness
He whose glories knew no end
By his life he brings us gladness
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend
Leaving riches without number
Born within a cattle stall
This the everlasting wonder
Christ was born Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley; Music: Rowland Prichard

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 God,

We praise You that in Your grace, You have invited us to the great marriage supper of the Lamb, and we thank You that Your Son, the True Lamb of God, has done everything necessary to make that possible. Yet we confess that we have often made excuses and failed to respond to Your gracious invitation. Instead, we have sought to be filled at lesser banquets. Have mercy upon us according to Your steadfast love in Christ, and draw our wandering hearts to You once again. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.

—John 6:48, 51 ESV

Hymn of Response | What Child Is This?

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

What Child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste, to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through;
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh;
Come peasant, king to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Words & Music: Traditional English Carol

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

Amos 9:11-15

God speaks to us by His Word.

9:11 "In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old, **12** that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name," declares the LORD who does this. **13** "Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when the plowman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. **14** I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. **15** I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them," says the LORD your God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Vocational Prayer Focus: Artists & Media

Church Prayer Focus: Central Bible Church

Mission Prayer Focus: Mary Jones – RUF Intern @ Wofford

The Reading of the Word

God speaks to us by His Word.

Revelation 19:6-10

Pew Bible p. 1056

19:6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. **7** Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; **8** it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

9 And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." **10** Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

Come Then, Lord Jesus

The Church has waited long, her absent Lord to see,
And still in loneliness she waits, a friendless stranger she.
Age after age has gone, sun after sun has set,
And still, in weeds of widowhood, she weeps a mourner yet.

*Come then, Lord Jesus, come
Come then, Lord Jesus
Come then, Lord Jesus, come, come, come.*

We long to hear Thy voice, to see Thee face to face,
To share Thy crown and glory then, as now we share Thy grace.
Should not the loving bride, the absent Bridegroom mourn?
Should she not wear the weeds of grief, until her Lord return?
(Chorus)

The whole creation groans, and waits to hear that voice
That shall restore her comeliness, and make her wastes rejoice.
Come, Lord, and wipe away, the curse, the sin, the stain,
And make this blighted world of ours, Thine own fair world again.
(Chorus)

Words: Horatius Bonar, Katy Bowser, Kenny Hutson; Music: Katy Bowser & Kenny Hutson

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

We will feast in the house of Zion.

We will sing with our hearts restored.

"He has done great things," we will say together.

We will feast and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire,

He is the Lord our God.

We are not consumed by the flood

Upheld, protected, gathered up.

(Chorus)

In the dark of night before the dawn,

My soul be not afraid.

For the promised morning, o how long?

O God of Jacob be my strength.

(Chorus)

Every vow we've broken and betrayed

You are the faithful one.

And from the garden to the grave

Bind us together, bring shalom.

(Chorus)

Words & Music: Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore

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 | Go Tell It on the Mountain

We respond in faith and song.

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching
Over silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens,
There shone a holy light:
(Chorus)

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth:
(Chorus)

Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation,
That blessed Christmas morn:
(Chorus)

Words & Music: African-American Spiritual; Arr. by John W. Work

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.**



Christmas Eve Benevolence Offering

Every year our Diaconate provides financial assistance to those in our congregation who find themselves in situations of financial need. We've had the privilege of providing funds for counseling, vehicle payments, food, and utility bills. As our congregation has grown, the needs have grown, as well. **In order to replenish our Benevolence Fund, the offerings that we receive at each of our Christmas Eve services will go directly to that fund.** If you'd like to give directly to the Benevolence Fund prior to the Christmas Eve service (or at any time), you may do so in the Church Center app.

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.

Budget Update

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

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

As a reminder, your faithful giving sustains not only our church but also supports other churches and ministries such as Mission to the World. If you'd like a YTD statement, please contact John Allison (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. 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:

Christian Formation is on break until January 11.

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

Church Contact Information

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Deacon of the Day

Matt McCarty

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

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