

Trinity Presbyterian Church + *Worship at Home*

January 3rd, 2021 - 10 a.m.

The Second Sunday after Christmas Day

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

— T.S. Elliot "The Journey of the Magi", final stanza

Call to Worship at 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.

Minister: Alleluia! To us a child is born.

People: Come, let us adore him. Alleluia!

PRAISE

Carol **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** — music on page 2

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

F C Am B^b F/C C F

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3 Hail the heaven - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!

Dm7 G7 C Fmaj7 G7 C

peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

F F/C C F F/C C

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild, he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

B^b D Gm C7 F C F

with the an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain B^b D Gm C7 F C7 F

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt., P.D.

Music (MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7. D refrain 7.7): Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; adapt. William H. Cummings, 1856, P.D.

Prayer of Adoration (the *Gloria in excelsis*, in unison)

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,

almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy upon us
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Doxology (last verse of "Angels, from the Realms of Glory")

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
evermore your voices raising
to th'eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ the newborn King.

RENEWAL

Confession of Sin (unison)

Holy God, you sent a star to guide the Magi to the child Jesus. We confess that we have not followed the light of your Word. We have not searched for signs of your love in this world, nor have we trusted your good news truly to be good. We have failed to praise your Son's birth and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little and hoped for even less. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us holy desires, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

Private Confession

Words of Encouragement & Declaration of Pardon

[Jesus said,] "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

[Matthew 28:19-21 (NRSV)]

Words of Welcome

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

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements start on page 8.

Carol We Three Kings (verses 1, 2 and 5) — music found below

We Three Kings of Orient Are 233

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far,
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, in - cense owns a de - i - ty night;
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom:
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
prayer and prais - ing, voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain
O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt. KINGS OF ORIENT
8.8.8.6.Ref.

COMMITMENT

Prayers of the People (Led by Chloe Nevill)

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12 (Read by Alethea Wilhelm)

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. [NRSV]

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"WORSHIPPING GOD"

Pastor Swanson

Unison Prayer

**Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Christ the Lord.
Amen.**

-from The Book of Common Prayer

Confession of Faith: "Our World Belongs to God," §23¹

Remembering the promise
to reconcile the world to himself,
God joined our humanity in Jesus Christ—
the eternal Word made flesh.
He is the long-awaited Messiah,
one with us,
and one with God,
fully human and fully divine,
conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

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.

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

Carol God Reigns, Earth Rejoices — music is found below

91 God Reigns! Earth Rejoices

PSALM 97

Unison Fm B^b/F Fm B^b Fm/C C Fm

1 God reigns! Earth re - joic - es! O - ceans shout God's might!
 2 Fires will blaze the path - way; stars will mark the place,
 3 E - vil walks be - side us, crush - es with its grief;
 4 Light dawns for the right - eous, joy for God's own heirs—

B^b/F Fm B^b Fm/C C Fm

Clad in truth and joy, God's throne is our de - light.
 when God comes in glo - ry, meets us face to face.
 yet in God the faith - ful find their sure re - lief.
 love all loves ex - cel - ling, grace be - yond com - pare.

C/E Fm C

Clouds roll a - side, and night be - comes as day.
 Moun - tains will shake and worth - less i - dols fall;
 Shack - les will break and chains of bon - dage cease;
 Daugh - ters and sons, God's maj - es - ty pro - claim!

Fm B^b/F Fm B^b Fm/C C Fm

God will dwell a - mong us; God will show the way!
 Zi - on will re - joice, for God is Lord of all!
 for - mer lam - en - ta - tions now are songs of peace.
 Let your hearts de - clare the Lord's most ho - ly name!

Words: Michael Morgan © 2011 Michael Morgan, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources
 Music (NOËL NOUVELET 11.11.10.11): Medieval French carol, P.D.

Benediction & Dismissal

Minister: Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his

holiness; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

Leader: Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Jesus, the newborn King.

People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Postlude Jesus is All the World to Me — Will L. Thompson/ Kim Williams

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

JORDAN WILHELM - VOICE, GUITAR, ETC.

THE BROWN FAMILY BRASS QUARTET

Trinity Church Announcements

CELEBRATING CHRIST, SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

TODAY

Merry Christmas! Today is the tenth of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

- **Epiphany.** Wednesday—the first day after the twelve days of Christmas—is the Feast of the Epiphany, commemorating the coming of the Magi to worship the Christ Child. In many cultures, this feast (sometimes known as “Three Kings Day”) is when children receive their presents.
- The church has long used symbolic color in its worship. As the dominating colors of God’s creation change from season to season, so do the liturgical colors of the church calendar. The sequence of colors is meant to enhance the celebratory aspect of worship and to teach the gospel story throughout the year. In the celebration of Christmas, white is used because it symbolizes the joy and glory of the Incarnation of our Savior.

Prayer Focus for 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.

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.

January 10. New series begins: "When Jesus Asks a Question." John 1:35-38. "What Do You Seek?"

January 17. John 2:1-12. "Why Do You Involve Me?" Pastor Higgins preaching

January 24. Mark 8:23-27. "Who Do You Say I Am?" Pastor Higgins preaching

EVENTS & COMMUNITY

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).

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.