



December 19, 2021

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

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Prelude

Ave Maria
By Franz Schubert

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: This has been an Advent season of prophets: Jeremiah, Baruch, and Micah.

People: **And now the prophet is Mary –
the woman who was the original house for the holy.**

Leader: She was “the inn,” her womb gestating Love for the world.

People: **With all her heart, she proclaims that the lowly are lifted,
the hungry are fed, mercy reigns.**

Leader: Like Mary, we must envision, must see, must prophesy and act
on that vision for the world that God continues to call us to co-create.

People: **What is the view from the room that God has prepared?**

* Opening the “Door” Music

“Love Waits for Us at Advent”

by Amanda Udis-Kessler

**Love waits for us at Advent
Love waits for us to care.
Love waits for our compassion
freely offered, freely shared.**

**In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
where faith shapes all we do.
Love is born in us anew!**

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

Leader: Today we offer the Light of Love 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 fourth candle of Advent here in the sanctuary and in our homes may Love 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**

**Love waits for us at Advent
Love waits for us to care.
Love waits for our compassion
freely offered, freely shared.
In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
where faith shapes all we do.
Love is born in us anew!**

*** Gathering Advent Song**

My Soul Gives Glory to My God
Glory to God #99, v. 1-5

*** Invitation to Confession**

Leader: Every notion we have about power, success, wealth, and achievement,
God takes and tosses out the window.
More importantly, God comes to us
to upset our idea that we have to save ourselves.
In Jesus, God comes to us, removing our sin, our failures, our expectations,
so we might have life.
Please join with me in praying together saying:

*** Prayer of Confession** (Unison)

We confess we are not the people you hope us to be, Advent God. The very ones you favor? All too often we ignore them, or worse, fill them with ridicule. The ones you remove from their pedestals? We continue to admire them, seeking to emulate their ways. The drumbeat for more and more? We live into that rhythm so easily we risk being sent away empty.

Forgive us, Mighty God who comes housed in the weakness of a baby. Look with grace upon us so we might see your Love shining down. We could live secure in your Hope, we could be the ones of Peace for our world, we could learn to do your will when we but welcome Jesus, the Christ, our Savior, into our hearts, into our lives, into our homes. Hear us as we pray through your gift of Love. Amen.

*** Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

Leader: God passes the heirloom of Mercy down from generation to generation,
always loving, always forgiving, always calling us to new life.

**People: As we open our hearts to God,
we are filled with the Joy that was sung at the Birth,
with the Hope that walked among us,
with the Grace which is always with us.
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 Love of Jesus Christ be with you all.
Please wave and say to one another or type in the comments
"We are people of Love!"

*** 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: Maker of Promises, be with us this morning as we hear your prophecies through Micah and Mary. Particularly inspire us as we encounter Mary and hear of the wondrous news that she received. Remind us that, like Mary, each one of us is a bearer of your Good News. We are called to proclaim hope, peace, joy, and love in your name. Open our hearts and our spirits today to receive with great joy the love that you have for us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Micah 5:2-5a (CEB)

As for you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
though you are the least significant of Judah's forces,
one who is to be a ruler in Israel on my behalf will come out from you.
His origin is from remote times, from ancient days.
Therefore, he will give them up
until the time when she who is in labor gives birth.
The rest of his kin will return to the people of Israel.
He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
They will dwell secure,
because he will surely become great throughout the earth;
he will become one of peace.

Anthem

Love's Pure Light
by Joel Raney

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 1:46-55 (CEB)

Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her."

Mary said,

"With all my heart I glorify the Lord!

In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.

He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.

Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored
because the mighty one has done great things for me.

Holy is his name.

He shows mercy to everyone,
from one generation to the next,
who honors him as God.

He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.

He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty-handed.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
remembering his mercy,
just as he promised to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Making Room for Love Video

Message "Making Room for Love's Perspective"

Rev. Marilyn Gamm

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Advent Song of Response

Love Has Come
Glory to God #110, v. 1-3

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 [love] 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 Love 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 [love] 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 Love 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 [love] 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, including the Winger Food Pantry collection** (Unison)

God of Advent, you exalted a poor young woman named Mary by housing within her body the baby we believe to be your Love Incarnate, Jesus the Christ. You have exalted us, as well, with the gift of being called and sent into the world as the gift of your Love's disciples to carry on the Christ's mission and ministry. Out of your many gifts to us, we return to you for your use through this church these financial and Winger Food Pantry collection offerings today. May the items we have collected express our caring as they bless and benefit those who receive them. And believing that your promises will be fulfilled, we also pledge our lives to you in anticipation of the coming of the One who brings us Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

* **Carol of Service**

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Glory to God #133, v. 1-4

* **Commission and Blessing**

Postlude

Six Christmas Pieces, Op. 72, No. 1, "Happiness at Christmastime"
by Felix Mendelssohn

Participants in Today's Worship

Pastor – Marilyn Gamm

Director of Music & Pianist/Organist – Christian Hendricks

Liturgist – Jayne Howard

Children & Youth Minister – Hannah Peters

Communications Coordinator – Katie Gibbons

Technical Support – Dylan Voss and John Roman

Ushers – Sandy Norkaitis, Diana Gray, Mary Klingensmith

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 19, 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.

Today is the Last Day to Participate in this year's 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!

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is responding in Six Presbyteries impacted by the December 10-11 Tornadoes

“There’s an incredible number of people who have been displaced, because their home has either been heavily damaged or destroyed,” Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Associate for National Disaster Response the Rev. Jim Kirk, said December 13.

“So, sheltering is going to be a significant need. This will be an event that will require a long-term response for the rebuilding — just an incredible amount of emotional, spiritual care needs, given the number of fatalities and injuries.”

PDA emphasizes the best way people can help is through cash donations, which will allow people in impacted communities to spend it as they need and support area businesses.

To support the PDA response, gifts can be designated in the memo line to DR000015 and mailed to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

P.O. Box 643700

Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

PDA and other relief entities say people should never send unsolicited supplies such as clothing and household items to disaster areas, because they can compound problems people are already facing.

In the early days of this disaster, Kirk can already see that this will be a long-term recovery effort, with plenty of opportunities for Presbyterians to help.

“We would anticipate that there’ll be the need for volunteers for the long-term recovery, to help with repair and rebuilds,” Kirk said.

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 Rava, 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.”

The Holiday Season is upon us!

Christmas Eve 5:00 Family Service

Please join us on Christmas Eve for our family service featuring adults and children both reading scriptures and playing holiday music! Happy Holidays to All!!

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 10, 2021 Trinity's 2022 Financial Pledges were:

39 households \$187,829.92

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 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