

## **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**

**NOVEMBER 29, 2020**

# MORNING WORSHIP

## THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

*"In friendship...we think we have chosen our peers. In reality a few years' difference in the dates of our births, a few more miles between certain houses, the choice of one university instead of another... the accident of a topic being raised or not raised at a first meeting--any of these chances might have kept us apart. But, for a Christian, there are, strictly speaking no chances.*

*A secret master of ceremonies has been at work. Christ, who said to the disciples, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you," can truly say to every group of Christian friends, "Ye have not chosen one another but I have chosen you for one another."*

*The friendship is not a reward for our discriminating and good taste in finding one another out. It is the instrument by which God reveals to each of us the beauties of others."*

— C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves



## *We Enter Into God's Presence*

The Prelude

"In Dulci Jubilo"

Franz Liszt

*Please sit only in open pews and maintain social distancing. Masks are required for attendees over six years old at all times. Those who are not present physically will be invited to stand when able, and to be seated when necessary. Worship is participative and not passive. God has designed us to be physical creatures and sometimes our hearts and minds will follow our posture. Overflow will be in Trinity Hall at 8:30 a.m. and the Spires Room (across from the bookstore) at 11:00.*

The Striking of the Hour

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!” Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem! Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together, to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

† The Beloved Adent Hymn of the Trinity Family

No. 208

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELIS

(stanzas 1, 3, and 4)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold Him born the King of angels;

*Refrain:*

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above;  
glory to God in the highest; [*Refrain*]

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv’n;  
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing; [*Refrain*]

† The Confession of Our Faith

The 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.**

✠ 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.**

✠ The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### *The Children's Sermon*

#### **THE CHRISMONS OF PROPHECY**

Mr. Cooper

*Children in 3rd grade and younger are invited to the front steps of the Chancel  
for the children's sermon.*

The Prayer for Our Covenant Children

*At the start of "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus," Children in 1st grade and up are dismissed back to their pew. Children age four through kindergarten may leave to attend Children's Church.  
Following the 8:30 worship service, your children will be taken to their Sunday school classes.  
Following the 11:00 service, please pick up your children from the Felder Avenue door  
of the Covenant Building.*

† The Beloved Advent Hymn of the Trinity Family

No. 196

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*  
(stanzas 1, 3, and 4)

HYFRYDOL

Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set Thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth Thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Come to earth to taste our sadness,  
He Whose glories knew no end;  
by His life He brings us gladness,  
our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number,  
born within a cattle stall;  
this the everlasting wonder,  
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver,  
born a Child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by Thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to Thy glorious throne.

The Christian Greeting and Announcements

## *We Receive God's Word*

The Pastoral Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of God's Word

I Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,  
2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be  
saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, both their Lord and ours: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the  
Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God  
that was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that in every way you were enriched in Him in all  
speech and all knowledge— 6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among  
you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, 8 Who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus  
Christ. 9 God is faithful, by Whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus  
Christ our Lord.

The Sermon

**WAITING ON THE WORLD TO CHANGE**

Mr. Cooper

I Corinthians 1:1-9

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*Sermon outline on page 8.*

The Prayer of Application

## *We Go in Thanksgiving to Serve*

### † The Beloved Advent Hymn of the Trinity Family

No. 203

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing!*

VENNI EMMANUEL

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. [*Refrain*]

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth. [*Refrain*]

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

Minister: Now to Him Who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever.

People: **AMEN.**

### † The Dismissal by Pew

*Please allow worshippers in the back of the Sanctuary to exit first to allow for social distancing. Please do not gather or socialize inside the building. Please take all personal items, including your worship bulletin, with you as you leave.*

### † The Postlude

"Noel" (Grand Jeu et Duo)

Louis-Claude Daquin

## *To my Elders...*

I have the following prayer and/or praise to God:

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## *To my Deacons...*

I know of the following situation where assistance is needed:

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TODAY'S DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

## **PRAYER OF BELIEF**

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through You, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank You for paying my debt, bearing my punishment and offering forgiveness. I turn from my sins and receive You as Savior. *Amen.*

*(If you are saying this prayer for the first time today, please let one of the ministers know).*

*Thank you for joining us for worship.*

**PLEASE REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE TODAY.** Use this form to indicate your presence with us for worship. Fill out the appropriate sections, tear off, and place the form in the offering plate.

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**GUESTS**

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Date\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_

State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

Names and ages of children at home:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Single   ☐ Married   ☐ Widowed

**AGE GROUP**   ☐ 12 and under   ☐ 13-17   ☐ 18-25   ☐ 26-35

☐ 36-50   ☐ Over 50

☐ First Time Visitor   ☐ Repeat Visitor  
☐ Visiting with family/friends   ☐ Regular Attender  
☐ New Resident

☐ Desire a visit  
☐ Interested in knowing more about Trinity  
☐ Interested in New Member Class  
☐ Interested in Sunday School

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**MEMBERS AND REGULAR ATTENDERS**

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*Please let us know of:*

☐ New Address

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☐ New Phone (\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

☐ New Email\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

**WAITING ON THE WORLD TO CHANGE**

I Corinthians 1:1-9

**I. WHAT'S PAST IS PROLOGUE**

A. What is Advent?

B. Why do we do it?

**II. WE KNOW WHAT WE ARE, BUT KNOW NOT WHAT WE MAY BE**

A. The ugly truth about Corinth

B. The ugly truth about the Church in Corinth

C. Why is Paul thankful?

**III. WE'RE ALL WE GOT, WE'RE ALL WE NEED**

A. The lie of self-reliance

B. The lie of next time

C. The power of Christ's Church

**IV. DON'T LOOK ANYWHERE BUT AHEAD**

A. Waiting

B. Sustained

C. Guiltless