



The Third Sunday of Advent

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DECEMBER 15, 2024

MORNING WORSHIP

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.

A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes - and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside - is not a bad picture of Advent.

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER IN GOD IS IN THE MANGER



APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

The Christian Greeting and Call to Preparation

Rev. Michael Howell

The Prelude

Improvisation on PUER NATUS EST

Everett Titcomb

*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.*

Isaiah 9:6

The Announcements

Rev. Cameron Whitehurst

The Chiming of the Hour

† Indicates the congregation standing

• Indicates seating for those detained

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

FOREST GREEN

**Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free
And raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David's tree.
Then shall God's mercy from on high shine forth and never cease
To drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.**

† The Call to Worship – Mark 1:2-3 (*congregation reads bold type*)

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,
who will prepare Your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

**‘Prepare the way of the LORD,
make His paths straight.’”**

• † The Hymn No. 272

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

AURELIA

† 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 – Jeremiah 29:11-13

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you. You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart.

The Prayer of Confession – Adapted from Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109)

**O merciful God, Author of mercy,
forgive me all the offenses of my recklessness
so that my soul may be filled with the sweetness of Your kindness,
and may be granted the extravagant gift of a complete pardon.
Whatever I have added to my own guilt,
erase all of it through Your indescribable holiness.
Whatever I have done that is contrary to Your will,
In Your mercy, cleanse me.
Heal my wounds and forgive all my sins
so that I am no longer separated from You by my iniquities.
Somehow let me grasp a share of the eternal glory
You have prepared for those who love You –
The glory that no eye has yet seen, and the ear has not heard.
For the glory of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Assurance of God's Pardon – Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

The Pastoral Prayer

•† The Hymn No. 166

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W ZLOBIE LEZY

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 first Nowell, the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the East beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain.*

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought,
and with His blood mankind hath bought. *Refrain.*

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Howell

† The Reading of God's Word – Isaiah 12:1-6

pew Bible, page 733

*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.**

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 LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND MY SONG

Rev. Howell

The Closing Prayer

FOLLOWING GOD’S SPIRIT

† The Hymn No. 161

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

† The Benediction of God’s Grace

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

The Postlude

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen arr. by Rebecca Groom te Velde

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.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11



Leading In Worship This Morning

Rev. Michael Howell, *Assistant Minister*

Rev. Cameron Whitehurst, *Assistant Minister*

Dr. Mark Nabholz, *Director of Music*

Mrs. Shannon Mathai, *Assistant Director of Music and Organist*

SERMON TITLE

Isaiah 12:1-6

I. The Song of Thanksgiving: vv. 1-3

A. Statement of Purpose: v. 1a

B. Declaration of Motive: v. 1b

C. Expression of Trust: v. 2

D. Picture of Joy: v. 3

II. The Song of Praise: vv. 4-6

A. Call to Praise

B. Motive for Praise

C. Extent of Praise



CHRISTMAS AT TRINITY

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.



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

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