

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. 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 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 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 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 Third Sunday of Advent

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DECEMBER 14, 2025

MORNING WORSHIP

THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

What a wonder it is that two natures infinitely distant should be more intimately united than anything in the world, and yet without any confusion! That the same person should have both a glory and a grief; an infinite joy in the Deity, and an inexpressible sorrow in the humanity; that a God upon a throne should be an infant in a cradle; the thundering Creator be a weeping babe and a suffering man. These are such expressions of mighty power, as well as condescending love, that they astonish men upon earth and angels in heaven.

STEPHEN CHARNOCK, PURITAN DIVINE (1628-1680)



APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

The Christian Greeting and Call to Preparation

Rev. Kurt Cooper

The Prelude

Once He Came in Blessing

Johann Walther

The Announcements

Rev. Cameron Whitehurst

The Chiming of the Hour

The Choral Introit

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Diana Stoneberg

O come, O come, Emmanuel, (Let all mortal flesh keep silence)
And ransom captive Israel, (And with fear and trembling stand)
That mourns in lonely exile here, (Ponder nothing earthly minded)
Until the Son of God appear.
(For with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth)
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

† Indicates the congregation standing

• Indicates seating for those detained

† The Call to Worship – from Revelation 22 (*congregation reads bold type*)

Hear and hold fast the promise of the Lord Jesus: “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Surely I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

•† The Hymn No. 274 *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

HELMSLEY

† 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 Gloria Patri – No. 648 in *The Hymnal*

GREATOREX

SEEKING GOD’S FACE

The Call to Confession – Exodus 20

And God spoke all these words, saying, I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

You shall have no other gods before Me;

You shall not make for yourself an idol;

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain;

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy;

Honor your father and your mother;

You shall not murder;

You shall not commit adultery;

You shall not steal;

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor;

You shall not covet.

The Silent Prayers of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon – John 3:17

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

The Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Whitehurst

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 Is Faint Music

Dan Forrest

There is faint music in the night,
And pale wings fanned by silver flight;
A frosty hill with tender glow
Of countless stars that shine on snow.

A shelter from the winter storm,
A straw-lined manger, safe and warm,
And Mary singing lullabies,
To hush her Baby's sleepy sighs.

Her eyes are fixed upon His face,
Unheeded here is time and space;
Her heart is filled with blinding joy,
For God's own Son – her baby Boy!

There is faint music in the night,
And pale wings fanned by silver flight;
A frosty hill with tender glow
Of countless stars that shine on snow.
For God's own Son – a baby Boy!

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Cooper

† The Reading of God's Word – Isaiah 35:1-10

pew Bible, page 757

*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

A THRILL OF HOPE

Rev. Cooper

III. Life Is a Highway

COMMUNING WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE

† The Hymn No. 172

All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord

CANONBURY

† 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 Nicene Creed – inside cover of *The Hymnal*

† The Prayer of Humble Access

The Words of Institution

The Serving of the Meal

*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 Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**All praise, eternal Son, to Thee,
Whose advent sets Thy people free;
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Ghost forevermore. Amen.**

† The Benediction of God’s Grace

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

The Postlude

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Georg Böhm

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Kurt Cooper, *Senior Minister*

Rev. Cameron Whitehurst, *Assistant Minister*

Dr. Mark Nabholz, *Director of Music*

Dr. Jacob Taylor, *Organist & Music Associate*

A THRILL OF HOPE

III. Life Is a Highway

Isaiah 35:1-10

I. Desert in Bloom (vv. 1-2, 6-7)

A. Locations

B. Water

II. Strength, Courage & Healing (vv. 3-6)

III. The Highway (vv. 8-10)

A. Holiness

B. Safety

C. Destination



CHRISTMAS AT TRINITY

December 14 at 6:00 p.m.

30th ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

This year's service will feature anthems and carols from around the world accompanied by an orchestra, and the story of redemption as told in the Holy Scriptures. Invite friends and neighbors to this beautiful Christ-glorifying musical celebration of His birth.

December 21 at 6:00 p.m.

WITH HARP AND VOICE GIVE PRAISE

The River Region Harp Ensemble will present seasonal music, accompanied by congregational singing of favorite carols. Children ages 4 through 5th grade will be dismissed for a special activity. Homily by Michael Howell.

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

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

A service of quiet wonder with Holy Communion to prepare our hearts to receive the newborn King. The Montgomery Symphony Woodwind Quintet will play an extended prelude beginning 20 minutes before each service.

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

Homily by Kurt Cooper.

December 28 at 6:00 p.m.

OLD YEAR/NEW YEAR SERVICE

During the final service of 2025, 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 Andrew Mingus.

Nursery childcare for ages three and under will be available during each service unless otherwise indicated.



TRINITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)
trinitypca.org