

Lighting of the Advent Candles Melissa Johnson, Brody and Josie

Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope.

We light this candle in peace.

We light this candle in joy.

Hear God's promise of joy from Psalm 126:2-3 and Luke 1:39-49

Let us pray: Creator God, we give You thanks and praise that You created laughter! It is one of your best ideas! Help us to share Your joy. When we cannot hear laughter in others, give us wisdom to wait and listen. Joy is only joy when it is given away. Give us energy to bring Your laughter and Your love to all people.

God of promise, God of joy, into our darkness come. Amen.

Come, let us walk

in the light of the LORD!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**O God of past, present, and future,
indeed, from everlasting to everlasting You are God;
You are coming in power to bring nations under Your rule.
We confess that though we speak of it and desire it,
we have not truly expected Your kingdom.**

**We live casual lives as if Your promised judgment
is only an idle threat.**

**We are often slow to serve You, and when we do so it is
more like a burdensome duty than a deep joy.**

**We do not ask that You alter Your judgment, but that You
do so according to Your mercy, and through Him who
is our only hope, even Christ Jesus, the Savior.**

Congregational Response No. 573 Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*
(Silence for personal prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

***Response to Grace No. 577** *Gloria Patri*
Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson – Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

(Following the Children's message, child care is provided for children of pre-school age up through first grade. Older children remaining in worship may get a Children's Worship Bag from the Ushers.)

Anthem Mary, Did You Know? Arr. Jack Schrader

Gospel Lesson – John 1:6-8, 19-28

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sermon Continue to Prepare the Way of the Lord Pastor Hart

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn No. 3** Comfort, Comfort You My People *Psalm 42*

THE FLOWERS FOR TODAY'S SERVICE
have been given to the glory of God
by Bob Radabaugh in celebration of the
birthday of Debbie Radabaugh.

Assisting In Worship Today
Richard Hart.....Minister
Anghaarad Teague Dees.....Minister
John-Alan GourdineDirector of Music
Edward Neeman..... Pianist
Glennie Wicks.....Lay Reader
Zane Dees.....Usher Team
Pat Collins, Melissa Mittelstadt, Lisa Pearce
Kelly Wicks.....Greeters
Bill Wicks, Melissa Johnson
Annalee Bickers.....Acolyte

Trinity Chancel Ringers
Paul Guilbeau - Director
Martha Bennett John-Alan Gourdine
Mili Collins Brandon Vigil
Winnie Dooly Brooke Webb
Denise Dupras Kelly Wicks
Bryan Wright

TRINITY ELDERS

| Class of 2017 | Class of 2018 | Class of 2019 |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| Cathy Hoover | Jeff Bickers | Bill Bickers |
| Lyle McGhin | Frank Kilgard | Nita Cross |
| Don Thieme | Marcie Swank | Brian Preyna |
| Kelly Wicks | Brooke Webb | Debbie Radabaugh |
| | Bryan Wright | Ruth Stonestreet |

OUR TRINITY STAFF
Dr. Richard Hart.....Pastor
Rev. Anghaarad Teague Dees.....Pastor
Mrs. Renae Preyna.....Director of Christian Education
Mr. John-Alan Gourdine.....Director of Music
Dr. Edward Neeman.....Pianist
Mr. Paul Guilbeau.....Director of Chancel Handbells
Mr. Bryan Wright.....Administrative Assistant
Miss Kendra Beasley, Miss Makinsey Rosser.....Choir Interns
Mr. Zackary Serrott

Annual Christmas Joy Offering
Traditionally throughout the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) an offering has been received during Advent for two important causes. Half of the Christmas Joy Offering will go to provide financial assistance to retired church workers and their families on limited income. Administered through the Board of Pensions these funds also assist ministers and missionaries experiencing significant emergency financial crises for themselves and their families. The other half of the offering will go to support racial ethnic schools and colleges of the PC(USA). Those receiving funds this year are the Menaul School, a Christian High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico; the Presbyterian Pan American School, an international high school in Kingland, Texas; and Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. We will receive the Christmas Joy Offering today during the offering. Those wishing to donate, please use the envelopes provided, make the check payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church, and write Joy Offering in the memo line.

Pines Family Center Angel Christmas Tree
The deadline for returning wrapped gifts is today, **December 17**. If you have not yet been able to turn in your gifts please contact Cathy Hoover.

Dutch Lunch Bunch
Please join us for a tasty lunch, provided by the Trinity Staff on **December 19th** at Noon. Pastor Hart, Pastor Dees, Bryan Wright and Renae Preyna will each bring a pot of chili for an informal Chili Cook-off. Everyone else is asked to bring sides to go with chili (crackers, cornbread, chips, cheese, etc.) or dessert. It will be a wonderfully festive time of fellowship complete with caroling accompanied by Denise Dupras on the piano. Reservations are requested. Please sign up at Trinity or call the Church Office to put your name on the list.

Our Wednesday Schedule:
For Wednesday, **December 20, 2017**
There **will not** be any Wednesday night activities on December 20, 27, or January 3. Join us when we resume on January 10, 2018.

Spreading Holiday Joy
Join your Trinity family for Christmas Caroling to the homes of folks in our church to whom we hope to bring a message of good cheer. On Wednesday evening, **December 20, 2017**, we will meet at Trinity at 6:00 p.m. Our plan is to visit five or six church members' homes. We will take the Trinity bus, and other vehicles if needed. Paul Guilbeau has agreed to provide accompaniment for us. Those who wish to do so may gather afterward for something to eat at Chick-fil-A.

Christmas Eve Schedule
Sunday morning – 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
11:00 a.m. – Worship
Sunday Evening – 6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

A Message from the Finance Committee
~ Year-end contributions need to be deposited in the church's account by Sunday, December 31, 2017 to be credited for this year's tax returns. Please make sure your gifts for this year are received on or before that day. Contributions mailed must be postmarked on or before December 29.
~ Extra gifts to your church help insure we complete our year in the black and provide additional tax benefit to the donor. Please keep Trinity in mind as you complete your charitable giving for 2017.

***Affirmation of Faith (Unison)**

Apostles' Creed

"I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead."

"I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen."

Prayers of the People and 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

Offertory Medley for Christmas Arr. Sondra Tucker
Chancel Ringers

***Doxology No. 593** Doxology
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Choral Dismissal** Bless Us, Father Anna Laura Page

***Recessional Hymn No. 600** Song of Mary Morning Song

***Benediction**

***Passing The Peace of Christ**

***Postlude**

*All who are able may stand.

FOR YOUR DAILY PRAYER The pastor and elders meet at 10:45 each Sunday morning to pray for the morning service and to remember by name each person on our prayer list. Please lift the names of these persons to God in your prayers.

Members & Regular Participants

Mary Beckett
Marie Hill
David Johnson
Beverly Peters
Bryan Singer
Frank Stoddard
Nellie Stoddard

Relatives

Reed & Tammy Armond, *brother & sister-in-law of David Armond*
Austin Boyd, *great-grandson of Roberta Boyd*
Barbara Chisham, *cousin of Marcie Swank*
Red Cross, *father of Mike Cross*
Dennis & Heather Dibble & Family, *cousins of Leonard Mittelstadt*
Ruth Duss, *mother of Sherry Stranahan*
Scott Ferguson, *brother-in-law of Kathy Roe*
Michele Giddens, *daughter of Lee & Barbara Bradley*
John Gilbert, *father of Karen Ferguson*
Bill & Melissa Guzman & Family, *cousins of Beth Reid*
Muriel Hart, *aunt of Richard Hart*
George Larimore, *brother of Janet Wright*
Robert Earl Pennington, *relative of Beverly Peters*
Steve Pierson, *brother-in-law of Guy Oliver*
Russell Popham, *uncle of Nita Cross*
John Radabaugh, *brother of Bob Radabaugh*
Liz Ferguson Ross, *daughter of Mark & Karen Ferguson*
Tom Speck, *brother of Beverly Peters*
Vicky Thomas, *niece of Jane Gore*
Gino Vecchio, *nephew of Melissa Johnson*

Friends (contact person)

Susan Butenschon (Nita Cross)
Kathy Butterbaugh (Debbie Radabaugh)
Frank Chandler (Mili Collins)
Sara Chang (Kathy Roe)
Jessica Clark (Kathy Roe)
Eric Clark (Grant Wright)
Nikolas Conley (Libby Bickers)
Tom Conner (Libby Bickers)
Dawn Curtis (Debbie Hart)
Ben Davis (Catherine Loveday)

Betty Hardy (Nita Cross)
Carol Herndon & family (Lyle McGhin)
Bubba Hundley (Brooke Webb)
Leilani Jones (Lisa Pearce)
Wendy Jowers (Catherine Loveday)
Aidan Legg (Judy Bickers)
Diana Gardner McConnel (Jan Hobson)
Deanna Morris (Brian Preyna)
Darius Nelson Family (Leonard Mittelstadt)
Jack Oliver (Zane Dees)
Victoria Osteen (Libby Bickers)
Bitsy Paige (Catherine Loveday)
Patricia Parrish (Paulette Butts)
Debbie Pippin (Catherine Loveday)
Carolyn Poe (Jackie Wright)
Ward Porch (Anghaarad Dees)
Mary Price (Kathy Roe)
Catherine Raynor (Beverly Peters)
Deborah Richardson (Bernie Preyna)
Sarah Singletary (Catherine Loveday)
Randall Smith (John & Chris Roan)
Heather Smock (Candy Wakefield)
Jeani Spencer (Mili Collins)
Lizbeth Stevens (Bill & Ruth Stonestreet)
Kim Stokes (Winnie Dooly)
Betty Tillman (Mili Collins)
Dan White (David Armond)
Hazel Williams (Linda Brown)

Members Remembered in Prayer This Week

Debbie Antonoff
David Armond

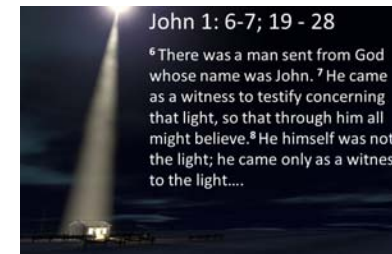
Our Military Personnel
Missionaries
All Refugees
Victims of Terrorism
Those suffering the effects of recent hurricanes and wildfires

We Extend Our Christian Sympathy . . .

to the family and friends of Valentine Brown, who died recently, requested by Judy Bickers, and to the family and friends of Billy Drew, who died recently, requested by Chris Roan.

Trinity Presbyterian Church

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Phone: 229.242.3468 Web: www.trinitypresval.org



Mission Statement

As Believers, we will worship God by . . . Praising, praying, responding to His Holy Word.

As Disciples, we will follow God by . . . Studying, learning, living His Holy Word.

As Stewards, we will honor God by . . . Caring, serving, sharing His Holy Word.

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

**Third Sunday of Advent
17 December 2017**

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

During the weeks of Advent and Christmas a lantern will be processed into the Sanctuary to help us be mindful of pieces of the story that connect us to the Christ child. This morning, the lantern will be placed near the Chrismon Tree to draw our attention to many ways Jesus showed his love for us...at table, in teaching, in healing, in sacrificing himself and for defeating the wages of sin and death for us. The symbols on the Chrismon Tree remind us of all these acts of love.

Silent Meditation:

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. ~ I Thessalonians 5:16-22

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Arr. Sondra Tucker
Chancel Ringers

The Lighting of the Candles

Choral Introit O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Veni Emmanuel

***Processional Hymn No. 12** People Look East Besançon

***Call to Worship** – from Psalm 126 (from the translation *The Message*)

It seemed like a dream, too good to be true,
When God returned the exiles to their homeland.
They laughed, they sang, they could not believe their good fortune.
They were the talk of the nations – “God was wonderful to them!”
God has been wonderful to us;
We are one happy people!
And now, O God, do it again – bring rains to our drought-stricken lives,
So those who planted their crops in despair will shout “hurrahs” at the harvest;
So those who went off with heavy hearts,
Will come home laughing, with armloads of blessing.
Let us worship God!
The Lord's name be praised!

