



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DECEMBER 23, 2018

MORNING WORSHIP

THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

In this Advent Season of waiting on the Lord, we trust in the Lord's goodness.

We rely on His mercy. We find shelter in His steadfast love.

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord, we walk in the Lord's way.

We follow His example of love. We keep our covenant promises.

In this Advent season of waiting, Lord, forget our sins. Remember Your love.

Remember each one of us. Remember Your people everywhere.

In this Advent season of waiting, Lord, we wait for Your salvation.

We wait for Your leading. We wait for Your coming.

— **BASED ON PSALM 25:1-10**



The Welcome and Announcements

The Angels' Candle, lighted as the Festival of the Incarnation nears, reminds us of the angelic announcement and calls us to focus on Christ's finished work on the cross and to anticipate His Second Coming. "Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth; come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King."

~ Luke 2:15-17

The Prelude

The Friendly Beasts
Trinity Youth Handbell Choir

arr. Kevin McChesney

The Striking of the Hour

✠ The Call to Worship

Isaiah 7:14, 26:3; Luke 2:14

Mr. Howell

Minister: Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His Name *Immanuel*.

People: You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased.

✠ The Hymn No. 195

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

✠ The Confession of Our Faith

The Apostles' Creed
Inside front cover of the *Trinity Hymnal*

✠ The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

✠ The Lord's Prayer

(Inside front cover of the *Trinity Hymnal*)

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 53
Page 780 in the Pew Bible

The Morning Prayer

What songs are ours for singing to welcome Christmas Day!
Come, set the church bells ringing, come, hear the organ play!
Rejoice to tell the story, how in that cattle-stall
was born the Lord of glory, the Child to save us all.

What songs can mourners borrow, laments of grief and loss,
the broken heart of sorrow before that bitter cross?
While earth itself is shaken and darkness veils the skies,
rejected and forsaken, the Lord of glory died.

What songs we sing, rejoicing to welcome Eastertide,
with saints and angels voicing the praise of Him Who died!
From death's devouring prison behold Him strong to save,
the Lord of glory risen, in triumph from the grave.

Our song is never-ending, come, lift your voices high,
our earthbound worship blending with all the starry sky!
Give thanks for love amazing, and heartfelt homage pay,
the Lord of glory praising, the Child of Christmas Day!

The Morning Offering

The Christian Greeting

The Anthem

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

arr. Erin MacGorman

Trinity Youth Handbell Choir

(The text to this anthem may be found in the *Trinity Hymnal*, No. 217)

The New Testament Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

Page 1026 in the Pew Bible

The Personal Meditation and Personal Preparation of the Heart

Children age four through kindergarten may leave to attend Children's Church.

*Following the worship service, please pick up your four-year-olds from the
Children's Chapel in the Covenant Building (E-100).*

Five-year-olds may be picked up from Room E-212.

The Sermon

IT PLEASED THE FATHER

Mr. McRoberts

Why Jesus Was Born: To Save Me from Myself

Isaiah 53:10

Opening Comments

Introduction

I. The Principle

The pleasure of God is wrapped up in His love; therefore, we get a glimpse of God's pleasure in His demonstration of that love in the sending of His Son and subsequent offering up of Him for our salvation.

II. The Plan

Because of love for you (known only to God as to WHY He would love YOU), He sent His Son, born in a manger wrapped in flesh to this end: that 33 years later He would die an unthinkable, cruel, harsh death to give YOU life ... YOU and a number no one can count from every tribe, nation, tongue, and people group!

III. The Place

The beauty in believing in the sovereignty of God is not that the doctrine magically makes sense out of all of life; rather, the beauty lies in the fact that God's sovereignty gives me peace when life doesn't make sense. (cf. Keller; Tripp)

Conclusion

The Closing Prayer

† The Hymn No. 211

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

GOD REST YOU MERRY

† The Benediction of God's Grace and the Congregation's AMEN

Minister: God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent His only Son, give you grace to prepare for eternal life. God the Son, Who comes to us as Redeemer and Judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light. God the Holy Spirit, by Whose working the virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness.

People: AMEN.

† The Quiet Reflection, Meditation, and Personal Application

† The Postlude

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
Anna Alexander, piano

arr. Dino Kartsonakis



December 24 at 4:00 and 6:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

Holy Communion services with music from the Chancel Choir and guest instrumentalists.

Homily by Claude E. McRoberts, III.



When you look into that manger in Bethlehem, you need to see a warrior. Jesus came to do battle with the Enemy and to defeat him for our sake. He would defeat the Devil in his life, he would defeat him on the cross, and he would defeat him by the empty tomb. Each victory was for us so that we would be able to resist the Devil's deceptions and temptations in our lives. Because Jesus came to defeat the Devil, a face-to-face battle with the Devil was inevitable. The life of the baby in the manger would march toward a moment when the Devil would throw everything in his arsenal toward Jesus. All of history hinged on that battle. Soon that baby would grow into a man, and He would face what Adam faced: the seductive temptations of a deceptive enemy. He would stand toe-to-toe with Satan as the second Adam. The defeat of Jesus would spell our doom, but the victory of Jesus would guarantee our hope of countless moral victories as we too would face the seductive voice of the Tempter, whispering lies into our ears. You see, Jesus is the Chief Warrior, the Adam the world longed for, but the final battle is not over. We still live in a broken world that doesn't function as God intended. We still battle with temptation outside us and sin inside us. Seductive voices greet us every day, working to get us to step over God's moral boundaries. You could argue that life on this side of eternity is war. So it is a huge comfort that at Christmas we celebrate the birth of the second Adam, the Chief Warrior, who came to do battle on our behalf, to win victory for us, so that by His power we could resist, stand fast, and conquer. By grace Jesus was willing to come to earth and to stand in Adam's place, so that we would be graced with daily victory over temptation and sin. The Christmas story is the first chapter in a war story; this war was fought on our turf and for our sake by the hero of the story, the God-man, Jesus.

So [in two days], when you celebrate Christmas Day, remember to celebrate the birth of the Great Warrior. He won the victory that you and I could have never won. That victory is our hope in this life and in the one to come.

PAUL DAVID TRIPP, *Come Let Us Adore Him*, December 24, pages 115-116, 119



On the 200th Anniversary of “Silent Night”: An Origin Story

Faithlife Blog, December 17, 2018

This year is the 200th year anniversary of the beloved Christmas hymn “Silent Night.”

Originally written in German by Joseph Mohr, the song has been sung in Christmas worship for two centuries all around the world.

When this beloved hymn was written by two humble church leaders for their own mountain village parishioners, little did they realize how universal its influence would eventually be.

Joseph Mohr, assistant priest in the Church of St. Nicholas in the region of Tyrol, high in the beautiful Alps, and Franz Gruber, the village schoolmaster and church organist, had often talked about the fact that the perfect Christmas hymn had never been written. So Father Mohr had this goal in mind when he received word that the church organ would not function. He decided that he must write his own Christmas hymn immediately in order to have music for the special Christmas Eve mass. He did not want to disappoint his faithful flock. Upon completing the text, he took his words to Franz Gruber, who exclaimed when he saw them, “Friend Mohr, you have found it—the right song—God be praised!”

Soon Gruber completed his task of composing an appropriate tune for the new text. His simple but beautiful music blended perfectly with the spirit of Father Mohr’s words. The carol was completed in time for the Christmas Eve mass, and Father Mohr and Franz Gruber sang their new hymn to the accompaniment of Gruber’s guitar. The hymn made a deep impact upon the parishioners even as it has on succeeding generations.

When the organ repairman came to the little village church, he was impressed by a copy of the Christmas carol and decided to spread it all around the region of Tyrol. Today it is sung in all major languages of the world and is a favorite wherever songs of the Christmas message are enjoyed.