



Trinity Presbyterian Church

Celebrating the Diversity of All

December 13, 2009
Third Sunday of Advent

6800 Washington Avenue
University City, Missouri 63130

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www.trinityucity.org

Throughout the four Sundays of Advent, we will explore global themes that cry out for the Savior who is coming into the world. At Christmas, Jesus, the Light of the World brings healing and wholeness to the world that is enshrouded in darkness and gloom. This morning our focus is homelessness.

PRELUDE Happy the Home When God Is There
Composer: Henry Ware, Jr., 1846

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *adapted from Psalm 137*

Leader: By rivers whose names we do not know, we collapsed in sorrow and wept bitter tears when we remembered our homes.

People: Come, Emmanuel

Leader: On the low branches of the trees, our instruments hung silently—for we could coax no sound from them.

People: Come, Emmanuel

Leader: Those who barred us from our homes taunted us. With false smiles they asked to hear our sacred songs.

People: Come, Emmanuel

Leader: But words failed us; for we cannot sing to God when our homes are so far away.

People: Come, Emmanuel.

HYMN O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Today's opening hymn is a "Hymn Concertato" based on the seven stanzas of the familiar Advent hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and reading of the Great O antiphons (For information on the antiphons, please read the notes on today's music near the end of the bulletin this morning.) arranged by William H. Mathis. Instrumental music from the handbells, oboe, flute and organ will accompany the choir and congregation during this hymn.

Please read along on the insert and respond to Dan's readings with the text printed in bold at the end of each antiphon. Following each antiphon, the congregation will sing a stanza of the hymn as printed on the insert. Pay particular attention to who is asked to sing each hymn stanza as it varies and enjoy the different sounds and textures that result.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, our help in every age, help us now. We admit that we are afraid to practice the hospitality and welcome you expect of us. When someone in need approaches, we shrink away. Is it fear? Is it guilt? Or is it that all of a sudden our own neediness is awakened? Help us to cultivate that place inside each of us where we remember that our home is with You — a home that is warm, where things always work out in the end, and where love has the final word. We want to share your grace with others. Help us to be the bearers of your grace in every act of care, in every act of welcome. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Leader: Hear the good news of the gospel! There is nothing in life or death that can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and free.

People: Thanks be to God!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY & RESPONSE

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

People: those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on us light has shined.

Two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The lyrics under the first staff are: "Your word, O Lord, is a light. My God, en-light-ten my dark-ness. O Lord, my". The second staff begins with a measure rest marked '6'. The lyrics under the second staff are: "God, en-light-ten my dark-ness. O Lord, my - God, en-light-ten my dark-ness." The piece ends with a double bar line.

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 Luke 2:1-7 (Old/New Testament, page 58)

ANTHEM Walk in the Light

Music: Traditional, arr. by André Thomas; Words: George D. Elderkin, refrain; Charles Wesley, stanzas

*(Refrain) We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the Light of the world.*

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
Jesus, the Light of the world;
"Glory to the newborn King,"
Jesus, the Light of the world. (Refrain)*

*Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Jesus, the Light of the world;
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Jesus, the Light of the world. (Refrain)*

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 52:6-12 (Old/New Testament, page 683)

SERMON A Faith Rooted in Homelessness

Those who are able are invited to stand.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD – HYMN 12 Away in a Manger

Those who have been standing may sit.

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

Hymn for the Homeless (Tune: O Sacred Head)

Words: Tom Eggleston, Tune: Hans Leo Hassler

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| <p>1. <i>We hear the homeless crying,
When will we meet their need?
Their voices sadly sighing,
For shelter is their plea.
When will we show God's kindness,
Unto the least of these?
When will we see our blindness,
And do as Jesus leads?</i></p> <p>2. <i>We live in homes of splendor
With no thought of the poor.
A token we would render,
Yet never giving more.
Forgive our selfish ways, Lord,
And turn our hearts a-bove.
We come on bended knees, Lord,
And seek to show Your love.</i></p> | <p>3. <i>The homeless still are yearning
For comfort, hope and peace.
While we keep home fires burning,
They roam the cold, dark streets.
We see their nameless faces,
As they walk in the rain.
They search for secret places,
To hide their lonely pain.</i></p> <p>4. <i>We'll build a house of caring
With wood that's strong and true
For it will teach us sharing
And it will honor You.
Give us a sure foundation,
Built on a solid frame.
Our hearts, our hands, our mission:
To lift up Jesus' name.</i></p> |
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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 12

People, Look East

WORDS OF SENDING & BLESSING

INVITATION TO ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

As environmental stewards of this earth, we have to opportunity to do our part by recycling our worship papers. After worship, please dispose of your bulletin in the blue or green recycling containers in the Narthex or outside the sanctuary doors by the pulpit.

POSTLUDE

O Word of God Incarnate (Tune: Munich)

Composer: Setting by Alec Wyton (1921-2007)

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.

Notes on Today's Music— Today's opening hymn is a "Hymn Concertato" based on the seven stanzas of the familiar Advent hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* and reading of the *Great O Antiphons* arranged by William H. Mathis. "The *Great O Antiphons* are seven brief prayers that are traditionally chanted or sung on successive evenings starting on December 17. The precise origin of these texts is unknown. However, by the 8th and 9th centuries, the church in Rome and monastic communities throughout Western Europe were using them at evening worship services during the season of Advent. These ancient supplications beautifully express the Christian church's profound yearning for her long expected Savior. They continue to be part of the seasonal devotions of many churches today.

The *Great O Antiphons* are rich in meaning and nuance. Each antiphon begins with the acclamation 'O,' addresses Christ by one of His messianic titles from the Old Testament, and ends with a heartfelt plea for His coming. The sequence of the antiphons is theologically precise, progressing from before the creation of the universe, through the messianic prophecies of Israel, and culminating with the Incarnation and birth of Christ in Bethlehem. The initials of each Latin title -- Sapientia, Adonai, Radix, Clavis, Oriens, Rex, and Emmanuel -- combine to form SARCORE. When this is arranged backwards, it spells the phrase ERO CRAS, which means 'Tomorrow, I shall be.' Christians since the Middle Ages have been fascinated by this coincidence because Christmas Eve (December 24) falls on the day after the singing of the final antiphon." (<http://www.stpaulskingsville.org/oantiphons.htm>)

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Decorations – This year, the Trinity will anticipate the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World by progressively adding light and decoration to our Sanctuary through the season of Advent as we wait for Immanuel, God-with-Us. Our celebration of the Incarnation will culminate on January 3, Epiphany Sunday.

AIDS Memorial Quilt – The two AIDS Memorial Quilt panels hanging on the North wall belong to The Quilt which began with a single panel created in San Francisco in 1987. Today, The Quilt is composed of more than 47,000 individual 3 x 6 foot panels, each one commemorating the life of someone who has died of AIDS. In its entirety, The Quilt is measures 1,293,300 square feet and weighs 54 tons, but only represents about 17.5% of the people in the United States who have died of AIDS. These panels come from every state in the nation, every corner of the globe and they have been sewn by hundreds of thousands of friends, lovers and family members into this epic memorial, the largest piece of ongoing community art in the world. (<http://www.aidsquilt.org>)

The Creche – The crèche in the display case in the northeast corner of the Sanctuary is made up figurines given in loving memory of Todd Weems, a son of Trinity who was tragically killed in 1982.

Liturgist – Anna Gardner-Andrews, the Rev. Julie March

Preacher – Dr. Dan Anderson-Little

Organist – Dr. Bill Wade, CAGO

Choir Director – Vicki Carmichael

Choir – Trinity Choir

Bell Choir – Trinity Bell Choir

Soloists – Thomas Sitzler, baritone; Caitlyn Van Buren and Stephanie Ball, sopranos

Instrumentalists – Sarah Hotaling, flute; Michael Wyssession, synthesized oboe

Musical Acknowledgements – "Your Word O Lord" *words and music by Jacques Berthier, ©2001 GIA Publications, Inc./Les Presses de Taize; "Walk in the Light" arranged by André Thomas, words by Charles Wesley and refrain words by George D. Elderkin, ©2005 Choristers Guild; both reprinted under OneLicense.net A-707661.*



Trinity Presbyterian Church

News and Notes for December 13, 2009



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 speak with the pastors about our membership class. Our schedule can be found in the welcome brochure in the pews. We welcome children in worship, with childcare provided downstairs for children pre-school age and younger, if wanted. *Spiritual growth classes for children and adults are held at 9:30 am.*

TODAY AT TRINITY

The Kids B n B group will bake cookies the kitchen after worship today for the Dec. 20th event.

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

"They Like Jesus but not the Church" (12/6/09 - 12/20/09: 3 Sundays) At some point we have all wondered why attendance at mainline churches, even theologically and socially progressive churches such as our own, has been slowly and inexorably declining. We are concerned; we are worried; but we don't really understand. If people are indeed spiritual, why aren't they religious? Join us as we explore this topic. We will use emergent pastor, Dan Kimball's, DVD series, "They Like Jesus but not the Church," as the jumping off point for our discussion and exploration of the "spiritual but not religious" phenomenon.

OUR WEEKLY PARENT GROUP offers a relaxed place to talk about the joys and challenges of parenting. Topics will be determined by the group. Speak with Dan for more information and join us when you can. Room 206 (by the Choir Room) at 9:30am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING TO BE TAKEN FOR WINGER FOOD PANTRY: Next Sunday the 20th, the Advent theme will be "hunger" and the offering will be going to our food pantry. The Christmas Eve offering will also benefit our mission of feeding the hungry.

COOKIES FOR ALL: Join us after worship Dec. 20 in the Chapel for our Christmas Cookie Coffee. This year, as we have fellowship we will also package and deliver cookies to those less fortunate. *Please bring cookies to the Chapel on the 20th before worship.* There will be opportunities to eat, package, deliver and clean up!

ANYONE MISSING A SET OF KEYS? Keys on a long colorful lanyard were left in the office. Describe to Liz and claim them.

OUR YEARLY ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLET is now available in the Narthex. It is also available on our website (www.trinityucity.org) and as a daily email reflection.

THE SCHEDULE OF ADVENT EVENTS is now available in the Narthex. Take a few and share them with friends and neighbors.

WANT TO SING SOME OF HANDEL'S MESSIAH? Trinity Choir would like to invite you to join them in singing during worship on December 20th. We'll do two choral pieces from the Christmas portion of The Messiah that day-- "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion" and "And the Glory of the Lord". **Come to rehearsal at 7:00 PM on Thursday Dec. 17th and again in the morning on Sunday Dec. 20th at 9:30 AM.** All are welcome!

RAPID RE-HOUSING CLIENTS HAVE NEEDS: Thanks to all who have donated so far! We've partnered with this organization to help provide furnishings and necessities for people moving from homelessness into homes. Check the Narthex and magnetic board by the elevator for items needed. Donations can be stored in the room next to the food pantry. Arrangements can be made for larger donations to be picked up.

LATEST STEWARDSHIP UPDATE – DECEMBER: Thank you, thank you, thank you! This congregation heard the Call to Stewardship and answered "Here We Are Lord"! At last count, 92 pledges have been turned in, totaling more than \$260,000 committed for 2010. This is a great start to our campaign, especially in these trying times. It's particularly exciting that we have more than a dozen new pledges from members or friends of the church – our ministry and spiritual community is growing as we speak! The Session is working hard to eliminate the budget deficit and expand mission efforts, and increased pledging is essential to achieve that goal and help their planning. We are on target to exceed the number of pledgers and total amount pledged compared to 2009, but to make this goal a reality we need everyone's support. If you haven't renewed your pledge yet, or if you are considering making a pledge for the first time, please do so now. Simply contact Linde Baechle, our Financial Administrator, by calling the office or sending her an email with your name and the amount of your pledge (beckjefries@yahoo.com). If you have any questions or

concerns, please feel free to speak with anyone on the Stewardship committee (Jenn Clodi, Sarah Hotaling, Brian Muegge, Rob Peglar, Larry Pontious, Evan Reid).

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 Mike Higginbotham who got a new job with the State of Missouri's Department of Mental Health.
- For Susan Lim having completed all of her treatments for breast cancer.

Concerns

Prayers for Comfort:

- For Revs. Dan & Linda Anderson-Little, Daniel, Jacob and Leah at the death of Dan's dad Dan Little on November 16.

Prayers for Safety:

- For Shanthi Phillips who is serving with the Peace Corps in Lesotho. You can read her blog at shanthiphillips.blogspot.com
- For Jon Gibbons, son of Pat and Jane Gibbons, husband of Emily Shapiro and father of Harriet and Frances, who is serving in a military hospital in Afghanistan until May 2010.

Prayers for New Beginnings:

- For those preparing for ministry (Dawn Fleishman, Diane O'Brien, and Rhonda Dunbar).
- For Leo and Lois Eason spending the winter in Florida.
- For Ray and Ginny Scholin spending the winter in Arizona.
- For all Trinity members struggling with economic and employment concerns.
- For Cricket & Brian Gordon, spending a semester in Canterbury, England for a University program.

Prayers for Healing:

- For Do Kirk, who is recovering at home in Whidbey Island, WA from a minor stroke.
- For Ray Stone, Ginny Richmond's nephew, in ICU with an unknown problem.
- For Pat Warren, Ginny Richmond's niece, receiving radiation and chemotherapy for multiple cancers.
- For Sandy Macy, friend of Cheryl & Reed Evans, just diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor.
- For Dee Wharton, friend of Lois Sechrist, recovering from breast cancer surgery.
- For Rex Bull, father of Cathy Hasler, in Missouri Baptist for congenital heart failure, kidney problems, and recovery from a mini-stroke.
- For Rev. Don Weems, Trinity's Pastor Emeritus, receiving treatment for prostate cancer.
- For Vicki Carmichael's brother Warren, his wife, Lori, and his family as they go through difficult times.
- For Rev. Louis Platt, Art Platt's brother, being treated for lung cancer.
- For Katy Gordon, daughter of Cricket and Brian Gordon, being treated for cysts on her liver.
- For Lorraine McGhee, Roberta McBride's neighbor, who is dealing with multiple health problems.
- For Suzanne Trahan, friend of Traci O'Bryan, who is being treated for breast cancer; and for Suzanne's father John Foushee who is undergoing treatment for esophageal cancer.
- For Fred Gould, Stacy Shupe's uncle, diagnosed with an aggressive rectal cancer that has spread to his liver.
- For Jon Billings, Vicki Carmichael's sister-in-law's brother, who is recovering from surgery for pancreatic cancer.
- For Lisa Becker, Karon Bilbrey's niece, who is dealing with thyroid cancer.
- For Ann Weems, being treated for kidney disease.
- For Mark Mellinger, Christy Schindler's cousin in Flower Mound, TX, receiving chemotherapy for lung and brain cancer.

Prayers for Ongoing Support:

- For Jean Dausch, Cricket Gordon's friend, who has been diagnosed with ALS.
- For the Pontious family as they work to help Adam have an abundant life in the midst of disabilities.
- For Harold Glad and Jan Schulte-Glad as they deal with Harold's Early Stage Alzheimer's.
- For Bob Reynolds, significant other of Janet Guenther, in a nursing home after a stroke.
- For Bill Hedrick, former pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in St. Louis who has been diagnosed with myelofibrosis.
- For Anna Gordon, as Cricket & Brian continue to work on her care issues.
- For Dianne Anderson, mother-in-law of Dan Anderson-Little, who is dealing with liver disease.
- For Kim Merritt, dealing with multiple health issues.

Prayers for Homebound Members:

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| • Helen Bauer | Myrtle Beckmeyer | Eleanor Griffin | Mabel Howell |
| • Evelyn Patterson | Maxine Story | Jim Pettus | |

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Monday, 12/14: 1pm, Genesis House Bible Study, Youth Lounge

Tuesday, 12/15: Presbyterian Women, 11am, Dining Room

Wednesday, 12/16: Food Pantry, 1-4pm

Thursday, 12/17: Handbells, 5:30pm, Choir Rm.; FESTIVAL Choir, 7pm, Choir Rm

Sunday, 12/20: Sunday School kids bake cookies during education time; Christmas Cookie Coffee in the Chapel after worship