



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DECEMBER 19, 2021

MORNING WORSHIP

THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

*For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given;
and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His Name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.*

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

– ISAIAH 9:6-7



APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

The Christian Greeting and Call to Preparation

8:25 and 10:55 a.m.

*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

Chorale-Prelude on ADESTE FIDELES

Jeanne Demessieux

*Where shall I go from Your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from Your presence?... If I say, "Surely the
darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," even the darkness is not dark to You;
the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with You.*

Psalm 139:7; 11-12

*Please maintain social distancing. Masks are requested in the sanctuary;
masks are mandatory in the Spires Room and the Westminster Room.*

The Striking of the Hour

The Choral Introit

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

French Carol Melody

Thou Who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becomest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou Who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becomest poor.

† The Call to Worship

Mr. Cooper

Minister: We have gathered in the Name of the Lord. What is your response?

**People: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before Him with joyful songs.**

Minister: Why do you give this time to the Lord?

**People: Know that the Lord, He is God. It is He Who made us, and we are His;
we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**

Minister: How will you worship God?

**People: Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give
thanks to Him and praise His Name.**

Minister: What is the basis for this outpouring of praise?

**People: For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness
continues through all generations.**

† The Hymn No. 198

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!
(stanzas 1, 4, 5, and 6)

TRURO

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

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.

**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.**

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.

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Personal Prayer of Confession

The Corporate Prayer of Confession

Almighty and all-holy Father; we confess ourselves unworthy of Your unspeakable Gift. We have not loved You as we ought; nor have we always been loving to one another, kindhearted, forgiving one another, even as You, for Christ's sake, have forgiven us. We have lived in selfishness and worldly pride; and the good gifts You have bestowed upon us we have not used to relieve the burdens of others. Pardon and blot out our offenses through the incarnate life and willing sacrifice of Your Holy Son, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Assurance of God's Pardon – Isaiah 44:22

Child of God, hear the Good News! I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to Me, for I have redeemed you.

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offering of His Tithes and Our Gifts Beyond the Tithe

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Instrumental Offertory

Silent Night
Bryan Reeves, *trumpet*

Arr. Lani Smith

The Children's Message ~ Heidelberg Catechism Question Number 34

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

Q. Why do you call Him 'Lord'?

A. Because—not with gold or silver, but with His precious blood—He has set us free from sin and from the tyranny of the devil and has bought us, body and soul, to be His very own.

† The Hymn of Preparation No. 229 *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* TEMPEST ADEST FLORIDUM

Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger;
there He lay, the Undefined, but no more a stranger.
Such a Babe in such a place, can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found His favor.

Angels sang about His birth, wise men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
all the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined, but no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, beautiful the story;
praise His Name in all the earth, hail the King of glory!

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

† The Reading of God's Word

The Old Testament Lesson

Psalms 118:1-9, 14-16, 21-29

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!
2 Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." 3 Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever." 4 Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever." 5 Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free. 6 The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? 7 The Lord is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me. 8 It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. 9 It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. 15 Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly, 16 the right hand of the Lord exalts, the right hand of the Lord does valiantly!" I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. 22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. 23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. 24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. 25 Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success! 26 Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord. 27 The Lord is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar! 28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to You; You are my God; I will extol You. 29 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!

The New Testament Lesson

Luke 2:8-14

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. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

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 Sermon **THE SONG OF THE ANGELS IS MUSIC TO MY EARS** Mr. McRoberts

Luke 2:1-20

The Gospel of John, XXXIX

INTRODUCTION

I. NO ROOM IN THE INN

II. THERE WERE SHEPHERDS

III. THE MESSAGE OF THE GOOD NEWS!

IV. GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

V. CERTAIN SHEPHERDS

CONCLUSION

The Closing Prayer

FOLLOWING GOD'S SPIRIT

† The Hymn No. 207

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
earth and heav'n before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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

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.

The Threefold Amen (*sung by all*):



The Postlude

Three French Carols
Il est ne le divin Enfant, Noel Nouvelet, Quittez Pasteurs

Lani Smith



Christmas at Trinity
ADVENT SERVICES

DECEMBER 19 at 6:00 PM THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

The Montgomery Christian Youth Choir will present a service of music, scripture, and poetry, followed by caroling around the city for all who wish to participate. Homily by Kurt Cooper.

DECEMBER 24 at 4:00 and 6:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

A service of quiet wonder, with Holy Communion and special music, will prepare our hearts to receive the newborn King. Homily by Claude McRoberts.



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

trinitypca.org