

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Season is the time for preparing for the coming of Christ and the celebration of the Incarnation of the Eternally-begotten Son of God, the second Person of the Holy Trinity. The season begins with St. Andrew's Day, November 30, and is observed in worship the four Lord's Days preceding Christmas Day. Believers remember how the Hebrews longed for the coming of the Messiah, and how their prophets foretold the birth of Christ. Our anticipation of Christmas is coupled with our anticipation of the Second Advent of Christ, when He Who is Blessed Hope will come again. The beauty and symbolism of the Advent Wreath reminds Christians to "prepare the way of the Lord."

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - The Prophets' Candle, the first purple candle, which represents Christ's royalty and the sinner's repentance, is lighted. The coming of Christ was indeed foretold by the prophets of the Old Testament hundreds of years before the Incarnation of Christ.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 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 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - The Shepherds' Candle, the third candle, is lighted to remind us that the birth of the Messiah was announced to humble shepherds, and that we, straying sheep, must go to Him, believe in Him and tell to others the Good News of salvation.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE - The Christ Candle, the white one in the center of the wreath, proclaims the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, Who gives the Light of Salvation to those who walked in sin's darkness. It is lighted on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The First Sunday of Advent

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DECEMBER 1, 2019

MORNING WORSHIP

THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

Jesus became what we are that He might make us what He is.

— ATHANASIUS, ON THE INCARNATION

“Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house.

At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing.

*He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on;
you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised.*

*But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably
and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to?*

*The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of –
throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards.*

You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace.

He intends to come and live in it Himself.”

— C.S. LEWIS, MERE CHRISTIANITY



The Welcome and Announcements

The Prophets' Candle, the first purple candle, is lighted. This candle represents Christ's royalty and the sinner's repentance. The coming of Christ was indeed foretold by the prophets of the Old Testament hundreds of years before the Incarnation of Christ.

We Enter Into God's Presence

The Prelude

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. Albert L. Travis

The Striking of the Hour

Rejoice, all ye believers, and let your lights appear;
 the evening is advancing, and darker night is near:
 the Bridegroom is arising, and soon He draweth nigh;
 up, pray, and watch, and wrestle: at midnight comes the cry.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
 arise, Thou sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
 With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord to see
 the day of earth's redemption that brings us unto Thee.

† The Call to Worship

Isaiah 61:1-4

Mr. Pendley

Minister: The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted;

People: He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

Minister: To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

People: To grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit;

Minister: That they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

People: They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

† The Hymn No. 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

† The Confession of Our Faith

The Apostles' Creed

(Inside the front cover of the *Trinity Hymnal*)

† The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

† The Lord's Prayer

(Inside front cover of the *Trinity Hymnal*)

We Receive Cleansing in Christ

The Call to Confession – Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

The Silent, Personal Prayer of Confession

The Corporate Prayer of Confession

Eternal and merciful God, You have loved us with a love beyond our understanding, and You have set us on paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. Yet we have strayed from Your way; we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, through what we have done and what we have left undone. As we remember the lavish gift of Your grace, O God, we praise You and give You thanks that You forgive us yet again. Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin, and to rise daily to new life in Christ, Who lives and reigns with You, and in whose strong name we pray. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon – Psalm 103:8, 13-14, 17-18

Hear the good news! The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. As a father has compassion for His children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear Him. For He knows how we were made; He remembers that we are dust. But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments. Know that in Jesus God embraces you, forgives you, and strengthens you to live a renewed life.

Thanks be to God!

The General Prayer

The Hymn No. 468

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

LANDAS

The Christian Greeting

We Receive God's Word

The Offertory Anthem

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Chancel Choir

arr. Wohlgemuth

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending, He,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed His sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav'n adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

The Prayer of Illumination

† The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 52:7-10
Page 779 in the Pew Bible

† The New Testament Lesson

John 1:1-14
Page 1125 in the Pew Bible

† The Response

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

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



ADVENT SERVICES

Tonight at 6:00 p.m. ~ Winter Grace Communion Service

A communion service with readings, homily, prayers, and songs focused on the emotional, spiritual, and relational healing that is offered and available to us in Christ Jesus.

December 8 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. ~ Trinity Youth Choir Advent Service

The Trinity Youth Choir will present portions of J.S. Bach's popular Cantata 140 "Sleepers, Wake!" with orchestra accompanying.

December 8 at 6:00 p.m. ~ Children's Choirs Christmas Service

The Cherub, Seraphim, Trinity Girls and Trinity Boys Choirs will lead a candlelight service of Christmas music, including a narration and reenactment of the Christmas story by the Cherub Choir. Homily by Claude E. McRoberts, III.

December 15 at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. ~ 24th Annual Service of Lessons and Carols

A beloved Christmas tradition at Trinity featuring the Chancel Choir with symphony orchestra and organ. A festival prelude will begin at 3:45 and 5:45 p.m.

December 22 at 6:00 p.m. ~ The Presence of the Holy Spirit in the Christmas Narrative

This service of readings and hymns with homily highlights the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Christmas narrative.

December 24 at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

Holy Communion services with music from the Chancel Choir and guest instrumentalists. Homily by Claude E. McRoberts, III.



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

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