

## **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 remind 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**

**THE LORD'S DAY IN WORSHIP**

**DECEMBER 3, 2017**

# MORNING WORSHIP

THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

---

*If we let Him...He will make the feeblest and filthiest of us into a god or goddess, a dazzling, radiant, immortal creature, pulsating all through with such energy and joy and wisdom and love as we cannot now imagine, a bright stainless mirror which reflects back to God perfectly (though, of course, on a smaller scale) His own boundless power and delight and goodness.*

*The process will be long and in parts very painful; but that is what we are in for.*

*Nothing less. He meant what He said.*

C.S. LEWIS, *Mere Christianity*

The Welcome and Announcements

*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 Prelude

The Glory of Christmas  
Trinity Handbell Choir

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

The Striking of the Hour

---

---

The Call to Worship

Psalm 122:1-4

Mr. Pendley

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!” Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem! Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together, to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

† The Hymn No. 208

*O Come All Ye Faithful*  
(stanzas 1, 3, and 4)

ADESTE FIDELES

† The Confession of Our Faith

The Apostles’ Creed  
(Inside front cover of the *Trinity Hymnal*)

† The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

† The Lord’s Prayer

(Inside front cover of the *Trinity Hymnal*)

The New Testament Lesson

Romans 8:14-27  
Page 1201 in the Pew Bible

The Morning Prayer

The Hymn No. 196

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*  
(stanzas 1 and 4)

HYFRYDOL

---

---

The Morning Offering

The Christian Greeting

The Anthem

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*  
Chancel Choir with Trinity Handbell Choir

arr. John Behnke

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.

Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old-time chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;  
Now He shines, the long expected; let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.

Let the heights of heav'n adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing;  
Pow'rs, 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.

Christ, to You, with God the Father and the Spirit, there shall be  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving. And the shout of jubilee:  
Honor, glory, and dominion and eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore!





# **CHILDREN'S CHOIRS**

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

---

---

**December 3, 2017 // 6:00 P.M.**

---

---

The Cherub, Seraphim, Trinity Girls and Boys Choirs will lead a candlelight service of Christmas music.

Children's Sermon by  
Claude E. McRoberts, III.



## ADVENT SERVICES

### **December 3 at 6:00 PM ~ Children's Choirs Christmas Service**

*The Cherub, Seraphim, Trinity Girls, and Trinity Boys Choirs will lead a candlelight service of Christmas music. Homily by Claude E. McRoberts, III.*

### **December 10 at 6:00 PM ~An Italian Christmas with the Trinity Youth Choir**

*The Trinity Youth Choir will present Vivaldi's Gloria accompanied by chamber orchestra.  
Homily by Kurt Cooper.*

### **December 17 at 4:00 and 6:00 PM ~ 22nd Annual Service of Lessons and Carols**

*A beloved Christmas tradition at Trinity featuring the Chancel Choir with orchestra and organ. A festive prelude will precede each service.*

### **December 24 at 10:00 AM ~ Christmas Eve Morning Worship**

*A family-oriented worship service with singing, prayers, and homily.  
An infant nursery will be available. No Sunday School.*

### **December 24 at 4:00 and 6:00 PM ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion**

*Holy Communion services with music from the Chancel Choir and guest instrumentalists.  
Homily by Claude E. McRoberts, III.*



**1728 South Hull Street | Montgomery, Alabama 36104**

**334.262.3892 | [trinitypca.org](http://trinitypca.org)**

**A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)**