

Trinity Presbyterian Church + *Worship at Home*

December 20th, 2020 - 10 a.m.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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!

— Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius, 4th century;
trans. John Mason Neale (1818-66)

Prelude Mary Had a Baby — Negro Spiritual, arr. by William L. Dawson

Performed by Nyack College Chorale

Directed by Dr. Tammy Lum and Professor Stephanie Fischer-Alvarenga

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: Reading: Luke 1.67, 76-79 (Zechariah's song)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAISE

Hymn **Lift High the Lord Our Banner** — music is found on pages 1-2

Lift High The Lord Our Banner

Words and Music by
Macon Delavan

♩ = 96

N.C. § CHORUS

B \flat /F F N.C. B \flat /F

Lift high the Lord, our Ban - ner. Lift high the Lord, Je - sus

Last time to Coda 

4 F N.C. B \flat /F F N.C.



King. Lift high the Lord, our Ban - ner. Lift high your

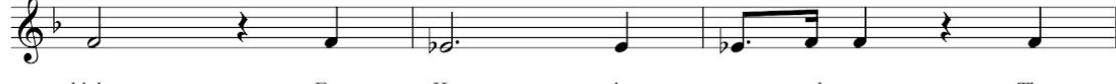
VERSE

7 B \flat /F F E \flat E \flat /F F E \flat D \flat Cm 7



praise to Him sing. For He is won - der - ful. For He reigns on

12 F Cm 7 E \flat E \flat /F F



high. For He is mar - vel - ous. The

15 Cm 7 D \flat /C Cm 7 1. F N.C. 2. F N.C. D.S. al Coda



Lord draw - eth nigh. Lift high the nigh. Lift high the

18  Coda Gm 7 B \flat /C C F



praise to Him sing.

CCLI Song # 14741
 © 1982 Integrity's Hosanna! Music
 For use solely with the SongSelect®. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com
 CCLI License # 1250499

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)

God of our salvation, we marvel that you sent your Son into the world that we might become your children. Yet we confess that we often rebel against you and your ways. We fall back into a spirit of fear; we turn toward false saviors. Forgive and heal us, we pray. Help us, once again, to turn away from all that is false and to turn to you. Help us to hear and embrace the identity, the promise, and the calling you give to us in our baptism as your dearly beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Private Confession

Words of Encouragement & Declaration of Pardon

[The angel said to St. Joseph,] "She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." [Matthew 1:21 (NRSV)]

Words of Welcome

Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Announcements start on page 9.

Hymn Blessed Be the God of Israel — music found on pages 3-4

67

Blessed Be the God of Israel

LUKE 1:68-79

The musical score is for the hymn "Blessed Be the God of Israel" in 4/4 time, key of F major. It features a treble and bass staff. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The chords are indicated above the treble staff: C, F, Gm7, Dm, C, Gm, C7, F.

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el, who comes to set us free
2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord, you will pre - pare the way,

C F Gm7 Dm Am Gm C7 F
 and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all,
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

C7 F C F Gm7 C
 So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
 that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

F Gm7 Dm C F B^b Csus C7 F
 God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
 in ho - li - ness and right - eous - ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony.

Words: Carl P. Daw Jr (b. 1944) © 1989 Hope Publishing Company
 Music: (FOREST GREEN 8.6.8.6 D): English folk tune; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958),
 1906, P.D.

COMMITMENT

A Litany for Advent (responsive)

O Wisdom,
 coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
 pervading and permeating all creation,
 you order all things with strength and gentleness:
 Come now and teach us the way to salvation. *

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Adonai,¹
 ruler of the house of Israel,
 you appeared in the burning bush to Moses
 and gave him the law on Sinai:

¹ Hebrew for "lord" or "master," in Jewish tradition this word is pronounced instead of the divine Name, YHWH, when it is found in the Scriptures.

Come with an outstretched arm to save us. *

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Root of Jesse,
rising as a sign for all the peoples,
before you earthly rulers will keep silent
and nations give you honor:
Come quickly to deliver us. *

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Key of David,
scepter over the house of Israel,
you open and no one can close,
you close and no one can open:
Come to set free the prisoners
who live in darkness and the shadow of death. *

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light,
sun of justice:
Come, shine on those who live in darkness
and in the shadow of death. *

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Ruler of the nations,
monarch for whom the people long,
you are the cornerstone uniting all humanity:
Come, save us all,
whom you formed out of clay. *

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Immanuel,
our sovereign and lawgiver,
desire of the nations and Savior of all:
Come and save us, O Lord our God. *

Come, Lord Jesus.

[After a brief silence, the leader concludes the litany.]

God of grace,
ever faithful to your promises,
the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming
and looks forward with longing
to his return at the end of time.
Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes,
for he is Lord forever and ever. **Amen.**

Scripture Lesson: John 1:1-18 (Read by Jim Courtney)

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

"WHO CAME FROM THE FATHER"
Emmanuel: God With Us

Pastor Higgins

Special Music Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming — M. Praetorius, Arr. by Mark Summers

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 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout — music on pages 7-8

69 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

LUKE 1:46-55

1 My _____ soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my
 2 Though _____ I am small, my _____ God, my all, you _____ work great _____
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a stone will be
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re - mem - ber who

heart is great, and my spir - it _____ sings of the won - drous _____
 things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the depths of the
 left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice _____
 holds us fast: God's _____ mer - cy _____ must de - liv - er _____

things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your
 past to the end of the age to be. Your ver - y
 tears ev - ery ty - rant _____ from his throne. The hun - gry
 us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This sav - ing

sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you
 name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would
 poor shall _____ weep no more for the food they can
 word that our fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which

C D Em

did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - ery
holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain G D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

Em C D Em

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

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 Joy to the World — Handel/Mason/Beck

*Performed by Nyack College Vocal Chamber Ensemble,
Directed by Dr. Tammy Lum and Prof. Margrit Zimmermann*

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, MELODICA

JORDAN WILHELM - VOICE

ALETHEA WILHELM - VOICE

FEATURING:

JULIE DIESSLIN-AUGUST - CELLO

NYACK COLLEGE CHORALE

NYACK COLLEGE CHAMBER VOCAL ENSEMBLE

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 & Christmas. Beginning today and continuing through the Twelve Days of Christmas, as we celebrate the coming of Jesus & his kingdom, we pray for all those who are in need.

- For peace on earth—for 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;
- For the mission & ministry of Trinity Church, especially for strong year-end giving to Trinity Church, including our building program & all our ministries; and
- For the members of the Armed Forces, including those from our church and especially those serving far from home. Pray specifically for Chaplain Tim Fary, his family, & his ministry as an Army chaplain.

Virtual Christmas Pageant. Exciting news! The 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 hope it lifts your hearts in celebration this Advent season!

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.** You can sign up through the newsletter link or in the church's mobile app, TrinityChurchNY. 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. The sessions will cover: The Big Picture, Cultivating the Art of Good Communication, Cultivating the Art of Godly Conflict, Cultivating the Art of Godly Conflict Part 2, Cultivating the Art of Practicing Forgiveness, and Cultivating the Art of Intimacy and Sex. For more details about each session, see the newsletter or mobile app. For more information about the course instructor, Dr. Lane, visit: timlane.org/about

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.

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. "Worshipping God." Homily by Pastor Swanson
January 10. New series begins: "When Jesus Asks a Question." John 1:35-38. "What Do You Seek?"

EVENTS & COMMUNITY

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!

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).

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. The next one is with Kathy Purdy, executive director of Hillside Food Outreach, a Westchester-based ministry to those facing hunger and food insecurity.

Healing Prayer. Anyone wishing to pray for healing (physical, spiritual, emotional) for themselves, for loved one, and (especially now!) for the world, is invited to join Pastor Higgins for a brief liturgy of healing prayer. The service is scheduled to be held on Sundays at 11:30 on Zoom. The service will last for approximately 15 minutes. For information on how to join in, email Pastor Higgins at craighiggins@trinitychurch.cc.

- Next Healing Prayer Service: January 10

Ways to Connect:

- **Website:** www.TrinityChurchNY.com
- **SOCIAL MEDIA: 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.

Adult CE Class. For Lent this year, Pastor Mark and Ann Higgins will be reading a group through Tish Harrison Warren's "Prayer in the Night" as an online adult education offering. Tish Harrison Warren's book will explore themes of vulnerability, suffering and God's seeming absence, structured around the nighttime prayer of Compline (which Pastor Mark led many of us through last year when COVID inserted itself into the rhythms of our lives). The approximate date for the class will be the second week of February, on or around Ash Wednesday. You can pre-order the book on Amazon and sign up from the link in our newsletter. Please contact Pastor Mark at markswanson@trinitychurch.cc if you have any questions.

Drive-in Communion. 1pm, January 3rd at the Church Offices.