



fourth Sunday in Advent
December 18, 2022

WORSHIPPING THE GOD OF JOY

Liturgist: Rev. Pablo Rosales

Scripture Reader: Debbie Highmark

Pastoral Prayer: Fielding Poe, Ruling Elder

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

WE READY OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

Devotional Preparation:

"The Prologue"

Before there was a universe,
Before a star or planet,
When time had still not yet begun —
I scarcely understand it —
Th' eternal Word was with his God,
God's very Self-Expression;
Th' eternal Word was God himself —
And God had planned redemption.
The Word became our flesh and blood —
The stuff of his creation —
The Word was God, the Word was flesh,
Astounding incarnation!
But when he came to visit us,
We did not recognize him.
Although we owed him everything
We haughtily despised him.
In days gone by God showed himself
In grace and truth to Moses;
But in the Word of God made flesh
Their climax he discloses.

For grace and truth in fullness came
And showed the Father's glory
When Jesus donned our flesh and died:
This is the gospel story.
All who delighted in his name,
All those who did receive him,
All who by grace were born of God,
All who in truth believed him —
To them he gave a stunning right:
Becoming God's dear children!
Here will I stay in grateful trust;
Here will I fix my vision.
Before there was a universe,
Before a star or planet,
When time had still not yet begun —
I scarcely understand it —
Th' eternal Word was with his God,
God's very Self-Expression;
Th' eternal Word was God himself —
And God had planned redemption.

- D.A Carson

Call to Worship—Psalm 89 (selected)

Leader: I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;

**People: With my mouth I will make known your faithfulness
to all generations.**

Leader: You have said, "I have made a covenant with my
chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:

**People: 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build
your throne for all generations.'"**

All: Blessed be the Lord forever!

WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

*Songs of Adoration

Joy Has Dawned/Angels We Have Heard on High

Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend | Trinity Hymnal #214

Lighting of the Advent Candle

E♭ Fm E♭/G A♭ B♭ Cm Fm⁷ E♭/B♭ B♭



1. Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom-ised from cre - a - tion:
2. Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels;
3. Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry;
4. Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som,

5 E♭ Fm E♭/G A♭ B♭ Cm A♭ B♭ E♭



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.
As the might - y Prince of Life shel - ters in a sta - ble.
Gifts of men from dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the sto - ry.
rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ our might - y Cham - pi - on!

9 E♭/G A♭ E♭/G Fm⁷ B♭ Cm Fm⁷ E♭/B♭ B♭



Not with fan - fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,
Hands that set each star in ___ place, shaped the earth in dark - ness.
Gold, a King is born to - day; In - cense, God is with ___ us;
What a Sav - ior, what a ___ Friend, what a glo - rious mys - ter - y:

13 E♭ Fm E♭/G A♭ B♭ Cm⁷ Fm⁷



but a hum - ble gift of love: Je - sus born of
Cling now to a moth - er's breast, vul - n'ra - ble and
Myrrh, His death will make a way, by His blood He'll
Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, now the Lord of

16 B♭ E♭ Fm E♭/G A♭ B♭ E♭



Mar - y.
help - less.
win ___ us.
his - to - ry.

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Words by Henry Lyte. Music by John Goss

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to His feet your
2. Praise Him for His grace and fa - vor to our fa - thers
3. Fa - ther - like, He tends and spares us; well our fee - ble
4. Frail as sum - mer's flower we flour - ish— blows the wind, and
5. An - gels in the heights, a - dore Him— ye be - hold Him

trib - ute bring. Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress. Praise Him, still the same for - ev - er,
frame He knows. In His hands He gen - tly bears us,
it is gone. But while mor - tals rise and per - ish,
face to face. Saints tri - um - phant, bow be - fore Him,

ev - er - more His prais - es sing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
slow to chide and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
God en - dures un - chang - ing on! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
gath - ered in from eve - ry race. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Praise the ev - er - last - ing King! Al - le - lu - ia,
Glo - rious in His faith - ful - ness. Al - le - lu - ia,
Wide - ly yet His mer - cy flows. Al - le - lu - ia,
Praise the High E - ter - nal One! Al - le - lu - ia,
Praise with us the God of grace! Al - le - lu - ia,

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al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet His mer - cy flows.
al - le - lu - ia! Praise the High E - ter - nal One!
al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

***Prayer of Adoration**

WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD

New Testament Reading—Luke 1:26-33

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Reader: The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever!

People: Thanks be to God!

WE CONFESS OUR UTTER UNWORTHINESS BEFORE GOD

Call to Confession—Galatians 6:9-10

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Silent Confession and Lament

WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—Psalm 32:1-2

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Leader: People of God, give thanks to God for covering our sin!

People: Thanks be to God!

Leader: Now may the peace of Christ be with you all!

People: And also with you!

***Song of Rejoicing**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Trinity Hymnal #224

(children are invited to come forward)

Children's Sermon

WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

Pastoral Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

(Children's Church meets for 4yr to 2nd grade on the 1st & 3rd Sunday)

Offertory Song (Ensemble)

O Come, All You Unfaithful

Music and Words by Lisa Clow and Bob Kauflin

Sermon

"Wearied by Obedience"

Advent Series, The Weary World Rejoices

2 Corinthians 11:21-12:10

Rev. Dr. Chris Polski

*Song of Response

His Mercy Is More

Words and Music by Matt Papa and Matt Boswell

E E/G# A E

1. What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done? Om -
 (2. What) pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam? What
 (3. What) rich - es of kind - ness He lav - ished on us. His

3 B C#m A B^{sus} E F#m⁷

-ni - scient, all know - ing, He counts not their sum. Thrown in - to a sea with - out
 Fa - ther, so ten - der, is call - ing us home? He wel - comes the weak - est, the
 blood was the pay - ment; His life was the cost. We stood 'neath a debt we could

6 E/G# A E/G# A E/B

1, 2. **TURNAROUND**
 B^{sus} B⁶ B^{sus} E E/G#

bot - tom or shore, our sins, they are man - y; His mer - cy is more.
 vil - est, the poor. Our sins, they are man - y; His mer - cy is more.
 nev - er af - ford. Our sins they are man - y; His

11 A E B C#m A B^{sus}

3. **CHORUS**
 B^{sus} B⁶ B^{sus} E A E

2. What mer - cy is more. Praise the Lord, —
 3. What

17 C#m⁷ B^{sus} A E B^{sus} B B^{sus} A E

His mer - cy is more. _____ Strong - er than dark - ness,

21 B C#m⁷ A E

1. B^{sus} E 2. B^{sus} E

new ev - 'ry morn. — Our sins, they are man - y; His mer - cy is more. Praise the mer - cy is more.

*Benediction

UPCOMING EVENTS

There is no regular Sunday school classes until the new year. However, **if you signed up for a *Seeing Jesus Journal*, please join Pastor Pablo** in classroom 110 to receive your journal and hear how to make the best use of it.

The **Men's and Women's bible studies** are on hiatus until the new year.

Men's Night this Wed. at 7:30pm at Chris Freeman's.

Volunteers today: Ushers: Roberts, Maglione, Wong, O'Neal. Nursery: Schmidt, Poe, E. Cheatham, Petty, Ridenhour. **Next Sunday:** Ushers: Schaffer, Schlitt, T. Thomason.

A **new nursery volunteer schedule** went out via email last week. If you did not receive it, please see Amy Mitchell. We are always welcoming new volunteers! You can also find an **updated Sunday snack schedule** in your weekly email. Please consider signing up for an upcoming Sunday.

ACTION (All Church Things In One Night) will resume in the new year.

Christmas Eve Service at 5pm, **Christmas Morning Service** at 10:30am.

Advent Giving Tree: You can find a list of ministries we hope to help this year on the welcome table. There are a few more tags added last week to help a Robinson family in need. If you would like to participate, take a tag from the tree and return it with your donation to the basket above the tree during the Advent season.

Year End Giving: Thank you for your tithes and offerings this past year. If you have a desire to provide stock to be used for 2022 contributions or any other method, please be sure that this is instructed or sent to the church office prior to December 31. If you have any questions

If you do not receive our **weekly email updates** on Tuesday mornings, please send your email address to amymitchell@trinitystlouis.org.

There are **several easy ways to serve at Trinity**. Feel free to reach out to these ministry coordinators to get involved: **Ushers:** Paul Schaffer (PaulSchaffer1012@gmail.com), **Greeters:** James Broughton (jlbroughton12@gmail.com), **Nursery:** Alyce Bava (jimnalyce@yahoo.com). **Children's SS:** Michelle Goldstein or Melissa Kocker (medcalf.melissa@gmail.com)

Did you know you can use the **Church Center app** for online giving, church directory, to sign up for events, connect with your small groups, bible studies, etc? Contact the church office for assistance.

You can **sign up for all upcoming events** by scanning your phone camera over the QR code and then [following the link](#):



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Bring your friends and family to this year's concert, *The Weary World Rejoices, Passing on the Promise of God's Peace, Love, Hope, and Joy*. TONIGHT at 6:30pm (doors open at 6pm). The concert will begin with a prelude by W. Mark Akin, classical guitarist.

MISSION UPDATE

Robinson Elementary Pantry and Families

James 2:14-17 tells us, "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

Over the last month, we collected enough food and supplies to stock the food pantry! You all were willing to give the things needed for the body. This wasn't because it was "the right thing to do" or "to pat ourselves on the back." It was because your faith in Jesus and your gratitude for his blessings has overflowed in acts of service. A branch connected to the vine can't help but to bear fruit! As a result, Robinson Elementary posted a 'thank you' to Trinity in their newsletter. This is all to God's glory. As you read it, keep in mind the words of Jesus, from Matthew 5:16 – "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Thank you Trinity Church in Kirkwood

From our Robinson Elementary: "Our Robinson family would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the community at Trinity Church in Kirkwood. They held a donation drive for our food pantry to help us provide even more for our families and not only are we now overflowing with food, but with gratitude as well for their kindness and generosity. With the help of our friends at Trinity Church, we can ensure our families will have what they need to prepare for the upcoming holidays. We look forward to continuing our work with Trinity Church this school year!"

Tomorrow evening, a few volunteers will head to Robinson Elementary to serve in the holiday food pantry. Please pray for them as they physical serve what the Lord has provided to our neighbors in need.

Also, later this week we will bring the gifts under our tree in the Narthex to Robinson to give to the families who needed assistance this year. Thank you all for taking the time to purchase and wrap everything you see there. Please pray for these families.

Lastly, join us in thanking Hannah Oh and Korean Hope Presbyterian Church, who during our Christmas Craft saw our giving tree and joined us in serving families from Robinson. She joyfully took a few tags and placed some presents under our tree this past week.

WELCOME

We are glad you could join us! We would love to connect with you and answer any questions you may have about Trinity. Scan below with your phone camera to leave us your contact information.



Trinity's ministries are organized around the core values in our purpose statement which reads: Trinity Church exists to **exalt** God's name, **establish** God's people, **equip** God's church and **engage** God's world, in the power of the Holy Spirit and for the sake of the Risen King, Jesus Christ.

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