

It is a

History-Altering



Story



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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.



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WORSHIPING THE GOD WHO REIGNS OVER HISTORY!

(Our overflow room is located off of the hallway near the kitchen.)

Liturgist: Rev. Pablo Rosales

Scripture Reader: Glyn Schlitt

Pastoral Prayer: Bill Elzinga, Ruling Elder

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Quotes and Reflection

"The whole gospel is contained in Christ." — John Calvin

"In the creation, the Lord made man like himself; but in the redemption he made himself like man." — John Boys

"The early Christians did not say in dismay, 'Look what the world has come to,' but in delight, 'Look what has come to the world!'" — Carl Henry

Devotional Preparation

There are many events in history that are hugely important, but some are so important that they change the course of human history.

One of these events was the invention of the telegraph by Samuel F.B. Morse who was, at first, a professor of painting and sculpture. Somewhere along the line he became interested in creating a system that would allow for people to communicate with each other across large distances. By 1835 he had devised a rudimentary system of communication that he called the morse code that could be used to send signals across wires stretched along the rail lines of America. These signals could be sent across the wires and then decoded on the other end in a matter of seconds, thus enabling messages to be sent from one city to the next with almost immediate effect.

The system was first implemented on May 24, 1844 with a message sent from Washington D.C. to Baltimore. Maryland. Most interestingly, the first message sent by Morse, read: "What hath God wrought!"

That system of communication, at base, enabled every modern communication development for the next 100 years and literally changed the way the world worked.

And yet, even more important was the entry of Christ, the Son of God, into the world of human beings on the greatest rescue mission that would ever be undertaken, an entry that is still shaping the world today and promises to do so until the end of the age.

Call to Worship—Psalm 89:1-5

Leader: I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to
all generations.

**People: For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in
the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."**

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: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your
faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!**

WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

*Songs of Adoration

Hail To The Lord's Anointed

Words by James Montgomery (alt. S. McCracken). Music by Sandra McCracken

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Chorus

F/C C F/C C F/C C Am G F/C C

Hail to the Lord's a - nointed great Da - vid's great-er Son! Hail in the

6 F/C C G Am F G F/C C

time ap - pointed, His reign on earth be - gun! His reign on earth be - gun!

Verses

11 F/C C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm

1.He comes to break op - pres-sion, to set the cap - tive free;
2.He comes with com - fort speed-y to those who suf - fer wrong;
3.To give them songs for sigh-ing, their dark-ness turned to light,
4.He shall come down like show-ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
5.The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

16 F C/E F C/E G Am F G

to take a - way trans - gres-sion and rule in eq - ui - ty. (vss. 1, 3, 4, 5 to chorus)
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong.
whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.
love, joy, and hope, like flow-ers, spring in His path to birth.
his name shall stand for - ev - er, that name to us is Love.

Jesus What A Wonderful Child

Arr. by Sandra McCracken

(Please join in singing when directed)

CHORUS

$\text{♩} = 104$ **D** *Swing eighths* **G7** **D** **A7**

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh what a won - der - ful child.

5 **D** **Bm7** **E7** **A7** **D**

Je - sus, Je - sus, so low - ly, meek and mild. New life, new hope to

10 **D7** **G** **G#°7** **D/A** **A7**

all He brings. Won't you lis - ten to the an - gels sing glo - ry, glo - ry,

14 **D** **Em7** **D/F#** **G** **D/A** **A7** **D** **A7**

glo - ry to the new - born King.

52 **G7** **D** **Bm7** **E7** **A7** **D**

New life, new hope to

59 **D7** **G** **G#°7** **D/A** **A7**

all He brings. Won't you lis - ten to the an - gels sing glo - ry, glo - ry,

63 **D** **Em7** **D/F#** **G** **D/A** **A7** **D** **A7** **D** **Em7** **D/F#** **G**

glo - ry to the new - born King. Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry to the

*Prayer of Adoration

WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD

New Testament Reading—Luke 1:47-55

Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

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—Psalm 89:46-48

How long, O Lord? Will you hide yourself forever? How long will your wrath burn like fire? Remember how short my time is! For what vanity you have created all the children of man! What man can live and never see death? Who can deliver his soul from the power of Sheol? *Selah*

Silent Confession and Lament

WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—Rom. 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen

Leader: Christian, give thanks to God for strengthening us according to the gospel!

People: Thanks be to God!

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

People: And also with you!

*Song of Pardon

His Mercy Is More Matt Papa and Matt Boswell

♩ = 40

VERSE

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 - cient, 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

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

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

11 A E B C#m A B^{sus} | 3. B^{sus} B⁶ B^{sus} E **CHORUS** 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.

Children's Sermon

"Love"

Mitchell Dixon

WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

Pastoral Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

(There is no Children's Church today)

Offertory Song (Ensemble)

Born A King

Stephen McWhirter, Jason Clayborn

Sermon

"A History-Altering Story"

Advent Series, The Greatest Story Ever Told

Luke 2:1-7; Ephesians 2:11-22

Rev. Dr. Chris Polski

***Song of Response**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Trinity Hymnal #224

***Benediction**

UPCOMING EVENTS

All **Sunday school classes will resume on Jan. 7th.**

Volunteers today: Ushers: Schaffer, Schlitt, Thomason, Kocher. Nursery: O'Neals, L. Nichols, J. Standerfer. No CC. **Next Sunday:** Ushers: Thomason, Heintz, Standerfer, Younger. Nursery: Moen, McCall, S. Hendricks, J. Petty.

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

ACTION (All Church Things In One Night) will resume on Feb. 7th.

Youth Ministry: Jr. High will resume on Wed., Jan. 3rd at 6pm. Sr. High will resume on Sun., Jan. 7 at 6pm.

Help needed: Nursery Co-Coordinators (high need, two positions available), Sunday morning nursery volunteers, ACTION Kids lessons teacher, Playdate Coordinator. See Melissa Kocher.

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 2023 contributions or any other method, please be sure that this is sent to the church office prior to Dec. 31. If you have any questions see Duncan Highmark.

Advent Giving Tree: 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. A list of ministries we hope to support can be found on the next page.

Please help us **thank Cynthia Cheatham and Debbie Highmark** for the beautiful Christmas decor.

If you do not receive our **weekly email updates** on Tuesday mornings, please send your email address to amy.mitchell@trinitychurchkirkwood.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:

Paul.Schaffer@trinitychurchkirkwood.org,

Greeters: James Broughton

(jlbroughton12@gmail.com), **Children's**

Ministry: Melissa Kocher

(Melissa.Kocher@trinitychurchkirkwood.org)

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:](#)



TRINITY CONNECT

If you are **new to Trinity and interested in becoming a member**, our next new member's class, Connect, will run from Jan. 7 to Feb. 11 during the Sunday school hour.

MISSION UPDATE

January 2024 Mission Newsletter and Prayer Calendar is now available:



The Advent Giving Tree – Last Day to Give is Sunday, December 31, 2023

Please visit the Giving Tree in the Narthex. This is an opportunity to be generous this Christmas Season. Here's an explanation of the different ministries to which you can give. Instructions for giving are on the cards on the Giving Tree.

Trinity Diaconal Fund — Our church receives requests for financial assistance from outside the church, whether it's food, bill pay, transportation, or lodging. Our deacons work with these individuals to assess how Trinity can help. Also, this fund is used to help Trinity members and attenders who fall on hard times and need help.

Promise Christian Academy — By blending academics with faith and multiple therapies into each school day, Promise Christian Academy builds an on-ramp for life for its students with special needs. Because they believe that God does not make mistakes, they affirm the innate value of every child. Their work is to discover and cultivate each student's potential.

FORAI — For 14 years, Forai has focused on helping resettled refugee and immigrant women just like Sui with three things: dignity, empowerment, and community. Forai is a place of refuge for the refugee, connecting women with American friends and opportunities to generate income for their families while learning jewelry-making or sewing and other crucial job-related skills.

Oasis International — Their mission is to love and care for those who seek refuge from a war torn country. They do this by welcoming refugees from many nations to the United States who have experienced war in their home country. Since most of them have been in refugee camps, sometimes for 10 years or more, they arrive with few personal items. Oasis International helps them settle in St. Louis with furniture, household items, and clothes. English, citizenship, and computer classes are also made available to them; but most importantly they are extended friendship.

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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