

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession - from Presbyterian Mission Agency

As Advent comes to an end, O God, we lament that hateful chants, violence, and death have marked our streets. Lord, have mercy!

God of all Advents, this season we cry, "If only You would tear open the heavens and come down!" But too often we forget that Your arrival sets the captives free, separates the sheep and the goats, and judges those who hoard privilege at the expense of others.

Lord, have mercy!

Trusting in the promise that Christ is coming to save sinners, we lay bare before You our own failure to work for equality, our capitulation to injustice, and our enjoyment of benefits denied others because of their culture or the color of their skin.

Lord, have mercy!

Tear open the heavens, O God, dismantle all that destroys our community.

Come, Lord Jesus!

Help us to heed John the Baptist's call to repent, for the Lord is near. Put on our lips, and more importantly in our hearts, the question of faith that ripples through the ages, "What, then, should we do?"

Come, Lord Jesus!

Silence in my any voice but Yours, so we will have the ears to hear the answer and the courage to do what You command.

Come, Lord Jesus! O God of all Advents, make all things new, including us.

Congregational Response No. 574 Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us *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. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson – Titus 2:11-14
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 O Come to Us, Emmanuel Joseph M. Martin

Gospel Lesson – Luke 2:1-7
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

The Sermon To Bethlehem Pastor Dees

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn No. 49** Once in Royal David's City *Irby*

THE FLOWERS FOR TODAY'S SERVICE
have been given to the glory of God
by Frank and Lynn Kilgard in celebration of and
thankfulness for the birth of Christ.

Assisting In Worship Today
Anghaarad Teague Dees.....Minister
Richard Hart.....Minister
John-Alan GourdineDirector of Music
Edward Neeman..... Pianist
Herb Reinhard.....Lay Reader
Pat Collins.....Usher Team
Noelle Collins, Charlie Oliver, Kelly Wicks
Cathy Hoover.....Greeters
Doug Maxwell, Melissa Mittelstadt
Christal Dudley.....Acolyte

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

Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service
Join your church family, and bring your Christmas guests for a meaningful celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve. The service will begin at 6:00 p.m. It will include the singing of Christmas Carols interspersed with Scripture. Special music will be provided by Pastor Dees singing "Gesu Bambino" accompanied by Elder Frank Kilgard and Denise Dupras and Bryan Wright singing "O Holy Night." Communion will be served by the ancient practice of intinction. Worshipers will come forward to receive a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. The service will conclude with candlelight spread to all participants while singing "Silent Night." We hope to see everyone there!

Christmastide and Epiphany Schedule
Christmas Eve – 6:00 p.m. – Candlelight Communion Service
Sunday, December 31 - 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
11:00 a.m.– Worship
Sunday, January 7, 2018 - 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
11:00 a.m. – Ordination & Installation of Officers
Communion
4:30 p.m. – Stated Session Meeting

Trinity Photo Album Updates
Bryan Wright, our faithful photographer, will be set up in the Atrium at Trinity this morning and evening to take individual and family photos to update our pictorial directory. Stop by to have your picture made , if you will.

The Church Office will be **closed** in observance of the following holidays:
Christmas – Monday-Tuesday – December 25 and 26, 2017
New Year's – Monday – January 1, 2018

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

These Days Devotional Booklets
These Days Devotional Booklets are available in the atrium. These booklets are published by our denomination, The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and are provided at no charge by Trinity's Worship Committee. This issue begins **January 1**. Be sure to pick up your copy.

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 Comfort ye, my people - from *Messiah* George F. Handel
John-Alan Gourdine - Tenor

***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. 23** Angels We Have Heard on High *Gloria*

***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
Beverly Peters
Bryan Singer
Nellie Stoddard

Relatives

Reed & Tammy Armond, *brother & sister-in-law of David Armond*
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)

Buddy House (Chris & John Roan)
Bubba Hundley (Brooke Webb)
Leilani Jones (Lisa Pearce)
Wendy Jowers (Catherine Loveday)
Aidan Legg (Judy Bickers)
Holly Lustfeldt (Libby 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)
Jeni 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

Mae Baker
Nancy Barrett

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Our Military Personnel  
Missionaries  
All Refugees

Victims of Terrorism  
Those suffering the effects of recent hurricanes and wildfires

**Trinity Presbyterian Church**

3501 Bemiss Road, Valdosta, Georgia, 31605  
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**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
24 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 on a chair on the front row as a reminder that we are a part of the Christmas story because we tell it again and again and we do our best to live the way Jesus taught us to live. We are the priesthood of all believers all given the ability to be proclaimers of the Good News... "God is with, Emmanuel."

**Silent Meditation:**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ~ Micah 5:2

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude** Pilgrim's Chorus Arr. Franz Liszt

**The Lighting of the Candles**

**Choral Introit** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *Veni Emmanuel*

**\*Processional Hymn No. 28** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice *In dulci jubilo*

**Lighting of the Advent Candles** Leonard, Melissa, and Mickeala Mittelstadt

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.

**We light this candle in love.**

Let us pray: God, hold us in Your love. Fill our souls with Your closeness and warm our hearts as we prepare for Christmas. Stay in our focus today and allow us to leave all the distractions behind. Bless this time as we wrestle with the concept of love.

**God of promise, God of love, into our darkness come. Amen.**

Come, let us walk  
**in the light of the LORD!**

