



It is an ancient story

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

WORSHIPING THE GOD WHO IS THE HOPE OF THE NATIONS

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

Liturgist: Tim Jackson

Scripture Reader: Peg Nichols

Pastoral Prayer: Fielding Poe, Ruling Elder

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Quotes and Reflection

"The ultimate goal of God's promise to Abraham is that blessing will prevail over curse. It does so when the seed of Abraham, the singled-out descendant of Abraham, the Messiah, becomes 'a curse for us ... so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles' (Galatians 3:13-14). It is in this light that Paul can call the promise to Abraham that the nations will be blessed the gospel....The gospel is that in Christ Jesus the curse has been set aside and God's creative purpose for the blessing of his creation is established beyond any possibility of reversal." — Richard Bauckham

"From the fateful decision at Babel onward, the story of the Old Testament is about Israel versus the disinherited nations, and Yahweh versus the corrupt, rebel *elohim* of those nations." — Michael S. Heiser

"The Table of Nations catalogs 70 nations, but Israel is not included in this catalog because, at this point, Israel did not exist. The origin of Israel occurs in Genesis 12:1–3—the chapter following the Babel event." — John D. Barry, *et al.*

"The coming of the gentle king is associated with the proclamation of peace to the nations, extending his reign to the ends of the earth." — D. A. Carson

Devotional Preparation

“One nation is being chosen, but all nations are to be the beneficiaries of that choice...This affects the way we understand the whole biblical doctrine of election. There is a tendency to speak of it solely as a doctrine of salvation—that is to say, the elect are those who get saved. That then leads to all kinds of controversy through the centuries as to whether God is fair in choosing some to be saved and not others. I don't want to get bogged down in that ancient but still potent debate. All I want to point out here is that the first time we really see God choosing and calling someone—i.e., putting election into action—it is precisely not so that Abraham and his family alone get saved, but rather that by being blessed he should become the agent of blessing to others.

Election of one is not the rejection of the rest, but ultimately for their benefit. It is as if a group of trapped cave explorers choose one of their number to squeeze through a narrow flooded passage to get out to the surface and call for help. The point of the choice is not so that she alone gets saved, but that she is able to bring help and equipment to ensure the rest get rescued. 'Election' in such a case is an instrumental choice of one for the sake of many.

In the same way, God's election of Israel is instrumental in God's mission for all nations. Election needs to be seen as a doctrine of mission, not a calculus for the arithmetic of salvation. If we are to speak of being chosen, of being among God's elect, it is to say that, like Abraham, we are chosen for the sake of God's plan that the nations of the world come to enjoy the blessing of Abraham (which is exactly how Paul describes the effect of God's redemption of Israel through Christ in Gal. 3:14).

...If we are in Christ, we not only share in the blessing of Abraham, we are *commissioned to spread the blessing of Abraham.*”

— Christopher Wright, *The Mission of God's People*, 71-72.

Song of Preparation (Adult and Children's Choir)

Gather 'Round, Ye Children, Come

Andrew Peterson. Arr. by Dustin Loehrs

Call to Worship—Psalm 80 (selected)

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

People: Stir up your might and come to save us!

Leader: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

People: Let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!

Leader: Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name!

All: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

***Songs of Adoration**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Trinity Hymnal #208

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Come and Worship

Music by Bebo Norman and Jason Ingram

An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er the earth;
7 Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry now pro -
13 claim Mes - si - ah's birth: Come and Wor - ship Come and
19 wor - ship, Come and wor - ship; wor - ship Christ the new - born King.
25 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing watch - ing
Saints be fore the al - tar ben - ding watch - ing
31 o'er your flocks by night God with man is now re - sid - ing
long in hope and fear Sud - den - ly - the Lord, de - scend - ing,
37 Yon - der shines the In - fant light
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear Come and Wor - ship
43 Come and wor - ship; Come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ the new - born

*Prayer of Adoration

WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD

New Testament Reading—Mark 13:24-37

The Coming of the Son of Man

“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

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—1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Silent Confession and Lament

WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—1 Cor. 1:9

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Leader: Children of God, give thanks to Jesus for redeeming
and forgiving our sins.

People: Thanks be to God!

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

People: And also with you!

*Song of Rejoicing

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Stuart Townend, and Keth Getty. Arr. by Dan Galbraith

VERSE 1, 2 & 3

4 D G D

1. Sing we the song of Em - man - u - el;
2. Come we to wel - come Em - man - u - el,
3. Go spread the news of Em - man - u - el.

3rd time to Coda ☉

7 A G A D G D

this, the Christ, who was long fore - told.
King who came with no crown or throne.
Joy and peace for the wea - ry heart.

Lo, in the shad - ows of Beth - le - hem,
Help - less, He lay, the In - vin - ci - ble.
Lift up your heads for your King has come.

CHORUS 1 & 2

11 A G D A G D

prom - ise of dawn now our eyes be - hold.
Mak - er of Mar - y, now Mar - y's son.

God, Most High, in a man - ger laid.
O, what wis - dom to save us all.

15 A G D G D G D

Lift your voi - ces and now pro - claim,
Shep - herds sag - es be - fore Him fall.

"Great and glo - ri - ous, Love has come to us."
Grace and maj - es - ty, what hu - mil - i - ty.

TURNAROUND 1

19 G Bm A D

Join now with the hosts of heav - en.
Come on bend - ed knee, a - dore Him.

22 D/G Bm7 A G

⊕ Coda

25

A

G

D



Sing, for the Light o - ver - whelms the dark.

CHORUS 3

29

A

G

D

A

G

D



Glo - ry shin - ing for all to see. Hope a - live, let the gos - pel ring.

33

G

D

G

D

G

Bm

1.

A

D



God has made a way. He will have the praise. Tell the world His name is Je - sus.

2.

TURNAROUND 2

37

A

D



Je - sus.

BRIDGE

41

D

G²



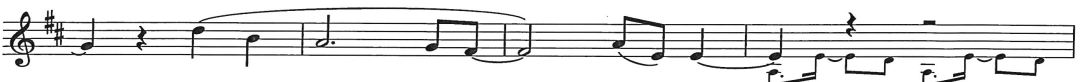
Glo

ri - a. —

45

D

A⁽⁴⁾



Glo

ri - a. —

49

Bm⁷

G²



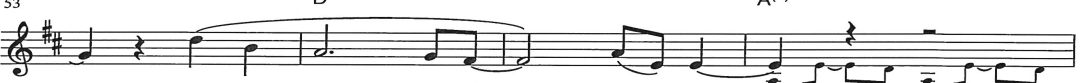
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ri - a. —

53

D

A⁽⁴⁾



Glo

ri - a. —

Children's Sermon

"Hope"

Dr. Aaron Goldstein

WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

Pastoral Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

(Children's Church meets for 4yr to 2nd grade in room 106)

Sermon

"Hope of the Nations"

Advent Series, The Greatest Story Ever Told

Genesis 12:1-3

Rev. Pablo Rosales

*Song of Response

Joy to the World

Keith and Kristyn Getty

Piano

A Dmaj7 E A D E

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re-ceive her
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav-i-ore reigns! Let men their songs em-
 3. No more let sins and with truth and grace, grow, nor thorns in-fest the
 4. He rules the world and with truth and grace, grow, nor thorns in-fest the

Pno.

F#m7 A/E Dmaj7

King! Let ev- 'ry heart pre- pare him- room, and
 ploy; While fields and floods rock hills and plains Re-
 ground; He comes to make, His bless- ings - flow far
 prove the glo- ries of His right- eous- nes- and

Pno.

A/C# Bm E7 C#7

heav-en and na- ture sing and heav-en and na- ture sing and
 peat- the soun- ding joy, re- peat- the sound- ing joy, re-
 as- the curse is- found, far- as- the curse is- found, far-
 wond- ers of his- love, and wond- ers of His- love, and

Pno.

Fm7 Bm A/G D A/E E A D/A G/A

heav-en and heav- en and na- ture sing. joy. found.
 peat- re- peat- the curse is- found. love.
 as- far as- the the of His
 wond- ers won- ders

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

***Sursum Corda**

Pastor: The LORD be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the LORD.

Pastor: Let us give thanks unto the LORD our God.

People: It is good and right so to do.

***Confession of Faith**

Leader: Christian, in whom do you believe?

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**The third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right
hand of God the Father Almighty, whence He
shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen**

Words of Institution—Matthew 26:26—29

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Prayer of Consecration

The Giving of the Bread and Cup

Upon direction from the ushers, please come forward down the center aisle. After you receive the elements, please return to your seats via the side aisles. Please hold the elements until we are all able to partake together. After the service, please dispose of your used communion cup.

(Grape juice is in the purple cups and wine in the clear. The bread is gluten and nut free)

Communion Song (Ensemble)

O Come, All You Unfaithful

Bob Kaufflin & Lisa Clow. Arr. by Dan Galbraith

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Sending Song

Mighty God We Thank and Praise You

Mighty God we thank and praise you for this meal, this Bread of Life;
Precious blood and body, broken, from your Son our Savior, Christ.

In these myst'ries you assure us we are members of your Son;
Heirs of your eternal Kingdom, with all faithful people, one.

Humbly now we ask you, Father, in your grace, to make us strong,
That, with all the saints before us, in good works we may press on!
Send us out to love and serve you! Send us out to sing your praise!

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, pow'r and glory to your name!
Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.

*Benediction

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday school classes for all ages meet today. A list of classes and locations can be found on today's bulletin insert.

Volunteers today: Ushers: Thomason, Heintz, Standerfer, Younger. Nursery: Poe, Marcus, M. Linenbroker, Highmark. SS: Harlow, Hammond. CC: Doiron, Inion. **Next Sunday:** Oehlerking, Moen, Broughton, Barker. Nursery: M. & A. Schmidt, Inion, L. Manwaring. SS: Elzinga, Mitchell. CC: Jackson, E. Hawley.

Youth Ministry: Jr. High meets weekly on Wed. from 6-7:15 pm. Sr. High meets Sundays from 6-7:30pm. **JH Christmas Party:** 12/9. **SH Christmas Party:** 12/10.

The **Tuesday evening Women's Bible Study** will meet at Melissa Jorgensen's on Dec. 12th at 7pm. The **Men's and Women's Wednesday bible studies** are on hiatus until the new year.

Thank you to all who volunteered or donated to the Christmas Craft Party! It was much appreciated.

Ladies Event: Thur., Dec. 7 from 6-9pm. Enjoy a festive evening of holiday-themed cocktails and appetizers while exploring the Magic House decked out for the holidays. See last week's email for the link to sign up. Please see Mickie Schmidt if you are able to attend.

Annual Congregational Meeting, Dec. 10th during the Sunday school hour. We will go over the budget, elect officers, and review 2023.

Help needed: Nursery Co-Coordinators (high need, two positions available), Sunday morning nursery volunteers, ACTION Kids lessons teacher, ACTION Kids Coordinator (2024-25 school year), 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: See today's insert for the ministries we hope to help this year. 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.

On **Dec. 24th** we will have our normal worship in the morning and our Christmas Eve candlelight service at 5pm.

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:](#)



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This year's **Christmas Concert, "The Greatest Story Every Told,"** is Sun., Dec. 17 at 6pm. Doors open at 5:30 with a special prelude from professional violinist, Bailey Salinero. This beautifully unique concert will usher in the holiday season as the story of Jesus' birth is told from all generations through music, drama, and song.

MISSION UPDATE

December Mission Newsletter and Prayer Calendar is now available:



Restore St. Louis Workday – December 9th

Calling all Go'ers!!! Trinity Youth will be partnering with Restore St. Louis on the 2nd Saturday in December to serve several underserved elderly and widows in our city. Together our goers will work on yards and in homes (depending on skill). Come and be the hands and feet of the body of Christ.

We will meet at 1483 82nd Blvd at 8:30am for a short devotional to focus our hearts to serve the Lord. Then we will grab tools and head to our jobs around 9:00. We wrap up between noon and 1pm.

The organizers need an accurate headcount by Wednesday, December 6th. Please contact Drew Lattner (drew.lattner@trinitychurchkirkwood.org) to go.

The Greatest Story Ever Told – December 17th

Trinity's very special presentation of The Greatest Story Ever Told is Sunday December 17 at 6:00 pm. Come at 5:30 to get a good seat. Bring your friends! You won't want to miss it! You will experience drama and music that will touch your heart during this Advent season.

Local/National Missions Subcommittee is officially off the ground!

Please welcome the following members to our newly formed Local/National Missions Subcommittee: Drew Lattner, Chuck Barker, Tim Jackson, Karla Kuntze, Allen Mathieu, Jackson Roberts, Andy Williamson.

Together they will evaluate and recommend missions opportunities in St. Louis and US on behalf of Trinity. Please pray for them as they begin these new roles that will help all of us step into Trinity's theme verse: For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake (2 Cor. 4:5).

NOTE: There are opportunities for you to have a special impact here. Please contact Pablo if you have an interest in serving on the Local/National or Global missions subcommittee.

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.

www.trinitychurchkirkwood.org

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