



Trinity Presbyterian Church
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University City, Missouri 63130
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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude

Ave Maria

melody by Charles Gounod, based on J.S. Bach's Prelude in C major

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.

Crossing the Threshold

Leader: In both Isaiah and the Gospel of Matthew,
a messenger appears as a sign from God, heralding a new era.

**People: In each passage, the words, "do not be afraid" appear...
offering a clue that the messenger – whether prophet or angel –
was referencing something that induced fear in the recipient.**

Leader: A new way of being together, of relating and loving takes courage –
eschewing the present order of things so that a new and better day can be born.

The Threshold Music

I Believe

by Mark Miller

Opening Prayer and Lighting the Hope Candle on the Advent Wreath

Leader: Holy One, we thank you for the glimpses we catch of your gift of daring Love.
Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle –
even when we cannot yet see a better day
when we will act like the human family we are,
ignite the flame of Love within us,

People: ...that we might glow with its brilliance from the inside out.

The Threshold Music Reprise

Leader: Help us face this fear of difference and dare to see what Love can do.

People: Amen.

Leader: You are invited to light your own Love candle of Advent.

Gathering Advent Song

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Glory to God #93, v. 1-3

Invitation to Confession

Leader: How quick we are to dismiss the dreams and hopes
our God has for us in this holy season!

Let us come to the One who approaches,
ready to swaddle us in forgiveness and grace, as we pray together, saying,

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

We confess to you, God of our Ancestors, that we are still searching for the same things our ancestors sought you for: protection, guidance, love and assurance. We still long to know that we will live in eternity with you, that you will see us through whatever troubles lie ahead. We still are waiting for peace to come and for your Realm, your reign, your beloved community to overtake us so that we will fight no more, struggle no more. And we confess that the feelings of hope and love and joy and peace that we seek and celebrate during this season may fade in another month. We are still people of chronological time. Help us to move to Kairos time, to know that Advent is the season we are all expectantly waiting in, no matter what time of year. May we continue to participate in the coming of your beloved community, your reign on earth as it is in heaven, knowing that you have already come, and are at work in each of us now. In the name of Christ, who was born, and who is coming again, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Leader: The light of God's love shines upon each of us in the gift of God's love, Jesus Christ. This is given for you. Rejoice! You are loved by God, now and forever.
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.

Song of Praise

This Little Light of Mine

v. 2

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: God of all life and all seasons, help us open our hearts to hear the words of promise and love that you send to us. Like Joseph, may we trust in your abiding love and power. Prepare us to receive your gift of grace and peace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:1-25 (CEB version)

A[n abbreviated] record of the ancestors of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac.

Isaac was the father of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.

*Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah,
whose mother was Tamar....*

Salmon was the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab.

Boaz was the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth.

Obed was the father of Jesse.

Jesse was the father of David the king.

*David was the father of Solomon,
whose mother had been the wife of Uriah.*

Solomon was the father of Rehoboam....

Eleazar was the father of Matthan.

Matthan was the father of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary—of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Christ. So there were fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen generations from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen generations from the exile to Babylon to the Christ.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,

And they will call him, Emmanuel.

(Emmanuel means "God with us.")

When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Message: **"I Believe in Love: Daring Right Relationship"**

Rev. Marilyn Gamm

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Carol of Response

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Glory to God #129, v 1-3

Offering

Invitation

Doxology

O Gladsome Light
Glory to God #672, v. 2

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

We must not take the gifts God gives to us, even the most tangible ones, and hoard them for ourselves. Rather, we offer them, as well as our hearts and lives as offerings to those in true need around us. This we pray in the name of our Emmanuel. Amen.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

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

Leader: Our God, Song of the Ages, be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right join their unending hymn:

**Soloist: Now Mary sings her birthing song
Till every voice can sing along
And voices weak will rise up strong
Her choir is one where all belong**

Leader: Holy are you, mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Leader: Pour out your ... out in service:

**Soloist: No one is saved till all are healed
As Jesus on the Mount revealed
Your life and mine forever sealed
Just like the lilies of the field**

Leader: And now, God ... now and forever.

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

Leader: ...These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**Soloist: We follow where the Christ has led
To table that for all is spread
And no one's sitting at the head
But deeper love in wine and bread**

Sharing the Bread and Cup Together

Prayer after Communion: (Unison)

Loving God, you graciously feed us, who have received these holy mysteries, with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation. May we who have received this sacrament be strengthened in your service; we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth; we who have seen the greatness of your Love see you face to face in your Holy Realm. For you have made us your own people by the death and resurrection of your Child our Savior and the life-giving power of your Spirit. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

Carol of Resistance

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Glory to God #123, v 1-5

Commission and Blessing

Postlude

“Tea” from The Nutcracker
by P.I. Tchaikovsky

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Liturgist – John Merker

Children & Youth Minister – Hannah Peters

Communications Coordinator – Katie Gibbons

Technical Support – Dylan Voss and John Roman

Soloist – Madeline Black

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 or contacting the church office.

NEWS AND NOTES FOR DECEMBER 6, 2020

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.

December Sunday Symposium

Our December Sunday Symposium will be December 6 at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom. In addition to a time of fellowship, the Session has called a Congregation meeting during the Symposium for the purpose of electing four members each to the Session and to the Board of Deacons, and to elect two members of the congregation to the 2021 Nominating Committee.

The nominating slates are as follows:

Session, Class of 2023:

Diana Gray
Kevin Harkins
Sarah Mayer
Tim Rand

Board of Deacons, class of 2023:

DeAnne Brown
Stacy Carman
John Merker
Joanne Roman

At-large members of Nominating Committee for 2021:

Pat Gibbons
Sandy Norkatis

I Believe Even When....

The Worship Committee is excited to share that our theme for this year's four Sundays of Advent, for framing the traditional Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols, and for the Sunday after Christmas is "I Believe Even When...."

As the language of the soul even during these challenging times, this worship series is designed to focus upon and heighten our music appreciation "even when" we cannot be together in all the many ways we would prefer.

As such, our weekly worship format will be modified to include a time of "Threshold Music" as we from wherever we are gathering "enter" into the service, a time of appreciating the "Witness of Music" between the weekly Scripture readings and concluding each week with a "Carol of Resistance."

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

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