



*Sanctuary Dedication Service*

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

MAY 21, 2023

*Cover art and rosette illustration by Melissa Tubbs*

# MORNING WORSHIP

## THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

*As we consider Christ ascended, our hearts burn within us at the thought that He is the type of all His people. As He was, so are we also in the world; and as He is, so shall we also be. To us also there remain both a resurrection and an ascension. There is a resurrection morning for us, because there was a rising again for Him. Then when we have risen from the dead at the blast of the archangel's trumpet, we shall ascend also. Have courage! You, too, shall lead your captivity captive, and amidst the acclamations of angels you shall receive the "well done" of the ever-blessed Father.*

FROM A SERMON BY CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON, 1871



## APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

The Christian Greeting and Call to Preparation		9:55 a.m.
The Prelude	<i>Suite Brève</i> I. <i>Grands Jeux</i>	Jean Langlais
The Announcements		
The Striking of the Hour		
The Choral Introit	<i>I Was Glad (Laetatus sum)</i>	Charles H. H. Parry

I was glad when they said unto me, we will go into the house of the Lord.

Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is builded as a city that is at unity in itself.

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem, they shall prosper that love thee.

Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces. (Psalm 122:1-3, 6-7)

† Indicates the congregation standing

• Indicates seating for those detained

† The Call to Worship – 1 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)

Rev. Bill Clark

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

He was manifested in the flesh,  
vindicated by the Spirit,  
seen by angels,  
proclaimed among the nations,  
believed on in the world,  
taken up in glory.

Let us worship the risen, ascended, reigning Christ.

•† The Hymn No. 319

*Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

REGENT SQUARE

† The Confession of Our Faith – The Apostles' Creed (*inside Hymnal front cover*)

† The Prayer of Invocation

Rev. Kurt Cooper

† 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 – *The Hymnal*, No. 650

OLD HUNDREDTH

## SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Call to Confession – Hebrews 4:14-16

Rev. Michael Howell

Since then we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens,  
Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.  
For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,  
But one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.  
Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,  
that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need.

The Silent Prayers of Confession

The Assurance of God's Pardon – 1 Peter 2:24

He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.

The Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Clark

† The Litany of Dedication

*As used in the Sanctuary Dedication Service on October 29, 1952  
upon restoration after the fire of 1951.*

To the glory of God, our Heavenly Father,  
by whose favor we have built this house of worship;  
To the honor of Christ, the Son of God, our Savior;  
To the Holy Spirit, our Teacher and Comforter;

**We dedicate this building with joyous, humble, and grateful hearts;**

Believing that all things are for the glory of God,  
and that there is no other name under heaven by which sinners can be saved,  
except the name of Christ;

**We dedicate this building to the worship of God,  
and to the bringing of a saving knowledge of Christ  
to all who come within its doors.**

Remembering the last command of our Savior to go into all the world  
and preach the gospel to every creature;

**We dedicate this building to the evangelization of the peoples of the world  
through the great mission enterprise.**

ALL: **And unto You, our God, we rededicate ourselves this day,  
imploping You that You will not leave us, nor forsake us;  
that You will incline our hearts unto You, to walk in Your truth,  
and to keep Your commandments,  
and to walk humbly before You all the days of our earthly journey,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

•† The Hymn No. 316

*The Church's One Foundation*

AURELIA

The Offering

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart,  
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7

## **HEARING GOD'S VOICE**

The Anthem

*Grant Us Wisdom, Grant Us Courage*

Eric Nelson

*Commissioned by Trinity Presbyterian Church for this Service of Dedication*

God of grace and God of glory, on Thy people pour Thy power;  
Crown Thine ancient church's story, bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
Let the search for Thy salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving Thee Whom we adore.

Lo! The hosts of evil 'round us scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways!  
Fears and doubts too long have bound us, free our hearts to work and praise.  
Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be  
Armored with all Christ-like graces in the fight to set all free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,  
That we fail not man nor Thee!

† The Reading of God's Word – Isaiah 6:1-8

Rev. Clark  
*pew Bible, page 726*

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.*

The Sermon

**THE GREATER GLORY**

Rev. Dr. Bryan Chapell

*Stated Clerk, Presbyterian Church in America  
President Emeritus, Covenant Theological Seminary*

The Closing Prayer

## **FOLLOWING GOD'S SPIRIT**

† The Hymn No. 56

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

† The Benediction of God's Grace

Rev. Clark

† The Threefold Amen – *The Hymnal*, No. 657

The Postlude

*Sinfonia from Wir danken dir, Gott, BWV 29  
We Thank You, God*

J.S. Bach  
Arr. Martin Setchell

*Please join us as we continue today's celebration  
at the Congregational Luncheon in Trinity Hall.  
Parents are asked to pick up their children from the nursery,  
as nursery is not provided during the luncheon.*

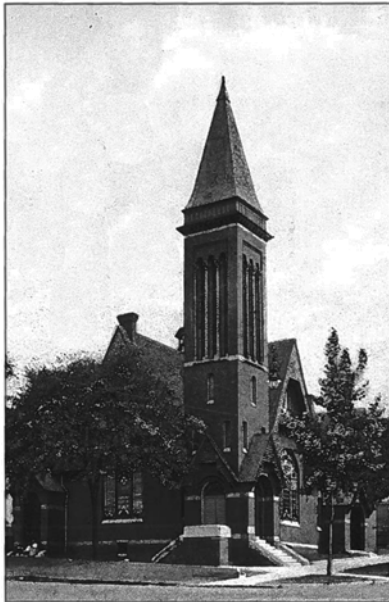


*The Sanctuary Flowers*

**THE SANCTUARY FLOWERS THIS LORD'S DAY ARE GIVEN  
TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN HONOR OF THE MARRIAGE OF  
*Caroline Sellers and Zachary Stewart*  
AND IN MEMORY OF PHILIP AND CAROLINE SELLERS**

***Trinity Presbyterian Church has, for 132 years, existed to exalt our Savior Jesus Christ, expound the Holy Scriptures, and exhort sinners.***

Organized July 30, 1891, by a commission of the South Alabama Presbytery, Trinity was first given the name “Central Presbyterian Church.” The little body of believers called Rev. Neal Larkin Anderson to be their first minister. There were 32 charter members who worshipped at services held in the Montgomery County Courthouse until their new church building at Washington and Lawrence Streets was completed and dedicated in April 1894. By that time, the membership numbered 139 communicants. Reverend Anderson provided strong leadership for the growing church for 16 years.



*Central Presbyterian Church*

Rev. Dr. Neander Montgomery Woods assumed the pastorate in 1908, and by the time of his death two years later church membership had increased to 438 men, women, and children.

Central Church was outgrowing her building. Though some were reluctant to leave their beloved church home, in 1909 the members voted to purchase property at the corner of Hull Street and Felder Avenue. The new location was chosen to follow the southward-mov-

ing population of Montgomery as emerging transportation systems offered citizens ease of traveling greater distances.

A wooden chapel was built in eight days along the Hull Street side of the new property. There, services were held until March 1913 when the sanctuary, designed by Frank Lockwood, was completed. At that time, it was decided that “Central” was no longer appropriate, so “Trinity,” the name of charter member and deacon Robert Brown’s home church in Scotland, was adopted.

After Dr. Woods’ death, Rev. William Parker Neilson was installed as minister in 1910. During his five years of service he oversaw the transition of the membership to their new church home, established Bible meetings in rural areas near Montgomery, and fostered an interest in foreign missions.

In 1915, Trinity’s fourth minister, Legh Richmond Scott, took up residence in Montgomery. Foundations were laid for Millbrook Presbyterian Church through the vigorous Sunday school he organized there. Dr. Scott shepherded his



flock through the anxious days of World War I and the Spanish influenza epidemic.

Dr. Charles R. Pratt succeeded Dr. Scott in 1920. Dr. Pratt had served as a missionary to Korea, and during his time at Trinity he offered a world-wide vision to the now several hundred



*Sanctuary interior c. 1913*

members. In 1922, the Religious Work Building was built on the site of the old wooden chapel. This building included youth facilities, a parlor, and a fellowship hall. We know these areas today as the Spires Room, the Bookstore, and Sunday school classrooms.

In 1924, Dr. Herbert Venable Carson accepted the call to Trinity. Wearing his signature Geneva gown, Dr. Carson pastored the church for 18 years. Known for being community-spirited, Dr. Carson was also the minister who guided Trinity through the years of the Great Depression and helped celebrate her Golden Anniversary in 1941. The following year he left Trinity to join the Army Air Force. During the Carson years, 1300 new members joined the church

and three daughter congregations were organized.

Dr. Carson was followed by Dr. Henry Wade DuBose who, in his 18 months of service, provided a smooth transition to the ministry of Dr. Henry Edward “Jeb” Russell, who served from 1944 to 1958.

Dr. Russell was widely traveled, outgoing, a leader in civic and church organizations, and an outdoorsman. During his pastorate, Covenant Presbyterian Church in Capitol Heights was organized.



*The morning after the fire, January 1951*

In January 1951, a fire started in the church basement near the pulpit. Though fought fearlessly, two firefighters died attempting to save the building. The flames devoured the Sanctuary, leaving only the exterior walls standing. Over the next 22 months, Dr. Russell led the rebuilding efforts. Services were held in the fellowship hall while nationally-recognized church architect, Harold Eugene Wagoner,

designed and oversaw local professionals in the project. On October 29, 1952, the restored Sanctuary was dedicated.

In 1959, Robert Strong accepted the call to be Trinity's ninth Senior Minister. Dr. Strong was a powerful preacher who visited his flock regularly. During his ministry, which included the turbulent years of the Vietnam War and the increase of liberalism in mainstream Christian churches, Dr. Strong led the establishment of Trinity Presbyterian School as well as Trinity Christian Bookstore.

Robert James Ostenson followed as Senior Minister in 1974. When the congregation voted to withdraw, in 1973, from the mainline Presbyterian Church and align with the newly-formed Presbyterian Church in America, Dr. Ostenson's steady hand led our congregation in continuation of the historic Reformed Faith and obedience to the Great Commission, even as litigation raged for years over the ownership of the church's property. During Dr. Ostenson's time at Trinity a new fellowship hall, kitchen facilities and youth rooms were added.

Dr. Cortez Alonzo Cooper succeeded Dr.

Ostenson in 1988. Outgoing and personable, Dr. Cooper was instrumental in establishing Trinity's reputation as a friendly church. A natural leader, he was elected Moderator of the PCA's General Assembly for 1990-1991. The missions program flourished during his years at Trinity.

When Dr. Cooper left in 1994, there followed a period of transition. In 1997, John W. P. Oliver, D.D., who had served as Youth Minister during Dr. Strong's tenure, accepted the call to serve as Senior Minister. Powerful in the pulpit, Dr. Oliver possessed an unerring devotion to the tenets of Reformed theology and the cause of world missions.

In 1999, Trinity issued a call to Claude Eugene McRoberts III, who has the distinction of being Trinity's longest-serving Senior Minister. Under his ministry, the congregation undertook an expansive addition to the facilities which included Trinity Hall, a beautiful and flexible space which each year welcomes thousands of people to church, community, and arts events who might otherwise never have visited. Mr. McRoberts served as Senior Minister until 2022.



*Reconstructed Sanctuary interior c. 1974*

Today, we are searching for our fourteenth Senior Minister. While we do not yet know whom God will provide, we are confident in

these words from First Thessalonians 5:24: *He Who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Blessed be the Name of the Lord.*

***The history of a church is more than a succession of ministers whom God calls to serve it. We do not forget the faithful leaders, teachers, and helpers of our covenant children, youth, and adults; the scores of musicians, the careful secretaries, the selfless volunteers, and those who maintain the physical integrity of the church property. We give thanks for our dedicated elders and deacons who prayerfully and tirelessly lead the congregation.***

***They wrote, and continue to write, the history of Trinity Presbyterian Church.***

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O U R M I N I S T E R S

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Neal Larkin Anderson 1891 — 1907  
Neander Montgomery Woods 1908 — 1910  
William Parker Neilson 1910 — 1915  
Lekh Richmond Scott 1915 — 1920  
Charles Henry Pratt 1920 — 1924  
Herbert Venable Carson 1924 — 1942  
Henry Wade DuBose 1942 — 1944  
Henry Edward Russell 1944 — 1958  
Robert Strong 1959 — 1973  
Robert James Ostenson 1974 — 1987  
Cortez Alonzo Cooper 1988 — 1994  
John William Posegate Oliver 1997 — 1999  
Claude Eugene McRoberts III 2000 — 2022

The five-petaled gold rosettes in the ceiling, based on a pattern of Martin Luther, are symbolic of the five wounds of Christ and remind us that His substitutionary death, resurrection, and ascension are the only means by which we approach the Triune God. They also represent the five *Solas* of the Reformation: *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone), *Solus Christus* (Christ alone), *Sola Fide* (faith alone), *Sola Gratia* (grace alone), and *Soli Deo Gloria* (to the glory of God alone). The light blue ceiling upon which the rosettes rest is part of a centuries-long tradition of church ceilings representing the vault of Heaven. The Trinity rosettes were designed by Rennie Vainstein and moulded by Decorator’s Supply Company of Chicago.



### The Pulpit

Designed by renowned Philadelphia architect Harold Wagoner, the pulpit and lectern were installed during the restoration of the Sanctuary after the fire of 1951. The hand-carved symbols on the pulpit are based on the central tenets of the Christian faith.



**Wheat** - *The Bread of Life*

“I am the Living Bread that came down from Heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.” *John 6:51*

**Grapes** – *The Fruit of the Vine*

“I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s Kingdom.” *Matthew 26:29*



**Phoenix** – *The Certainty of the Resurrection*

For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a Man. *1 Corinthians 15:12*

**Peacock** – *The Promise of Eternal Life*

Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. *1 Corinthians 15:51-53*



**Eagle** – *The Supremacy of Christ*

He is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn over all creation, for all things in Heaven and on earth were created in Him—all things, whether visible or invisible, whether thrones or dominions, whether principalities or powers—all things were created through Him and for Him. *Colossians 1:15-16*

**Torch** – *The Light of the World*

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” *John 8:12*



**Lilies** – *The Sinless Perfection of Christ*

For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. *Hebrews 4:15*

**Olive Branch** – *The Peace of God in Christ*

For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in Heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross. *Colossians 1:19-20*



**Lyre** – *The Corporate Praise of God's Redeemed People*

Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His Name. *Hebrews 13:15*

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THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

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*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.*

1 Peter 4:10

Elders: Hugh Frazer, Robert Hogan, Pat Williams

Deacons: Josh Blades, Clint Carroll, Riley Roby

Staff: Todd Alexander, Patrick Curles,  
Mike Hogg, Claude McRoberts

Architecture & Furnishings: Elisabeth Byram, Lee Sellers

Audio: Wiely Boswell, Lee Liles

At Large: Mary Adams, Jamie Johnston

Advisory: Jimmy Lowder

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THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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Co-Chairs: Barrie Harmon, Will Wilson

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THE ARCHITECTS & BUILDERS

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Architects: Rennie Vainstein, Bill Wible

Builders: Burton Mac, Inc.  
Tom Burton, Aduston Rogers

Owner Representative: Clint Carroll

*In the year that King Uzziah died*

**I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up;  
and the train of His robe filled the temple.**

**Above Him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings:  
with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet,  
and with two he flew.**

**And one called to another and said:  
“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts;  
the whole earth is full of His glory!”**

**And the foundations of the thresholds shook  
at the voice of him who called,  
and the house was filled with smoke.  
And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost;  
for I am a man of unclean lips,  
and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;  
for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts!”**

**Then one of the seraphim flew to me,  
having in his hand a burning coal  
that he had taken with tongs from the altar.  
And he touched my mouth and said:  
“Behold, this has touched your lips;  
your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”**

**And I heard the voice of the Lord saying,  
“Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?”  
Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”**

*Isaiah 6:1-8* (ESV)

*To* all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;  
to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who struggle and desire victory;  
to all who sin and need a Savior;  
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;  
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
and to all who will come,  
this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome  
in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.



*A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)*

[trinitypca.org](http://trinitypca.org)