

Trinity Presbyterian Church + *Worship at Home*

December 13th, 2020 - 10 a.m.

The Third Sunday of Advent

This longing is embedded in the legends of many cultures, and though the stories are all different they have a similar theme: A true king will come back, slay the dragon, kiss us and wake us out of our sleep of death, rescue us from imprisonment in the tower, and lead us back into the dance. A true king will come back to put everything right and renew the entire world. The good news: Jesus is that true King.

— Tim Keller

Prelude Ballade No. 4 in F minor, op. 52 — Chopin (performed by Ann Schein at the Aspen Music Festival, 2012)

Call to Worship/ A Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The lighting of Advent candles dramatically depicts the growing expectation we have for the coming of Christ, the light of the world. The traditional Advent wreath has four purple candles (lit on the four Sundays of Advent) grouped around a white Christ candle (lit on Christmas Eve). The main symbolism portrayed by the wreath is the growing intensity of light as the candle lighting includes an additional candle each Lord's Day and as anticipation builds for the celebration of Christ's second coming.

Reading: Luke 1:46-56 (Mary's song)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAISE

Hymn Forever — music is found on pages 1-2

578 **Forever**

1 Give thanks to the Lord our God and king; his
(2 With a) might - y hand and out - stretched arm; his
3 From the ris - ing to the set - ting sun his

love en - dures for-ev - er. For he is good, he is a -
 love en - dures for-ev - er. For the life that's
 love en - dures for-ev - er. And by the grace of God we will

bove all things; his love en - dures for-ev - er. Sing
 been re - born; his love en - dures for-ev - er. Sing
 car - ry on; his love en - dures for-ev - er. Sing

praise, sing praise! 2 With a

praise! Sing praise, sing praise!

Refrain For - ev - er God is faith - ful, for - ev -

- er God is strong, for-ev - er God is with

us, for-ev - er, for-ev - er.

Prayer of Adoration (concluded by the following prayer in unison)

**Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness,
and put on the armor of light,
now in the time of this mortal life
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to visit us in great humility;
that in the last day,
when he shall come in his glorious majesty
to judge both the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Doxology

**All ye who are of tender heart,
Forgiving others take your part.
Sing his praises. Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on him cast your care.
O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship him in humbleness.
O praise him. Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One.
O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

RENEWAL

Confession of Sin (unison)

O Lord Jesus Christ, we have not longed for your coming and your kingdom as we ought. We have not denied ourselves, taking up the cross and following you. Instead, clinging to the things of this world and counting them dear, we have grown callous to the needs of the poor, the lonely, and the suffering. We have not cried out for justice nor cared about those who are without God and without hope in this world. Lord, forgive our offenses and grant that, by the power of your Spirit, we may live in the light of your coming again. Amen.

Private Confession

Words of Encouragement & Declaration of Pardon

[Jesus said,] "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." [Mark 10:45 (NIV)]

Words of Welcome

Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements start on page 8.

Hymn **Wait for the Lord — music found below**

480 **Wait for the Lord**

Em C Am6 B

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Em D G Am7 B Em

Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

To use with Psalm 37: sing the above, read vv. 1-5, sing, read vv. 6-9, sing, read vv. 10-11, 39-40, sing.

For another setting of Ps. 37 see 850

Words and Music (WAIT FOR THE LORD 8.8): Jacques Berthier, from *Songs and Prayers from Taizé* © 1991
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COMMITMENT

Missions Update

Scripture Lesson: John 1:1-18 (Read by Ping Tan)

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. [NRSV]

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY"
Emmanuel: God With Us

Pastor Higgins

Confession of Faith: "Our World Belongs to God," §6¹ (unison)

**We rejoice in the goodness of God,
renounce the works of darkness,
and dedicate ourselves to holy living.**

**As covenant partners,
set free for joyful obedience,
we offer our hearts and lives
to do God's work in the world.**

**With tempered impatience,
eager to see injustice ended,
we expect the Day of the Lord.**

**We are confident
that the light
which shines in the present darkness
will fill the earth when Christ appears.**

Come, Lord Jesus.

Our world belongs to you.

¹ A statement of faith adopted in 1986 (and revised in 2008) by the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Since we cannot gather for Holy Communion, we join in an act of *spiritual communion*, trusting in our Lord's blessings & love in this present crisis.

Dear Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Communion. I love you above all things, and I desire to possess you within my soul. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people, and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on 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, forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn **Soon and Very Soon** — music on pages 6-7

482 **Soon and Very Soon**

The musical score is written in 2/2 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has three vocal lines and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: '1,4 Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King!', '2 No more cry - ing there— we are going to see the King!', and '3 No more dy - ing there— we are going to see the King!'. The second system has three vocal lines and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King!', 'No more cry - ing there— we are going to see the King!', and 'No more dy - ing there— we are going to see the King!'. Chord symbols F, Bb/F, and F are placed above the first system, and C7, C9, and F are placed above the second system. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

1,4 Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King!
2 No more cry - ing there— we are going to see the King!
3 No more dy - ing there— we are going to see the King!

Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King!
No more cry - ing there— we are going to see the King!
No more dy - ing there— we are going to see the King!

Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King!
 No more cry - ing there— we are going to see the King!
 No more dy - ing there— we are going to see the King!

F7 Gm/B^b Gm7(b5) F/C C7 F *To stanzas*

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! We're going to see the King!

Optional interlude and final ending G7 C7 F G7 C7 F

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Words and Music (SOON AND VERY SOON 12.12.12.14): Andraé Crouch (b. 1945) © 1976 Bud John Songs (ASCAP), Crouch Music (ASCAP), admin. EMICMGPublishing.com

Benediction & Dismissal

Minister: May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

People: Amen.

Leader: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

Postlude Tarantella from "Venezia e Napoli", Book II from *Années de Pèlerinage* — Franz Liszt
 (Performed by Ann Schein at the Aspen Music Festival, 2012)

WORSHIP ARTISTS

Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with Trinity Church. We appreciate all that your music has contributed to our worship. Copyrighted songs are covered under CCLI #1250499 and CCS #11071.

TAMMY LUM - PIANO, ORGAN

FEATURING: ANN SCHEIN - PIANO

JORDAN & ALETHEA WILHELM - VOICE

Trinity Church Announcements

CELEBRATING CHRIST, SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

TODAY

Advent Season. The church's year of worship begins with the season of Advent, which lasts until Christmas Eve. Advent means "coming"; in this season we both remember what it was like for the people of the Old Testament as they awaited Messiah's coming—which we celebrate at Christmas—and also look ahead to Jesus' coming again in glory. Purple, the ancient color of royalty, has traditionally been associated with penitence and expectation and is used during the season of Advent, in which we prepare for the coming of Jesus our King.

Prayer Focus for Advent. In the Advent season, as we await the celebration of the coming of Jesus & his kingdom, we pray for all those who are in need and especially for the following:

- for peace on earth—for all suffering people, including refugees & the persecuted—and for all people to know peace with God through Jesus Christ.
- For all affected by the novel coronavirus pandemic, especially the sick, the suffering, and all those who care for them; for the development of treatments and vaccines; and for *deliverance!*
- For ministries to the hungry & homeless, including the work of the Trinity Church Mercy Team, Hillside Food Outreach, and many others; and for resources—both in money and in people—to meet these needs.
- For our **Advent Music Series** and all our special holiday services and ministries, and for those who will be joining in.
- For strong year-end giving to Trinity Church, including our building program & all our ministries.

COMING UP

HOMILY SCHEDULE (*subject to change as we deal with the pandemic*)

NOTE: Briefer homilies will be given at the in-person services. For the full sermon on the same text, visit the audio & video recordings on the webpage.

December 20. John 1:1-18. "Whom Came From the Father." Homily by Pastor Higgins

CHRISTMAS EVE. Luke 2:1-20; John 1:1-18. "Full of Grace and Truth." Homily by Pastor Higgins

December 27. Galatians 4:4-7. "In the Fullness of Time." Homily by Pastor Magneson

January 3. Matthew 2:1-12. "Following the Star." Homily by Pastor Swanson

EVENTS & COMMUNITY

Cultivating Your Marriage Through Heart Change and New Habits. We are pleased to announce a new webinar for married couples that will be taught by Dr. Tim Lane starting January 6, 2021. The course will run on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 pm to 9 pm for six weeks online. The cost per couple to participate is \$200 and **registration in advance is required by Monday, December 21st.**

If you have questions about the course or need financial assistance to sign up, contact Steve Magneson who is coordinating the course with Dr. Lane. You can email him at SteveMagneson@trinitychurch.cc.

Virtual Christmas Pageant. Exciting news! Children's Ministry is putting together a Virtual Christmas Pageant to share with our Trinity community this year! Beautiful artwork and Scripture readings supplied by our talented children will be compiled to create a montage video to tell the story of the birth of Jesus. We are busy working and preparing to share this with you all on **December 20th**. We hope it lifts your hearts in celebration this Advent season!

In the latest installment of "A Questioning Faith," Pastor Higgins interviews Chris Lawrence, who serves with InnerChange, a global, ecumenical order of Christians journeying with the world's poor. Chris and his wife, Naomi, an artist, live in East Harlem with their four children. The next one (scheduled to be recorded on Thursday) is with Kathy Purdy, executive director of Hillside Food Outreach, a Westchester-based ministry to those facing hunger and food insecurity. Trinity Church has a long-standing partnership with Hillside.

Year-End Giving. 100% of Trinity Church's funding comes from the generosity of our members & regular attendees—and much of this giving comes at the year's end. Please give generously! If you have questions about giving of stocks, about estate planning, etc., please contact the church office. Also note that, in order for your gifts to be counted for 2020, they must be received by December 31 (or, if mailed, postmarked by December 31). Thank you!!

Ways to Give:

- **We encourage giving online** through our secure website link on our church website: <https://www.trinitychurchny.com/giving/> Or, through our mobile app, *TrinityChurchNY*. Your faithful giving is not only an act of worship but is much appreciated by the Trinity Church leadership as we desire to continue ministry no matter what adjustments are necessary to meet current challenges. **If giving by check, mail it to the church office at 526 Anderson Hill Rd, Purchase, NY 10577.**
- **COVID-19 Support** - On our church website, www.trinitychurchny.com, you will find a link labeled "COVID-19 Update" which is a letter from our pastors encouraging us all to be there for one another, and to assist you in doing so that we might BE the church God intends us to be. There are links to forms to Give Help (volunteer) and Get Help (specify a need).

Trinity's Variety Christmas Concert will be released via email on December 23rd. Thank you to all that are participating. We're looking forward to this heart warming event!

Membership & Baptisms. If you are interested in becoming an official member (covenant partner) of Trinity Church, and/or if you are seeking baptism (for yourself or a child), please let one of the pastors know. Thank you!

Healing Prayer, Sundays at 11:30 on Zoom. Next Healing Prayer Service: January 10th

Ways to Connect:

- **Website:** www.TrinityChurchNY.com
- **Facebook:** Trinity Presbyterian Church NY
- **Facebook Group:** Trinity People Staying In Touch
- **Instagram:** TrinityChurchNY
- **Church Mobile App:** TrinityChurchNY
- **Community Groups:** via video-conferencing. To join one, use our website Contact Form.
- **Prayer Team Support:** You can submit a prayer request using our mobile app or contact form on our website. Our Prayer Team would be pleased to pray for you.
- **Pastoral Care:** Call the church office 914-967-6247 and choose from the voice menu who you wish to speak to, or use the church website contact form and your request will be forwarded.
- **Newsletters:** to be added to the mailing list, use the church website Contact Form.

Two Steps in Prayer for the Trinity Church Vision Campaign

1. Prayer for God's timing as to when we might be released from our pause in the Vision Campaign and how we might resume it.
2. The offices will be closed, but we do encourage individual families to prayer walk the property, while maintaining proper social-distancing practices, during our pause. Please contact Pastor Mark at MarkSwanson@trinitychurch.cc, if you are interested or have any questions.