



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DECEMBER 11, 2022

MORNING WORSHIP

THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

This is how God saves us: not simply by sending Jesus to be our Savior, but also by preaching to us the gospel so that we can believe in His saving work. God doesn't just do things; He also says things, and we need to know what He says so that we can believe in what He has done.

– PHILIP GRAHAM RYKEN



APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

The Christian Greeting and Call to Preparation

9:55 a.m.

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. So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into Heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ~ Luke 2:15-17

The Prelude

Carol of the Bells

Leontovich, arr. Norman

Il est né (He Is Born)

French Carol

Vonda Darr, harp; Robert Scott, flute

*Through long ages of the past, prophets have foretold His coming;
through long ages of the past, now the time has come at last!
He is born, the divine Christ Child; play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the divine Christ Child; sing we all of the Savior mild.*

Translated from the French, Jean-Romain Grosjean

The Striking of the Hour

Minister: Praise the Lord.

People: Praise the Lord, O my soul.

Minister: I will praise the Lord all my life.

People: I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Minister: Blessed is he whose hope is in the Lord his God,

People: The Maker of Heaven and earth, the Lord Who is faithful forever.

† The Hymn

The First Noel

(see pages 7-8)

† The Prayer of 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.

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Call to Confession

Prepare the way of the Lord! Let us make our confession to God.

The Corporate Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, always with us, always drawing near: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for Your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of Your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a Child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask You to make us ready for His coming. Amen.

The Assurance of God's Pardon

Comfort, comfort My people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned, the penalty is paid.

Thanks be to God.

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offering of His Tithes and Our Gifts Beyond the Tithe

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Anthem

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

Spiritual
Arr. Stacey Gibbs

Oh, Mary had a baby Boy, yes, a baby Boy.
De virgin Mary had a baby Boy, an' they said that His Name was "Jesus."
He come from de glory, yes, He come from the glorious Kingdom.
Oh, yes, believer! He come down, an' she said that His Name was "Jesus."
De wise men saw where de baby was born, an' they said that His Name was "Jesus."

† The Reading of God's Word

Luke 2:8-20

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!" 15 When the angels went away from them into Heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this Child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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 Personal Meditation and Preparation of the Heart

*Children age four through kindergarten may leave to attend Children's Church.
They may be picked up in Room E-100 (Pre-K4) and Room E-105 (Kindergarten) after the service.*

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A sermon outline may be found on page 6.

COMMUNING WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE

The Invitation to and Fencing of the Table

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Trinity Presbyterian Church is for all who have received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, do now repent, endeavor to live a holy life, and have publicly professed their faith through membership in an evangelical church. Children who have not publicly confessed Christ by being received by the Session into communicant church membership should refrain from the Sacrament and learn by reverent observation; this even though they may already have received Christ privately. Those without personal saving faith in Jesus Christ are to refrain from the Sacrament and are implored now to receive Him by faith and repentance.

† The Hymn of Preparation *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* (see page 9)

† 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 Humble Access

The Words of Institution

The Serving of the Meal *Fantasia on GREENSLEEVES* Ralph Vaughan Williams

FOLLOWING GOD'S SPIRIT

- † The Hymn *All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord* (see page 10)
- † The Benediction of God's Grace
- † The Threefold Amen (*sung by all*)
- † The Postlude *Noel X* Claude Daquin

*When God was born at Christmas,
There in Judea,
On that solemn day
Joy poured down.
There was no one young or old,
Who would not bring a present,
Nobody who did not offer,
Nobody who did not offer unceasingly,
All his riches.*

Translated from the French, Francois Colletet

LOW PLACES

Luke 2:8-20

I. SHEPHERDS (v.8)

A. Nostalgia

B. Reality

II. ANGEL(S) (v. 9)

A. Frightening (v. 9 & 10)

B. Good News (v. 10)

C. In Excelsis Deo (v. 14)

III. RESULT

A. Examination (v. 15)

B. Evangelism (v. 17)

C. Praise (v. 20)

IV. TREASURING & PONDERING (v. 19)

The First Noel

1. The first No - el, the an - gels did say, was to
2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing
3. And by the light of that same star three
4. Then en - tered in those wise men three, full
5. Then let us all with one ac - cord sing

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in the east, be - yond them far, and to the
wise men came from coun - try far; to seek for a
rev - 'rent - ly up - on their knee, and of - fered
prais - es to our heav - en - ly Lord; who hath made

they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that
earth it gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both
king was their in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher -
there, in his pres - ence, their gold and myrrh and
heav'n and earth of naught, and with his blood man -

Refrain

was so deep.
day and night.
ev - er it went. No - el, no - el, no - el, no -
frank - in - cense.
kind hath bought.

el, born is the King of Is - ra - el!

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of vocal and piano parts. The first system contains the lyrics: 'was so deep. day and night. ev - er it went. No - el, no - el, no - el, no - frank - in - cense. kind hath bought.' The second system contains the lyrics: 'el, born is the King of Is - ra - el!'. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2. Flocks were sleep - ing; shep - herds keep - ing vi - gil till the morn - ing new

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some chords. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the babe, is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Swift are wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing;
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

The fourth system concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord

1. All praise to thee, e - ter - nal Lord, clothed
2. Once did the skies be - fore thee bow; a
3. All this for us thy love hath done; by

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in G major and 4/4 time. The treble staff contains the vocal melody with three lines of lyrics. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

in a garb of flesh and blood; choos - ing a man - ger
vir - gin's arms con - tain thee now; an - gels who did in
this to thee our love is won: for this we tune our

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has three lines of lyrics. The bass staff continues the harmonic support.

for thy throne, while worlds on worlds are thine a - lone.
thee re - joice now lis - ten for thine in - fant voice.
cheer - ful lays, and shout our thanks in cease - less praise.

The third system concludes the piece. The treble staff has three lines of lyrics. The bass staff provides the final accompaniment, ending with a double bar line.



THE ADVENT SEASON AT TRINITY

December 11 at 6:00 p.m. in Trinity Hall

27th ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

A beloved Trinity Church Christmas tradition featuring the Chancel Choir with orchestra and organ, in a program of Christmas music both familiar and new. Spanning four centuries, this year's offerings include a sparkling setting of the timeless "Gloria" text celebrating the birth of our Savior.

Invite friends to this meaningful and beautiful candlelight service.

Homily by Claude McRoberts.

December 18 at 6:00 p.m. in Trinity Hall

THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

The Montgomery Christian Youth Choir and Vespers Ensemble will lead a service of Christmas music, Scripture, and poetry, followed by fellowship in the lobby with wassail and Christmas cookies, and a brief caroling outing in the neighborhood for any who would like to join.

Homily by Kurt Cooper.

December 24 at 5:00 p.m. in Trinity Hall

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.

December 25 at 10:00 a.m. in Trinity Hall

CHRISTMAS MORNING FAMILY WORSHIP

Come and worship the newborn King on the day of His birth.

We will not have Sunday school or nursery.

Homily by Claude McRoberts.



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

trinitypca.org

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