

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 First Sunday of Advent

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DECEMBER 7, 2025

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. Cameron Whitehurst

The Prelude

Sleepers, Wake, A Voice is Calling, BWV 645

J.S. Bach

The Announcements

Rev. Kurt Cooper

The Chiming of the Hour

•† 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.

† Indicates the congregation standing

• Indicates seating for those detained

† The Call to Worship – from Psalm 102 (*congregation reads bold type*)

The LORD looked down from His holy height;
from heaven the LORD looked at the earth,
to hear the groans of the prisoners,
to set free those who were doomed to die,
that they may declare in Zion the name of the LORD,
and in Jerusalem His praise,
when peoples gather together to worship the LORD.

•† The Hymn No. 131

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRODOL

† 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 – 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 Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109)

**O merciful God, 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, nor ear has 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. 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

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

arr. Wolgemuth

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He.
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

O that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Savior of our race.
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed His sacred face,
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Whitehurst

† The Reading of God's Word – Isaiah 11:1-10

pew Bible, page 732

*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. Whitehurst

II. Paradise City

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

THE RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

The Introductions

Rev. Cooper

The Vows of Membership

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

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

† The Benediction of God's Grace

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

The Congregational Meeting

The Postlude

Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 661

J. S. Bach

A THRILL OF HOPE

II. Paradise City

Isaiah 11:1-10

I. The Messiah is a Unique King

II. The Messiah is a Sufficient King

III. The Messiah is a Righteous King

IV. The Messiah is a Gathering King

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*



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)
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