



Trinity Presbyterian Church

Celebrating the Diversity of All

December 14, 2008
Third Sunday of Advent

6800 Washington Avenue
University City, Missouri 63130

314.725.3840
www.trinityucity.org

PRELUDE

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright (Wie Schön Leuchtet)
Composer: Philipp Nicolai, (1556-1608) Setting by Frances L. Callahan

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE & REFLECTION ON TODAY'S ADVENT THEME: JOY

During the season of Advent, we will light the Advent wreath using the light from the Peace Candle. For many years, Trinity has had a peace candle in the Sanctuary to remind us of our calling as peacemakers. In Advent, we become aware again of our need and the world's need for peace, and how in the person of Jesus, God's peace is made manifest.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for joy we only find in you, our God.
(from *There Is a Longing* by Anne Quigley)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Advent is a season of expectation. God calls us in this season to watch and be alert. This morning's Call to Worship uses the words of members of the Trinity congregation who, on Pledge Sunday, wrote down times when they saw the Lord. Their words help us to see the Lord who is already coming in this Advent season. As much as possible, the original words of the members were preserved even when they make for slightly awkward constructions.

One: In the season of Advent, we are invited to watch and wait.

All: We watch and wait for the coming of the Lord.

One: But even now we catch glimpses of Immanuel, God-with-us. When have we seen the Lord?

All: We see the Lord... when Habitat home owners come out to work again on houses for this year's home buyers.

One: When have we seen the Lord?

All: We see the Lord... time and time again in times of trouble when my spirit has been sustained by an unseen and unheard power which has provided nourishment for my troubled soul.

One: When have we seen the Lord?

All: We see the Lord... when I watch my children sleeping.

One: Even now we see the Lord. Let us worship God.

HYMN 2

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
(*The choir and handbell choir will begin this hymn; the congregation will please join in singing verse 2 of the hymn when prompted.*)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *UNISON*

One: When we have no good word to say, forgive us. When our words for the world are barren and hard as rock, when what we say to ourselves and to others does not contain the realm of love, hear us as we confess.

All: In our barren living hear us and bring us to life once more.

One: When we live as if we do not hold your grace or contain your blessings for the world, hear us as we confess.

All: In our dry living hear us and bring us to life once more.

One: When we live without joy, forgive us. When our spirits are filled with cynicism and anger, when the way we live does not bring growth and contains few possibilities for new life, hear us as we confess.

All: In our withered living hear us, and bring us to life once more.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

SONG OF PRAISE *UNISON*

He came down that we may have joy; He came down that we may have joy; He
came down that we may have joy; Hal-le - lu - jah for ev - er - more.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Please greet one another with the words, "The Peace of Christ be with you." Those who have been standing may sit.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, (Old Testament, page 691)

ANTHEM As the Dark Awaits the Dawn
Music: Carl Schalk; Words: Susan Palo Cherwien

As the dark awaits the dawn, so we await your light.

O Star of promise, scatter night, loving bright, till shades of fear are gone.

As the blue expectant hour before the silv'ring skies,

We long to see your day arise, whole and wise, O lucent Morning Star.

As the moon reflects the sun until the night's decrease,

May we your healing light release, living peace, unto your holy dawn.

Shine your future on this place, enlighten ev'ry guest,

That through us stream your holiness, bright and blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace.

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:6-8, 19-28 (New Testament, page 91)

SERMON Straightening the Path

Those who are able are invited to stand.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD – HYMN 15 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

Those who have been standing may sit.

SERVICE OF ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

Leader: There are different gifts,

People: but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

Leader: There are different ways of serving God,

People: but it is the same Lord who is served.

Leader: God works through different people in different ways,

People: but it is the same God whose purposes are achieved through them all.

Leader: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

People: to use it for the common good.

Leader: Together we are the body of Christ,

People: and individually members of him.

PRESENTATION OF ELECTED OFFICERS

Ordained and Installed to the Office of Elder

Carrie Muegge

David Nelson

Sue Young

Ordained and Installed to the Office of Deacon

Roberta McBride

Jim Person

Elaine Pontious

Installed to the Office of Elder

Art Platt

Installed to the Office of Deacon

Jean Merson

QUESTIONS OF ORDINATION

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER

WELCOME

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

During the offering, please sign the Fellowship Pad and pass it to the person sitting next to you. When the pad reaches the end, please pass it back and take note of who is worshipping with you this morning.

OFFERTORY

Fantasy on Kingsfold

Composer: arranged for handbells by H. Dean Wagner

Those who are able are invited to stand.

SONG OF PRAISE UNISON

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![‡]

[†]*You may substitute the word "God"*

‡*You may substitute the words “Creator, Word, and Holy Ghost!”*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN (SEE INSERT) LIKE A CHILD

WORDS OF SENDING & BLESSING

POSTLUDE Awaken, Ye People
Composer: German Carol arranged for handbells by Ruby Shaw Hollis

Advent is the season that precedes Christmas. It is a time of waiting and expectation for the Savior of the world.

The color of Advent is purple, the traditional color of mourning and royalty.

Liturgist – McCoy Edmonds, Lorie Damon, the Rev. Julie March

Advent Peace Prayer – Anna Gardner-Andrews

Preacher – The Rev. Nancy Wagner

Organist – Dr. Bill Wade, CAGO

Choir Director – Vicki Carmichael

Choir – Trinity Choir

Trinity Handbell Choir – Jim Person, Cricket Gordon, Roberta McBride, CJ Carey, Emily Kelton, JoAnn Roman, Ann Fischer, Mary Ellen Campbell, Chris Lutz

Musical Acknowledgments—He Came Down, *Music and Words: Trad. Cameroon; transcribed and arr. by John Bell © 1990 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland). Used by permission of GIA Publications, Inc.*

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Notes on today's music: "Praise the Lord!... Praise him upon the loud cymbals (big bells), praise him upon the well tuned cymbals (tuned handbells). Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!" - Psalm 150
Early illustrations show small chimes of handbells hung from rods and in the early middle ages instructions for sung masses included the use of bells to double up on the tenor line. Perhaps church choirs have always been short of tenors (singers not bells).

In medieval times, bells were steeped in superstition. This was probably because of their long association with religion. They were baptized, and once baptized had the power to ward off evil spells and spirits. Bells were hung in doorways to protect visitors and the visited from the evil spirits, which always wait around the door awaiting the chance to slip inside. A visitor would ring the bell to drive the spirits away then pass inside - which is the likely origin of the present day doorbell!

In the United States the two prominent bell foundries are Schulmerich Carillons of Sellersville, Pennsylvania (since 1935) and Malmark Handbells of Plumsteadville, Pennsylvania (since 1973). A basic set of bells consists one octave (13 bells). Trinity owns 3 octaves of Schulmerich bells. The Schulmerich Company manufactures sets of up to seven octaves. We are looking for at least 2 new ringers for the spring semester. No experience necessary! Contact any of the ringers or Bill Wade if you are interested. We meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 PM.

December 14, 2008
Spiritual Growth – 9:30 a.m.
Gather for Worship – 10:20 a.m.
Worship -- 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship/Caroling – 11:30 a.m.



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Trinity Presbyterian Church

News and Notes

We open our doors to all persons to join in worship, fellowship, educational programs, and service.

We welcome into membership all who profess faith in Jesus Christ without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, worldly conditions, sexual orientation, disability, or any other human condition.

We elect and ordain persons who are called by God and committed to serving the Lord Jesus Christ in the Church.

WELCOME TO TRINITY!

If you are seeking a church home, we encourage you to consider becoming a member. New member classes occur quarterly. Please speak with Nancy Wagner if you are interested.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Trinity Church welcomes children in its worship services. Nursery and childcare are provided downstairs for children pre-school and younger. And, Trinity kids, remember to pick up your own worship bags in the back of the Church! Spiritual growth classes for kids are held at 9:30 am Sunday mornings. *We will not have education on Dec. 21, 28 and January 4.*

TODAY AT TRINITY

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE today are given to the glory of God by Linda Peterson and Clark McKenzie with thanks to God for Erin Jess on her 9th birthday.

THE RECORDER GROUP will practice in the Narthex Room at 8:45 am this morning.

HERE WE GO A-CAROLING!! Join your Trinity friends for some old-fashioned Christmas Caroling! Stick around for a "Carol-Sing" in the sanctuary following worship today. Those who wish to will then grab some lunch and then head to area nursing homes to carol for the residents.

THE WILD WITH WORDS writing group will meet in the Chapel from 6:30-8:30 pm.

ADULT EDUCATION

We will not have education on Dec. 21, 28 and January 4.

OUR ADULT EDUCATION SERIES, "SAVING JESUS," concludes this morning at 9:30 am in the Chapel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITY'S PASTOR DAN ANDERSON-LITTLE is on a temporary leave of absence from his pastoral duties between November 24 and January 11. He will be back in the office on January 12. The Rev. Nancy Wagner is providing pastoral leadership in his absence. If you need pastoral assistance, you can reach Nancy at church; if you have a pastoral emergency, you can reach her on her cell phone.

BIRTY'S ACCIDENT: Our Building & Grounds Caretaker, Birty Hodgson, fell Wednesday night and severely broke his shoulder and arm and injured his hips and head. He has had surgery and will undoubtedly be in rehab and unavailable to us for quite a while. We are working on getting coverage for him (as well as possible coverage for his wife, our security/door guard) in the short term and long term, but this will also be an opportunity for the congregation to pitch in when spaces need to be set up or cleaned up. Please let Liz in the office know if you'd like to be on a list to assist as needed with specific event set ups or periodic cleaning jobs (kitchen, etc.). You can send him a card at: 4440 Norfolk, St. Louis, MO 63110.

EDUCATION INFORMATION: Please note there will not be **Spiritual Growth classes for children or adults on Dec. 21, 28 and January 4.** Education will resume January 11 - 25 with a 3-part discussion "Thinking theologically about controversial social issues – capital punishment." It will be led by Mike Holley and Diana Oleskevich, from the St. Louis Chapter of Missourians to Abolish Death Penalty, Dan Anderson Little and Damayanthi Niles. Details on the spring spiritual growth plans are in your December *Trinity News*. The adult education branch of Spiritual Growth is looking for people interested in joining the adult education team in 2009 and is looking for suggestions on topics/speakers for future classes. Please contact George Philips.

HERE WE GO A- CAROLING! If caroling today after worship is just not enough, meet at Trinity at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 22nd for some old-fashioned, door-to-door caroling in the neighborhood surrounding the church. Gather in the church basement afterwards for some hot cocoa and goodies to warm up!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: Our "No-Shushing" lessons & carols family service will be at 5pm and our candlelight lessons & carols service will be at 11pm. Offerings from both services will support our food pantry.

"FAIR SHARES" works with local farmers and producers to form a Combined CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). Each week they collect, organize and distribute the freshest, seasonal, sustainably-produced foods available in St. Louis. We have helped them move their distribution site from the garage in an alley nearby to our basement on Wednesday late afternoons and they have already started to donate excess food to our food pantry. They have a waiting list, but welcome your interest. See Jim Person for more information.

CALLING ALL COOKIE-BAKERS! Please sign up in the Narthex to bake a few dozen cookies for our annual Christmas Candlelight Coffee to be held after worship on Dec. 21.

CONSIDER SENDING one of your Christmas cards to Trinity....we love displaying them in our hallway.

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE: We have close to 300 halogen and incandescent lamps to replace in the building as we work to be more "green." A 14 watt CFL (which will replace a 60 watt incandescent) costs \$4.00. We will be starting a **FUNdraiser**, asking Trinity members to donate the replacement CFL lamps for our building. These could make great "stocking stuffers" for folks on your Christmas list! We will be asking the children in the congregation to help track our progress! Stay tuned for more information or speak with Lois Sechrist.

PERIODIC TREATS: Want to do a simple thing for our church with huge reward? Why not think about taking a week now and then to provide the fellowship treats that we and our families all enjoy after worship? It's so simple. Something that kids enjoy helping with too as well as significant others. Quinn has a lot of fun helping me pick things out at the store then helping arrange them on trays in the church kitchen. Reimbursement is quick and simple, too. Just give Liz your receipts for items bought if you want to be reimbursed. The weeks that we could use some help for this month are, Nov. 16th, and Nov. 30th. December is wide open. Have a fun idea

for the Christmas season? Let us know. If you'd like to give this simple ministry a try please contact Cheryl Evans, Dave Nelson or Jim Person. Thanks!

USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE: Pat and Jane Gibbons appreciate all who have volunteered to be ushers. They can still use ushers for the 11pm Christmas Eve service. Please contact them or sign up on the usher sheet by the drinking fountain near the office.

THE WILD WITH WORDS writing group will meet in the Chapel from 6:30-8:30 pm on December 14, December 28, January 11 and January 25. All are welcome!

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

If you would like an addition to the prayer list or know of a member in need of prayer, please contact the church office.

Joys

Prayers of Joy and Thanksgiving:

- For the niece of Rev. Nancy Wagner, Meredith Adler in Indianapolis, who is diabetic and pregnant with twins.
- For the birth of Evangeline Grace Jeter on November 30 to Mike and (Rev.) Narcie Jeter in Rock Hill, SC. Grandparents are Rick and Vickie Jeter.
- For the healing of Mimi Jeske, Tom Wilhite's significant other, who has completed chemotherapy.

Prayers for Those Preparing for Ministry:

- For Rhonda Dunbar as she begins studies at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA.
- For Diane O'Brien as she pursues theological studies at Eden Theological Seminary.

Concerns

Prayers for Comfort:

- For Wally Klein and his family at the loss of his brother, Ronald, on December 11 in a car accident in Bozeman, MT that occurred Dec. 8.
- For the family of a former classmate of Damayanthi Niles', who was killed in the terror attacks in Mumbai Thanksgiving weekend, and for all those who suffered loss during those attacks.
- For Diana Gray's family on the death of her brother's wife Betty on November 15.
- For the Higginbotham family as Jennifer's 101-year-old grandmother enters hospice.

Prayers for Healing:

- For Birty Hodgson, our Building & Grounds Caretaker, who fell and severely broke his right shoulder and arm on December 10.
- For Julia Nelson, daughter of Liz and Dave, who had eye surgery December 12 at Children's Hospital.
- For Fran Kruger, former Trinity member, who had colon surgery December 9 in Seattle.
- For Walt Phillips, close friend of the Hotalings, who has been diagnosed with colon cancer and will undergo treatment at Barnes.
- For Jerry Royce, recovering from cataract surgery.
- For Carol Rustemeyer, recovering from surgery on her hand to repair a ruptured tendon.
- For Lana Edwards, friend of Cathy Smith, experiencing heart trouble.
- For Jake Jones, 17 yr old nephew of Sue Young, who is recovering from reconstructive surgery on October 27.
- For Curt March who is suffering with shingles.

- For Bill Hedrick, former pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in St. Louis who has been diagnosed with myelofibrosis, a bone marrow disorder.
- For Barbara Isaac, daughter of Janet Guenther, and her family as Barbara moves into a nursing home to care for her Alzheimer's Disease.
- For Karon Bilbrey's niece, Lisa Becker who is dealing with thyroid cancer.
- For former members Bill and Joyce Brackman, as Bill receives care for brain cancer in California.
- For Lynn Reid's grandfather in Iowa who is in poor health.
- For Dan Little, Dan Anderson-Little's father, being treated for brain cancer in Madison, WI.
- For Christy Schindler's cousin Mark Mellinger, in Flower Mound, TX, receiving chemotherapy for lung cancer and experiencing many complications.
- Marilyn Kuhn, counselor for Care & Counseling and good friend of Trinity Presbyterian Church, undergoing treatment for lymphoma.
- Ann Weems, having blood pressure problems.
- Don Weems, having back and eye concerns.
- The Pontious family (Elaine, Larry, Adam & Tati) as they help Adam have an abundant life in the midst of disabilities.
- Kim Merritt, dealing with multiple health issues.
- Barbara Robinson, who is in a coma following a stroke in October 2006.

Prayers for Homebound Members:

Helen Bauer

Mabel Howell

Evelyn Patterson

Myrtle Beckmeyer

Juanita Bruns

Colleen Osborn

Eleanor Griffin

Jim Pettus

Maxine Story

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Monday, December 15

6:00 pm

OASIS band holiday concert, Dining Room, free

Tuesday, December 16

11:00 am

Presbyterian Women, Dining Room

7:00 pm

Evangelism meeting, Dining Room or Youth Lounge

Wednesday, December 17

1:00 – 4:00 pm

Trinity Food Pantry (*no pantry 12/24 or 12/31*)

6:30 pm

Handbell Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 18

7:15 pm

Trinity Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday, December 19

Office closed

TRINITY STAFF

Dr. Daniel R. Anderson-Little, Pastor (*on temporary leave*)

The Rev. Nancy Wagner, Pastor During Leave

The Rev. Julie March, Associate Pastor for Equipping

Vicki Carmichael, Interim Minister of Music—Choir Director

Dr. Bill Wade, CAGO, Interim Minister of Music—Organist

Dawn Fleishman, Minister of Spiritual Growth

Elizabeth Nelson, Church Administrator

Linde Baechle, Financial Administrator

Birty Hodgson, Building & Grounds Caretaker

The Rev. Nancy Wagner, Parish Associate

Dr. Donald A. Weems, Pastor Emeritus