

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

DECEMBER 1, 2024

MORNING WORSHIP

THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

Christianity is different from every other religion, because instead of us searching for God—God is searching for us! Instead of us reaching up to God—God is reaching down to us! This is why Jesus is so important, because He came down from Heaven to do for us what we could never do for ourselves: bring us to God.

BILLY GRAHAM, EVANGELIST (1918-2018)



APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

The Christian Greeting and Call to Preparation

Rev. Kurt Cooper, *Senior Minister*

The Prelude

Away in a Manger

arr. Frances L. Callahan

The Trinity Handbell Choir – Steve Lee, *director*

*There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from His roots shall bear fruit.*

Isaiah 11:1

The Announcements

Rev. Michael Howell, *Assistant Minister*

The Chiming of the Hour

† *Indicates the congregation standing*

• *Indicates seating for those detained*

† The Ascription of Praise (*sung by all*)

BEECHER

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of Heav'n to earth come down,
fix in us Thy humble dwelling; all Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;
visit us with Thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.**

† The Call to Worship – Isaiah 40:9 (*congregation reads bold type*)

Go up into a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news;
Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
Lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

•† The Hymn No. 131

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

† The Apostles' Creed – inside cover of *The Hymnal*

† 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 – Romans 5:8, Hebrews 4:16

But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Prayer of Confession – Adapted from *The Book of Common Worship, 1946*

Almighty God, rich in mercy to all who call upon You, hear us as we come to You, humbly confessing our sins, asking for Your mercy and forgiveness.

We have broken Your holy laws by our deeds and by our words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts.

We confess before You our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and willfulness, and all our failures and shortcomings toward You and our neighbor.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, and in Your great goodness, grant that we may hereafter serve and please You in newness of life, through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Assurance of God's Pardon – Ezekiel 36:25-27

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes and be careful to obey My rules.

The Pastoral Prayer

•† The Hymn No. 141

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS'

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

The Anthem

There Shall A Star Come Out of Jacob

Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a star come out of Jacob,
And a scepter shall rise out of Israel;
With might destroying princes and cities!
As bright the star of morning gleams,
So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams of light and consolation.
Thy Word, O Lord, radiance darting,
Truth imparting, gives salvation;
Thine be praise and adoration!
Numbers 24:17; Psalm 2:9

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Cooper

† The Reading of God's Word - Jeremiah 33:14-16

pew Bible, page 841

*If you are visiting today and do not own a 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.**

Isaiah 40:6b, 8

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

THE PROMISE

Rev. Cooper

The Closing Prayer

FOLLOWING GOD'S SPIRIT

† The Hymn No. 558

God Is My Strong Salvation

ST. THEODULPH

† The Benediction of God's Grace

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

The Congregational Meeting

The Postlude

Fantasia on ADESTE FIDELIS

David Blackwell

*And His mercy is for those who fear Him
from generation to generation.*

Luke 1:50

THE PROMISE
Jeremiah 33:14-16

I. The Context

A. Righteous Branch

B. Execute Justice & Righteousness

C. Salvation

D. Security

II. The Promise

III. The Name



CHRISTMAS AT TRINITY

December 1 at 6:00 p.m.

THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

The Montgomery Christian Youth Choir will lead a service of favorite Christmas anthems, readings, and congregational carol singing followed by a wassail reception in the Westminster Room. Homily by Cameron Whitehurst.

December 8 at 6:00 p.m.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS CHRISTMAS SERVICE AND PAGEANT

Our children's choirs will lead a service celebrating Jesus Christ's birth, including a narrated reenactment of the nativity. Choral anthems and congregational carols will be accompanied by a string quartet. Homily by Michael Howell.

December 15 at 6:00 p.m.

29th ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

This year's traditional service of choral anthems, congregational carols, and the nativity story told from the Scriptures will include John Rutter's effervescent setting of the ancient Gloria text, accompanied by a large brass ensemble, organ and percussion along with other favorite anthems and congregational hymns and carols.

Invite friends and neighbors to this beautiful musical offering!

December 22 at 6:00 p.m.

HARVEST ARTS SACRED CONCERT

Fusing beloved Christmas tunes and classical music themes, this sacred concert will feature arrangements by Madeline Cawley played by the Harvest Arts Chamber Ensemble.

The concert will be followed by a fellowship reception in the Westminster Room.

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 Kurt Cooper.

December 29 at 6:00 p.m.

OLD YEAR/NEW YEAR SERVICE

During the final service of 2024, we will see the old year out with thanksgiving for the Lord's providence and look ahead to the new year with hope and confidence in the Lord's faithfulness. Homily by Kurt Cooper.