



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DECEMBER 10, 2023

MORNING WORSHIP

THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

For this He clothed Himself with man. For this He voluntarily subjected Himself to the experiences of men, that by bringing Himself to the measure of our weakness whom He loved, He might correspondingly bring us to the measure of His own strength.

CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA, C. 150 - C. 215



APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

The Christian Greeting and Call to Preparation Rev. Michael Howell, *Assistant Minister*

The Prelude *Ding Dong Merrily on High!* and *Noël Nouvelet* arr. James Galway
Robert Scott, *flute*

*For He grew up before Him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him,
and no beauty that we should desire Him. – Isaiah 53:2*

The Announcements Rev. Kurt Cooper, *Assistant Minister*

The Striking of the Hour

† Indicates the congregation standing

• Indicates seating for those detained

Savior of the Nations come! Virgin's Son, make here Your home.
Marvel now, both Heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Come, O Father's saving Son, Who o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall Your Kingdom be; grant that we it's glories see.

† The Call to Worship – Revelation 22:12, 13, 20 (**congregation reads bold type**)

Hear the words of Jesus: “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing My recompense with Me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.”

ALL: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

•† The Hymn No. 187 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!* TRURO

† 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.**

† The Doxology – No. 650 in *The Hymnal* OLD HUNDREDTH

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Call to Confession – 1 John 1:5, 8

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

The Silent Prayers of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon – 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Cooper

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

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Geneva, 1551
arr. John Ferguson

“Comfort, comfort now My people; Tell of peace!” So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.
To God’s people now proclaim that God’s pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near.
Calling us to true repentance, since the Kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet Him, and the hills bow down to greet Him!
Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His holy reign!
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

The Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Howell

*If you are visiting today and do not own a personal copy of the Scriptures,
please take one from the table in the narthex as our gift.*

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 after the service.*

The Sermon

ZECHARIAH'S SONG

Rev. Howell

The Closing Prayer

COMMUNING WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE

The Invitation to and Fencing of the Table

*Who should come to the Lord's table? Those who are displeased with themselves
because of their sins, but who nevertheless trust that their sins are pardoned
and that their remaining weakness is covered by the suffering and death of Christ,
and who also desire more and more to strengthen their faith and to lead a better life,
and who are members in good standing of an evangelical church.*

(from the Heidelberg Catechism)

† The Hymn No. 125

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
(verses 1 and 2)*

PICARDY

† The Nicene Creed – inside cover of *The Hymnal*

† The Prayer of Humble Access

The Words of Institution

The Serving of the Meal

The Holy Boy

John Ireland

*Please partake of the elements as you receive them,
just as we must each receive Christ for our own salvation by faith.*

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

FOLLOWING GOD'S SPIRIT

† The Hymn No. 125

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
(verses 3 and 4)*

PICARDY

† The Benediction of God's Grace

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

The Postlude

In dulci jubilo

Arr. James Galway

*You have multiplied the nation;
You have increased its joy;
they rejoice before You
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
Isaiah 9:3*



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.

SERMON NOTES

I. Introductory Praise, v. 68a

II. Promise to David, vv. 68b-71

III. Oath to Abraham, vv. 72-75

IV. Ministry to John, vv. 76-77

V. Concluding Praise, vv. 78-79



THE ADVENT SEASON AT TRINITY

December 10 at 6:00 p.m.

MONTGOMERY CHRISTIAN YOUTH CHOIR

The Montgomery Christian Youth Choir will lead a service of choral and instrumental music, readings, and congregational carol singing, followed by a wassail reception in the Westminster Room.

Homily by Kurt Cooper.

December 17 at 6:00 p.m.

THE 28th ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

A beloved Trinity Church Christmas tradition led by the Chancel Choir with orchestra and organ, including selections spanning over three centuries of Christmas celebration. Harpist Vonda Darr will provide a prelude of familiar carols beginning at 5:40 p.m.

Jonathan Gibson will read the lessons.

December 24 at 10:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING WORSHIP

Gather to celebrate the eve of Christ's birth in morning worship. The choir will sing, and a trumpet soloist will help us herald the Savior's birth. Adult Sunday School will be combined, and children will attend their regular classes.

Sermon by Kurt Cooper.

December 24 at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

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

Nursery will be available during the 4:00 p.m. service only for children ages three and under.

Homily by Bill Clark.



TRINITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

trinitypca.org