

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Montgomery, Alabama

Organized 1891

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
A breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air—
But only His mother in her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what I can, I give Him—give my heart.

~ Christina Rossetti, English poet [1830-1894]

The Second Sunday of Advent
The Lord's Day, December 7, 2014

THE ORDER FOR MORNING WORSHIP

December 7, 2014 ■ 8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

The Silent Meditation upon Entering the Sanctuary

God is never closer to His people than when they cannot see His face.

~ Harry Ironside

The Welcome and Announcements [8:25 and 10:55 A.M.]

The Bethlehem Candle, the second candle, is lighted pointing to the Messiah being born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem as foretold by the prophet Micah.

The Prelude

Two settings of *VENI EMMANUEL*

Wilbur Held

John Carter

The Striking of the Hour

† The Call to Worship

Mr. Curles

2 Corinthians 8:9; 1 Timothy 1:15; Psalm 24:7-10

Minister: For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich.

People: **The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.**

ALL: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!

† The Hymn No. 198

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!” [stanza 1-4]

† The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

† The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father Which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, for ever. Amen.

◀ Please enter the sanctuary in reverent silence. Consider what it is you are about to do and before Whom you will worship. Put all “worldly conversations” aside and direct your attention heavenward. At the close of the service make a concerted effort to greet everyone—member and guest alike—with the hospitality of Jesus Himself.

◀ The setting apart of the hour for the worship of God.

◀ “Lift up your heads ... that the King of Glory may come in.”

◀ We invoke God’s presence in our worship. We don’t come to God in pride, assuming that He will hear us, but we come to Him in humility, asking that He would engage with His people.

The Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:4-11

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

◀ A portion of the Birth Narrative according to Luke.

The Hymn No. 194

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" [stanzas 1, 4-5]

Stewardship: *Pleasing the Heart of the Father*

The Morning Offering

The Christian Greeting

The Anthem "Whence Is That Goodly Fragrance Flowing?" arr. Mack Wilberg

Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing,
Stealing our senses all away,
Never the like did come a-blowing,
Shepherds, in flow'ry fields in May,
Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing,
Stealing our senses all away.

What is that light so brilliant, breaking
Here in the night across our eyes.
Never so bright, the day-star waking,
Started to climb the morning skies!
What is that light so brilliant, breaking,
Here in the night across our eyes.

Bethlehem! there in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer haste away,
Run ye with eager footsteps vieing!
Worship the Saviour born today.
Bethlehem! there in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer haste away.

◀ This Traditional French Carol speaks from the perspective of the shepherds visited by the angels in Luke chapter two. The fragrance and light of which the text speaks are not as much physical as they are metaphorical. The fragrance of Christ is sweet to those longing for a Savior. His light is brilliant; chasing away the darkness of sin and death.

The Prayer of Illumination

◀ A prayer for the Holy Spirit's help.

† The New Testament Lesson

Acts 23:11-35

◀ The text may be found in the Pew Bible, page 1186..

† The Response

All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.

**The grass withers and the flowers fade,
but the Word of our God shall stand forever. Amen.**

The Hymn of Preparation No. 205

“Away in a Manger” [stanzas 1, 3]

◀ Children aged four through kindergarten may leave to attend Children's Church. Following the worship service, please pick up your children from the Children's Chapel in the Covenant Building (E-100).

The Sermon

Mr. McRoberts

PROVIDENTIAL PROTECTION AND DEVOTION

Especially in the Bleak Midwinter

Acts 23:11-35

LXII. Exposition of Acts

The preaching of God's Word is proclamation in which the minister serves as a herald of God's truth.

INTRODUCTION

NOTES

I. OUT OF APPARENT SILENCE, JESUS SPEAKS ~ 23:11

II. THE CONSPIRACY AGAINST PAUL ~ 23:12-15

III. GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL PROVISION FOR PAUL ~ 23:16-22

IV. THE NIGHT TRIP TO CAESAREA ~ 23:23-35

CONCLUSION

The Closing Corporate Prayer

Ken Gire

Thank You, God, that the genealogy of Your Son is a lineage of grace, a testimony to the reach of Your love throughout generations. Thank You for reaching across those generations for me. And for ever so patiently grafting me into that tree. Thank You for the firmness of Your hand and the tenderness of Your touch. I have needed both at one time or another, and doubtless I will need both again. Continue to lift and to prune. To water and to weed. And to do whatever it takes to bring me to a place where I have something to offer others. Thank You for the autumns in my life that have humbled me with their losses. For the winters that have strengthened me with their cold. For the springs that have renewed me with sap. And for the summers that have given me an opportunity to share the fruit you have cultivated in my life. O Lord, Who watched so faithfully over those families who waited for the Savior to come, watch over my family who waits for Him to come again.

† The Hymn No. 207

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

The Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting will follow each morning worship service this Lord's Day for the purpose of electing officers.

† The Benediction

Minister: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, descend and rest in your hearts until the day breaks and all these shadows flee away.

People: **AMEN!**

† The Postlude

“Fantasia on *In Dulci Jubilo*”

J.S. Bach

† Indicates standing as able

The sanctuary flowers this Lord's Day are given to the glory of God and in honor of the Tenth Anniversary of Paul and Margaret Mathews.

TRINITY CHURCH SHARES CHRISTMAS MUSIC AT THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION

Trinity Church is invited to attend the Holiday Tour at the Governor's Mansion this Monday, December 8, where our Youth and Children's Choirs will be performing Christmas music. Leah Slawson will be sharing some solos, and there will be festive piano duets from Todd and Andria. The tour and the music will take place from 5:30-7:30 p.m., and admission is free.

◀ Our warmest Christian greeting to our visitors this Lord's Day morning. We hope you had a very Christ-focused, Spirit-filled, God-exalting experience worshipping with us. And we hope you will return. We have a congregational meeting following this hymn for the purpose of electing officers. You are welcome to stay, but if you prefer to leave, during the singing of this final hymn would be a good time to exit. Thank you again for visiting with us. Please seek a greeter as you leave if you have any questions about the Christian faith and/or Trinity Church.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK
OUR CHURCH THIS LORD'S DAY, December 7, 2014

The Lord's Day

- 8:30 A.M. Early Morning Worship/Election of Officers
 9:45 A.M. Sunday School
 11:00 A.M. Morning Worship/Election of Officers
 5:00 P.M. Youth Choir
 6:00 P.M. Youth and Children's Choirs Christmas Music
 7:00 P.M. Senior High Fellowship at the Home of the Coopers

FOR PRAYER AND PARTICIPATION THIS WEEK

Monday, December 8

- 9:30 A.M. WIC Circle in the Westminster Room
 12 Noon Men's Bible Study in the Spires Room
 5:30 P.M. Youth and Children's Choirs Sing at Governor's Mansion

Tuesday, December 9

- 6:45 A.M. Prayer Breakfast in Trinity Hall
 3:30 P.M. John Knox Christmas Party at John Knox Retirement Home

Wednesday, December 10

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Search the Scriptures in the John Knox Room
 7:00 A.M. Men's Bible Study in the Westminster Room
 6:00 P.M. Classic Christmas Movies:
 "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and "Frozen"
 6:30 P.M. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 12

- 5:00 P.M. Dunklin-Hewitt Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, December 13

- 4:30 P.M. Dunklin-Hewitt Wedding

Trinity Church Prayer Focus:

Christmas Programs, Worship Services, and Special Music during December

Missionary Prayer Focus of the Week:

Becky White ~ Mission to the World, Christ's College in Taiwan

WELCOME

Welcome to the family of Trinity Presbyterian Church! We believe that the Lord has a purpose in bringing you here today, and we extend to you a genuine greeting as you worship with us. *Everyone is encouraged to sign the Friendship Registers at the center aisle end of the pews.* The Spires Room is set up to provide overflow seating for each Lord's Day morning worship service. Please use this seating when the sanctuary is overcrowded or you have special worship needs. If you are new to Trinity, please speak to a minister at one of the doors at the close of the service and inform him. To find out more about the many opportunities to serve and learn at Trinity, please visit our website, www.trinitypca.org. Audio enhancement units are available from an usher in the Narthex. Our morning service is broadcast live over WNZZ AM 950 at 11:00 a.m. in the metropolitan area and on iHeart Radio on the internet. Archived sermons may be heard at any time on our website: www.trinitypca.org. Complimentary childcare is provided for all worship services.

Our Purpose: To exalt Christ in metropolitan Montgomery by dynamic and faithful worship, aggressive evangelism both at home and abroad, teaching the Word of God, and equipping members to minister to the spiritual needs of our church and community.

**PASTORAL AND
MINISTRY STAFF**

Claude E. McRoberts, III

Senior Minister

Patrick W. Curles

Executive Minister

S. Michael Howell

Minister of Pastoral Care

W. Robert Pendley

Minister of Discipleship

P. Kurt Cooper

Minister to Youth

Todd Alexander

Director of Music and Organist

Rebecca S. Canerday

*Director of Outreach
and Women's Ministries*

Thomas J. Danielson

Director of Missions

Michael Hogg

Director of Business Operations

Stacy S. Hamilton

Director of Children's Ministry

Mary Cam Shaw

Youth Ministry Assistant

Alice DeMoss

Director of Preschool

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