



Trinity Presbyterian Church  
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## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD/THREE KINGS SUNDAY

### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

**Prelude**

**Personent hodie**

#### **Welcome & Announcements**

Leader: This is a day that God has made!

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

*Time for sharing news of the church.*

#### **Call to Worship**

Leader: We gather virtually wondering, “Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?”

**People: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children,  
in the wisdom of grandparents.**

Leader: We gather virtually asking, “Where will we find the Child of Christmas?”

**People: We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope,  
where the oppressed are set free.**

Leader: We gather virtually wanting to know,  
“Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?”

**People: We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace,  
where hatred is overwhelmed by love,  
where all people are overwhelmed by joy.**

#### **Gathering Carol**

**What Child is This?**  
*Glory to God #145, v. 1-3*

### **Invitation to Confession**

Leader: Why do we huddle in the shadowed corners of life,  
rather than running to the Light of life?  
Why do we love the wrong we do  
rather than grasping the good news offered to us?  
As we struggle with such questions,  
let us speak to God of all we have failed to do,  
seeking hope and grace as we pray together:

### **Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

**We search for your light, Star Caster, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfill our desires rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace.**

**Forgive us, Shaper of your lives, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope instead of destination; who found grace instead of gratitude; who found salvation instead of a sign. As we journey into the unknown this new year, fill us with the light of your joy and love. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, who journeys with us. Amen.**

### **Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

Leader: Through faith in Jesus Christ  
we can come to the Almighty God in boldness and confidence,  
assured of the gift of grace and empowerment of the Spirit.  
Lift up your eyes to see the glory of God.  
Receive light and healing, for God has come to dwell in us and among us.  
Let your hearts rejoice and your faces be radiant  
as we share the abundance of God's love.  
Friends, believe the Good News:

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia!**

### **Passing the Peace**

Leader: Since God in Christ Jesus has forgiven us,  
let us forgive one another.  
The peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.  
Please share the peace of Jesus Christ  
with those with whom you are joining us for worship.

### **Carol of Praise**

**Angels We Have Heard on High**  
*Glory to God #113, v. 1 and refrain*

## **WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Leader: God of the Stars, whose guidance is always available to those who look up and listen, speak to us now. We are troubled by many things. Break into our thoughts to reveal great joy at the heart of life, that we may worship wholeheartedly, offer you our best, and lead others to the discoveries of faith. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

**First Scripture Reading**

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

**Anthem**

**From All That Dwell Below the Skies**  
*Glory to God #327, v. 1-3*

**Second Scripture Reading**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Message: "Adventuring with the Divine Star Caster"**

**Rev. Marilyn Gamm**

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### Carol of Response

**We Three Kings**  
*Glory to God #151, v 1-5*

### Offering

#### Invitation

#### Doxology Carol

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**  
*Glory to God #133*

### Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

**Generous God, for the joy of giving, we offer the products of our labor for the ministry of this church, in outreach to the world. With concern for those who are poor, oppressed, and needy, we rededicate ourselves as helpers and advocates. Out of devotion to Christ, we commit our best, that the church may bear witness among the principalities and powers of this world. Help us all, O God, to be faithful stewards. Amen.**

### Celebration of Holy Communion

#### Invitation

#### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

*A time for silent prayers will be offered during the Great Prayer*

**Leader:** People of Christmas, may God be with you!

**People:** **And also with you!**

**Leader:** People of Epiphany, lift up your hearts.

**People:** **Overwhelmed with grace,  
we lift our hearts to the One who was born for us.**

**Leader:** People of the Star, offer your songs of joy and thanksgiving to God.

**People:** **We will sing our praises to the One  
who has revealed glory and hope in the Babe of Bethlehem.**

**Leader:** In that first moment, .... sing of your grace:

Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy/Santo, Santo, Santo)

Glory to God #595

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zon tea - do - ra! Mi  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My  
 co - ra - zon te sa - be de - cir: San - toe - res, - Se - nor.  
 heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly Lord.

Leader: Holy are you, .... to us through Christ:

Memorial Acclamation (Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen)

Glory to God #553

\*Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a - gain.  
 Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a - gain.

Leader: Holy One ... And now let us pray together the prayer  
 Jesus taught his disciples to say:

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.

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup

Sharing the Bread and Cup Together

Prayer after Communion: (Unison)

God of Grace and Peace, as you have shared your life with us through the Child in the manger and this simple meal together, let us share your life with others as the body of Christ in the world; through Jesus, the Bread of Heaven, we pray. Amen.

## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

**Carol of Service**

**Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow**  
*Glory to God #135, v 1-2*

**Commission and Blessing**

**Postlude**

**Hallelujah from *Messiah***  
*by G.F. Händel*

Participants in Today's Worship

**Pastor** – Marilyn Gamm

**Director of Music & Pianist/Organist** – Christian Hendricks

**Liturgist** – George Van Hare

**Children & Youth Minister** – Hannah Peters

**Communications Coordinator** – Katie Gibbons

**Technical Support** – Dylan Voss and John Roman

**Soloist** – Evan Babel

**The Trinity Choir:**

*Soprano – Aleta Klein, Cricket Gordon, Jenn Clodi, Madeline Black (Section Leader)*

*Alto – Connie Torretta, Margy Brown, Nancy Wagoner, Rachel Presti, Janelle Pierce (Section Leader)*

*Tenor – Brian Schroer, Pat Courtney, Evan Babel (Section Leader)*

*Bass – George Van Hare, Nigel Holloway, John Galczynski*

Contact Trinity's staff and leadership by emailing [admin@trinityucity.org](mailto:admin@trinityucity.org) or contacting the church office.

### TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS AND NOTES FOR JANUARY 3, 2021

*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.*

#### **Ordaining and Installing Newly Elected Elders and Deacons**

In order to keep everyone safe during these times, the Session has set the ordination and installation of newly-elected Elders and Deacons during our live stream worship services for two Sundays – January 10 and 17.

We will ordain and install four persons each of these Sundays.

A special thank you to DeAnne Brown, Sue Lorenz, and Nancy Wagoner for creating two stoles with the handprints of previously ordained persons to be worn as a spiritual representation of having our hands laid upon them as we ordain them to their respective offices of Elder and Deacon.

**The Worship Committee has chosen as our series theme for the six Sundays between Epiphany and Lent beginning January 10: “Drawn In: Living Out the Creative Life with God.”**

According to the worship series resources, “We spend too much time being ‘driven’ rather than ‘drawn in.’ We focus on what we ‘should’ do rather than what we feel excited and compelled to do in our lives, in this world. During this series, we will connect with our inherent creativity and nurture this foundational aspect of being human, giving us renewed energy for passionate work, delightful play, and creative problem solving to make this world a better place for all.”

As such, our weekly worship format will be modified to include a time of “Opening to the Creative Spirit” as we from wherever we are gathering “enter” into the service, a time of confession that includes “Affirming and Connecting,” the offering of an “An Imaginative Word” before the weekly Scripture readings, a time of “Praying for the World We Co-Create” during our prayers of the people, and an invitation for “Offering of the Creative Spirit” as one of our gifts.

Each week as we’re “Drawn In: Living Out the Creative Life with God,” will have a different emphasis:

January 10 – “Dream”

January 17 – “Hover”

January 24 – “Risk”

January 31 – “Listen”

February 7 – “Re-integrate”

February 14 – “Resting”

**Our January Sunday Symposium will be January 17 at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom.** In addition to a time of fellowship, we will launch our third round of transitional conversations with the theme of “Seeking God’s New Thing: What is the Mission and Ministry God is Calling Us Toward?”

Watch the weekly newsletter, bulletin, and for special email announcements with more information in the coming weeks.

**You might think it’s a bit late to remind people of safety measures, but with the vaccine around the corner, people might lower their guard.** The Social Witness Action Team of Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery thought so and ordered and paid for 35 signs for churches around the presbytery. The cautionary message is on both sides which makes the sign ideal for the corner of Washington and Kingsland.

As Joni Mitchell might sing:

I’ve looked at the sign from both sides now

And still somehow, it’s 2020 I recall.

I really don’t want COVID at all.

**Working for justice means keeping the issues in the forefront of people's minds.** Every Wednesday, members of First Presbyterian Church stand at their busy corner of Midland and Delmar, holding signs acknowledging that Black Lives Matter and demanding Justice for those who have been murdered.

They welcome us to join them each week. Currently they meet from 5:30-6:30pm each Wednesday, but will probably switch to 5-6pm once we have the time change. Please contact Liz Nelson for more details (314-359-2478; leithskye@gmail.com), or show up on the front lawn if First Pres with a sign and a desire for justice!

**Trinity is “broadcasting” our Sunday morning 10 a.m. worship service via our Facebook page or you can watch the recording on YouTube later on Sundays.** Those who participate in this way on home computers or mobile devices can even type messages to one another during the live service, such as doing a virtual passing of the peace. Also, Facebook has captions! While watching the service, find the gear icon at the bottom of the video and click on it. When you do, an option pops up to turn on closed captioning!

Kids and parents probably already know about this, but if you are not a parent of a young person and have **wondered what goes on in “Children’s Church,” now you can experience it!** Hannah Peters has taped a YouTube video, and updated links will be posted regularly on the “Sundays at Trinity” section of our website homepage.

**As we live in this challenging time, Trinity continues to be available to all those who need us.**

Members desiring pastoral care are encouraged to call the church office at 314-725-3840 or to reach out to Deacons Margy Brown, 314-452-7241, or Cathy Smith, 314-725-0586. Your need will be shared confidentially with our Transitional Pastor the Reverend Marilyn Gamm. You also can email her directly at [Marilyn.Gamm@TrinityUCity.org](mailto:Marilyn.Gamm@TrinityUCity.org)

**Supporting the church through your financial gifts continues to be encouraged!** Please mail your contributions to Trinity Presbyterian Church, Att’n: Linde, 6800 Washington Ave., University City, MO 63130, or check out the online giving instructions below.

1) Text the code TPCDONATE \$[your gift] to 73256. You'll receive a text back with a link that lets you complete your online donation.

2) Log in to your Realm account and click on the "Giving" tab.

#### **Session**

Gordon Brown, Dayna Early, Nigel Holloway, Kris Kerr, Mary Klingensmith, Mike Krivonak, Mary McKown, Brian Muegge (Clerk), Rachel Presti, John Roman, Jan Schulte-Glad, George Van Hare

#### **Deacons**

Margy Brown, Bill Cahoon, Kathie Cahoon, Anna Gardner-Andrews, Jennifer Higginbotham, Corie Merker, Jim Person, Art Platt, Diana Regan, Joanne Roman, Cathy Smith, Spirit Sorensen