



December 12, 2021

Trinity Presbyterian Church
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[Facebook.com/trinityucity](https://www.facebook.com/trinityucity)
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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Prelude

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice
by Jan Bender

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.

* Opening the “Door” to Worship

Leader: In both Luke’s and Matthew’s nativity stories
messengers appear with startling news from God, heralding a new era.

**People: In each passage, the messengers say “do not be afraid”
offering a clue that they are about to share something scary.**

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

**People: Sometimes it is difficult to feel joy
when so much in the world feels out of sync with joyful expression.**

Leader: But Joy does not depend on everything being right with the world.

*** Opening the “Door” Music**

“Joy Waits for Us at Advent”

by Amanda Udis-Kessler

**Joy waits for us at Advent
Joy waits for us to sing.
Joy waits for our amazement
at the grace in everything.
In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
where wonder is restored.
Joy is born in us once more!**

*** Lighting the “Joy” Candle on the Advent Wreath**

Leader: Today we offer the Light of Joy to illumine the Door of Welcome.

People: **May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church.**

Leader: As we light our third candle of Advent here in the sanctuary and in our homes may Joy awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality.

People: **There *IS* room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.**

*** Opening the “Door” Music Reprise**

**Joy waits for us at Advent
Joy waits for us to sing.
Joy waits for our amazement
at the grace in everything.
In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
where wonder is restored.
Joy is born in us once more!**

*** Gathering Advent Song**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Might Gates
Glory to God #93, v. 1-3

*** Invitation to Confession**

Leader: Come, tell your story to God.
Tell the good you have done, of the mistakes you have made,
of the gentleness you have shared, of the hurt you have caused.
Let God know of your longing for forgiveness, for healing,
as you join with me in praying together saying:

*** Prayer of Confession** (Unison)

We don't fret over just anything, God of Wonder, we worry about *everything* that comes our way. Stress, our faithful companion, guides us further and further from your gentle presence. Instead of waiting for you, we rush pell-mell through these days. We keep the hopes we could offer to you stuffed deep in our pockets, rather than lifting them to you.

Forgive us, Holy One of Advent. Let your grace be known to all who come to you. May your peace fill our spirits, may your hope be our strength, may your joy encompass our hearts as we celebrate the Advent of our Savior, Jesus Christ, your gift of Love who is our Hope, Joy and Peace forever! Amen.

* Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Leader: This is the good news, dear friends:
God does wonders for us – forgiving us, refreshing us with love,
singing glad songs of salvation to us.

People: **We will lift up God's name,
praising the One who is our strength, our salvation, our hope, our joy.
Thanks be to God! 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 wave and say to one another or type in the comments
“We are people of Joy!”

* Song of Praise

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

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Holy One of Advent, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your Emmanuel presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Anthem

Savior of the Nations Come
arr. Jason W. Krug

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he

had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Message

“Visions and Dreams”

Pastor Candidate

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

* Advent Song of Response

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Glory to God #100, v. 1-4

Prayers of the People

A time for silent prayers will be offered during the Prayers of the People.

Prayer Song Verse 1

“Make of My Heart a Stable”

by Amanda Udis-Kessler

**Make of my heart a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for [joy] to live and grow.**

Leader: In this moment we open the doors of our hearts
to honesty before God about what we’ve done and left undone
that created less joy in a hurting world.

Let us breathe out this regret...
and breathe in the life-giving, for-giving Spirit of God...
and out again with the Joy of Christ...

Prayer Song Verse 2

“Make of My Heart a Stable”

by Amanda Udis-Kessler

**Make of my life a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for [joy] to live and grow.**

Leader: In this moment we open the doors of our lives to the call of the Spirit,
inviting us to become more than we can ask or imagine.

Let us breathe out our fear...
and breathe in the courage of the Spirit of God...
and out again, with the Joy of Christ...

Prayer Song Verse 3 “Make of My Heart a Stable”

by Amanda Udis-Kessler

**Make of our church a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for [joy] to live and grow.**

Leader: In this moment we open the doors of this church,
filling it with the compassion of Christ for all those who are struggling.

We remember and pray for....We pray this in the name of Jesus,
who taught us to pray:

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.

Offering

Invitation

*** Doxology #**

God, We Honor You
Glory to God #709, v. 1

*** Prayer of Dedication** (Unison)

We will not be afraid, Loving God, to offer our hopes, our hearts, our treasures to you, but do so willingly, trusting that you will use them to bring life, joy, grace, hope, and peace to all around us. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

*** Carol of Service**

What Child Is This
Glory to God #145, v. 1-3

*** Commission and Blessing**

Postlude

Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy from The Nutcracker
by P.I. Tchaikovsky

Called Congregation Meeting

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Liturgist – Katie Klein

Children & Youth Minister – Hannah Peters

Communications Coordinator – Katie Gibbons

Technical Support – Dylan Voss and John Roman

Ushers – Jan Schulte-Glad, Melissa Kreishman, George Philips

Handbell Choir – Kevin Harkins, Cricket Gordon, Joanne Roman, Rachel Presti, Jayne Howard, Emily Kelton

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.

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWS AND NOTES FOR DECEMBER 12, 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.*

The lovely poinsettias in the chancel have been given by:

Nancy & Bob Wagoner, In celebration of the season and in honor of our dear family.

Alice & George Philips, In celebration of our grandchildren, Luke, Emma, Ada and Cora.

Bill & Cathy Smith, In celebration of an Advent of blessings

Joanne & John Roman, In blessings of the season and love to our family, Jeff, Leah, TJ, Kate, Zach, Hilary & Avery

Sylvia Washington, In celebration of her family, Polly Brown, James Brown, Sharon Renee Batt & Kelly Nicole Batt

Susan Rave, with thanks for the Hope of the Holiday Season

Deanne & Gordon Brown

2021 Advent-Christmas Worship Series

Our theme for the four Sundays of Advent, along with framing the traditional Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols, and for the Sunday after Christmas is "The Inn: Housing the Holy."

This Advent season, we are being invited to consider ways our church can become a "house" where the Holy may be born anew – offering respite, sustenance, and care, opening our doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life.

Our special worship series is an invitation to spend this Advent and Christmas seeing our church, community, and world situations through the light of the Star of Bethlehem that shone on an unlikely shelter for the holy – a stable, a barn, a shelter for farm animals.

Each week, in the midst of our church family's ongoing transitional and pandemic uncertainties, we are being reminded that the Light of Christ continues shining on us, inviting us to become a beacon of hope, peace, joy and love to others.

As such, our weekly worship format has been modified to include a time of "Opening the 'Door' to Worship" liturgy, music, and Advent wreath candle lighting "as we from wherever in person and online we are gathering are "called to worship."

And the weekly Prayers of the People will include liturgy and music encouraging us to "Make of My Heart a Stable."

CATCH THE VISION 2022 Financial Pledge Update

Our 2022 financial pledge stewardship campaign continues!

Stewardship is a time to rededicate ourselves to the mission and ministry of Trinity Church.

In the words of our stewardship hymn, God "[empowers] us to catch the vision, dream the dream! In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!"

For those of you who have submitted your "Catch the Vision" 2022 financial pledge to Trinity's mission and ministry, Thank You!

As of December 7, 2021 Trinity's 2022 Financial Pledges were:

32 households \$169,269.92

This compares with total financial pledges for the past two years as follows:

2021: 53 households	\$210,290
2020: 60 households	\$254,750

If you have not yet made a financial pledge, please join me in prayerfully considering what you can give in 2022.

Each of us is important, and every gift is a blessing.

- Jenn Clodi

The Holiday Season is upon us! Christmas Eve 5:00 Family Service

Third grade children through high school youth are invited to participate as a reader or in the prelude . Please let Miss Hannah know by December 10 if you are interested. If you are participating in the prelude, I will need to know the Christmas carol and instrument you are playing. Happy Holidays to All!!

Advent Mission Opportunity

This holiday season, Trinity staff have chosen to support our ever growing Winger Food Pantry. Throughout Advent (November 28 - December 19) we ask Trinity members to bring any of the following donations to the room off of the Narthex:

Personal care items, for example:
soap

deodorant
toilet paper
toothpaste
toothbrushes
laundry detergent (smaller containers)

Merry Christmas and thank you!

The Food Pantry uses the local Schnucks store to purchase canned goods and other non-perishables for the pantry. We are taking part in the Schnucks reward program and receive award credits to use as credit against our food pantry purchases. If you shop at Schnucks, you too can add to this by using Trinity's phone number 725-3840 when checking out. The credit will go against future food pantry purchases. The small amounts add up!

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!

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 Corie Merker, 314-434-8286, 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 Onrealm account (onrealm.org) and click on the "Giving" tab.

Session

Gordon Brown, Diana Gray, Kevin Harkins, Nigel Holloway, Mary Klingensmith, Sarah New Mayer, Mary McKown, Brian Muegge (Clerk), Bob Parks, Rachel Presti, Jan Schulte-Glad

Deacons

DeAnne Brown, Bill Cahoon, Stacey Carman, Anna Gardner-Andrews, Corie Merker, John Merker, Jim Person, Art Platt, Diana Regan, Joanne Roman, Cathy Smith, Spirit Sorensen