



DECEMBER 31, 2023

# 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.



314-821-7311 | [info@trinitychurchkirkwood.org](mailto:info@trinitychurchkirkwood.org)

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# WORSHIPING THE GOD WHO CAME TO GIVE US HOPE

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

**Liturgist:** Matt Pannkuk

**Scripture Reader:** Ellie Perry

**Pastoral Prayer:** Michael Jorgensen, Ruling Elder

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Quotes and Reflection**

"You know, Christmas obviously means God works in unexpected ways, but Christmas is about the birth of God. It's about God becoming human, God becoming incarnate. The incarnation. That's what we're celebrating, we're observing, at Christmas." — Timothy Keller

"Christmas began in the heart of God. It is complete only when it reaches the heart of man." — Anonymous

"Do not look to your hope, but to Christ, the source of your hope."  
— Charles Spurgeon

"Cursed is everyone who places his hope in man." — Augustine of Hippo

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."  
— Charles Dickens

"From the very beginnings of the Christmas celebration in the early fourth century, the theme of the Christmas season has always been the arrival of the light, the light that has come to dispel darkness." — Robert E. Webber

## Devotional Preparation

**“Waiting For More Than Christmas”** —Betsy Childs Howard, *tgc.com*

The season of Advent brings with it pleasing rituals of happy anticipation. Open a door on the Advent calendar and find a piece of chocolate. Light a candle in the Advent wreath and know you are getting closer to Christmas. Make your lists and check them twice as you look forward to giving, receiving, and feasting.

The waiting that comes with Advent is fun because it is finite. We know what’s coming at the end of our wait will be good, and we know exactly how many days we have left to wait for it.

But much of the waiting that occupies our lives is open-ended. We wait for love and marriage without knowing if it will come. We wait for children without knowing whether we will conceive. We wait for justice. We wait for healing.

The hardest thing about waiting is not knowing when it’s going to end, if it is going to end. Waiting brings questions without easy answers. If your life’s plans aren’t coming to fruition, should you change course or hold out for your heart’s desire? Are your unfulfilled yearnings indicators of sinful discontentment, or blessings God simply hasn’t yet fulfilled?

### Longing at Christmas

This season of anticipation is one in which our longings come sharply into focus. Maybe you’re single and wonder each year whether perhaps next year will be the one you finally have someone to take as your date to the office party. Maybe you have family members who are estranged, and every year you hope that the next will bring them home.

I spent last Christmas wondering if this would be the year God would give my husband and me a baby. He didn’t, but I can’t help hoping that by this time next year, we will be a family of three.

All the feel-good Christmas movies enhance the hope of a happy reconciliation in time for Christmas. The lonely are set in families, and the long-lost make it home. In the real world, however, Christmas comes and goes without fulfilling the longings of our hearts.

## Longing for More

Advent is about more than waiting for Christmas. The word means “coming.” During Advent, we not only remember that Jesus came to earth as a man; we also prepare our hearts for his second coming. When we sing, “O come, O come, Emmanuel,” we are not role-playing what the ancient Israelites must have prayed before the coming of the Messiah. No, we are praying that Emmanuel would return and make right all that is wrong with the world. When we sing, “Let every heart prepare him room,” we are not retroactively chastising the innkeepers of Bethlehem; we are preaching to all souls within earshot to be ready to meet their Judge and Maker unafraid.

The timing for this emphasis on Christ’s return couldn’t be better, in my opinion. Just when we would like to be happiest, and are therefore, ironically, the saddest, we remember that not only has Christ come, he has also promised to come again. This life is not our only shot at happiness. It is a brief prelude to the life to come where we will find pleasures evermore. In the presence of Jesus, we will not regret anything we lacked in this life.

If your heart [was] heavier than you’d like this Advent season, take heart that the joys of Christmas aren’t ultimately what you wait for. The best Christmas—one in which every family member sits around the table, speaks sweetly to everyone else, and prefers giving to receiving—is a pale shadow of the rejoicing yet to come. Let your heartache point you beyond Christmas to the better celebration that awaits. Join with the voices of Christians around the world, who together pray, “O come, O come, Emmanuel.”

**Call to Worship—Psalm 148 (selected)**

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!

**People: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!  
Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you  
shining stars!**

Leader: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters  
above the heavens!

**People: Let them praise the name of the Lord! For he  
commanded and they were created.**

Leader: Kings of the earth and all the peoples,

**People: Princes and all rulers of the earth!**

Leader: Young men and maidens together, old men and  
children!

**All: Praise the Lord!**

# WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

## \*Songs of Adoration

## Across the Lands

Words and Music by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty



1. You're the Word of God the Fa - ther, — from be - fore the world be -  
(2. Yet You) left the gaze of an - gels, — came to seek and save the  
(3. With a) shout You rose vic - to - rious, — wrest - ing vic - t'ry from the



-gan; — Ev - 'ry star and ev - 'ry pla - net — has been fash - ioned by Your hand. All cre -  
lost, — and ex - changed the joy of heav - en — for the an - guish of a cross. With a  
grave, — and as - cend - ed in - to heav - en — lead - ing cap - tives in Your wake. Now You



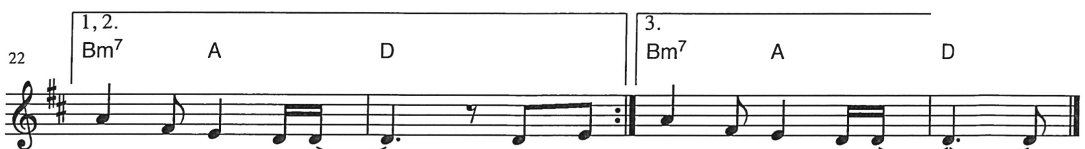
-a - tion holds to - geth - er — by the pow - er of Your voice: — Let the  
prayer You fed the hung - ry, — with a word You stilled the sea. — Yet how  
stand be - fore the Fa - ther — in - ter - ced - ing for Your own. — From each



skies de - clare Your glo - ry, — let the land and seas re - joice! — You're the au - thor of cre -  
si - lent - ly You suf - fered — that the guilt - y may go free. —  
tribe and tongue and na - tion — You are lead - ing sin - ners home. —



-a - tion, — You're the Lord of ev - 'ry man; — And Your cry of love rings



out a - cross the lands. — 2. Yet You out a - cross the lands. —  
3. With a

# All Glory Be To Christ

Dustin Kensrue, Kings Kaleidoscope

D      **A** D      D<sup>(add9)</sup><sub>(omit3)</sub>      B min      G



Should noth-ing of our ef - forts stand no leg - a - cy sur - vive Un -  
(His) will be done His king - dom come on earth as is a - bove Who

D      D<sup>(add9)</sup><sub>(omit3)</sub>      G      D



6 less the Lord does raise this house in vain its build - ers strive To  
is Him - self our dail - y bread praise Him the Lord of love Let

D      D<sup>(add9)</sup><sub>(omit3)</sub>      B min      G



10 you who boast tom - or - row's gain tell me what is your life A  
liv - ing wa - ter sat - is - fy the thirst - y with - out price We'll

D      D<sup>(add9)</sup><sub>(omit3)</sub>      G      D



14 mist that van - i - shes at dawn All glor - y be to Christ! All  
take this cup of kind - ness yet

D      E min      D/F#      G

**B**



glor - y be to Christ our King! All glor - y be to Christ! His

D      D<sup>(add9)</sup><sub>(omit3)</sub>      G      1. D G D      2. D

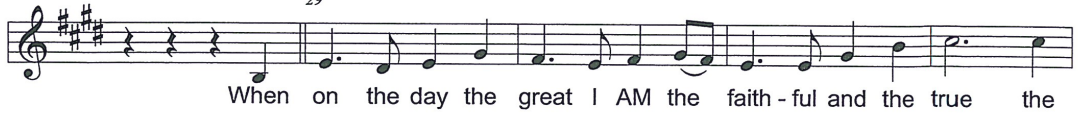


22 rule and reign we'll ev - er sing, all glor - y be to Christ! His Christ!



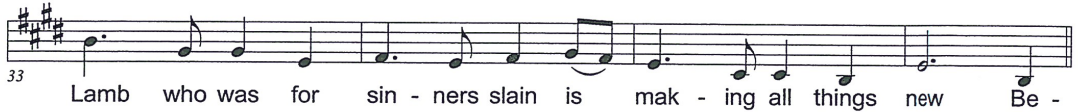
C

E E E (add9 omit 3) C#min A



When on the day the great I AM the faith - ful and the true the

E E (add9 omit 3) A E



Lamb who was for sin - ners slain is mak - ing all things new Be -

E E (add9 omit 3) C#min A



hold our God shall live with us and be our stead - fast light And

E E (add9 omit 3) A E



we shall ere his peo - ple be All glor - y be to Christ! All

E F#min E/G# A

D



glor - y be to Christ our King! All glor - y be to Christ! His

E E (add9 omit 3) A



rule and reign we'll ev - er sing, all glor - y be to Christ All Christ!

### \*Prayer of Adoration

# WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD

## Old Testament Reading—Isaiah 61:10-62:3

### *Zion's Coming Salvation*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,  
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,  
and her salvation as a burning torch.

The nations shall see your righteousness,  
and all the kings your glory,  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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—Luke 2:36-38**

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

## **Silent Confession and Lament**

# WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD

## **Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—Gal. 4:4-7**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Leader: Faithful of God, give thanks to Jesus for sanctifying you completely!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

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

**People: And also with you!**

**\*Song of Rejoicing**

*Hark, the Herald Angel's Sing*  
Trinity Hymnal #203

**Children's Sermon**

Rev. Pablo Rosales

WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Tithes and Offerings**

*(There is no Children's Church on the 5th Sunday of the month)*

**Offertory Song** (Ensemble)

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

**Sermon**

"Christ Jesus Came to Save Sinners"

Advent/Christmas Series, The Greatest Story Ever Told

1 Timothy 1:12-17


Rev. Tim Jackson

# \*Song of Response

## *In Christ Alone*


Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

G D G A D/F#




1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my  
 2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of  
 3. There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the  
 4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the

3 G D/F# Em7 G/A D G G



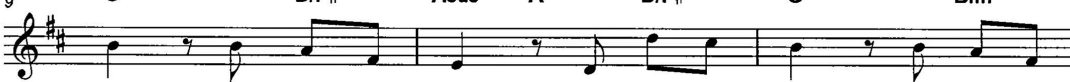
light, my strength my song; This Cor - ner - stone, this sol - id  
 God in help - less babe! This gift of love and right - eous -  
 world, by dark - ness slain; Then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious  
 pow'r of Christ in me; From life's first cry to fi - nal

6 A D/F# G D/F# Em7 G/A D D/F#




ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of  
 ness, scorned by the ones He came to save. 'Till on the  
 day, up from the grave He rose a - gain! And as He  
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of

9 G D/F# Asus A D/F# G Bm7




love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings  
 cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -  
 stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on  
 hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from His

12 Asus A G D G A D/F# G D/F# Em7 G/A



cease. My com - fort - er, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I  
 fied. For ev - 'ry sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I  
 me; For I am His and He is mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of  
 hand; 'Til He re - turns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll

16 D Am7 Em7 D A7sus D



stand.  
 live.  
 Christ.  
 stand!

# \*Benediction

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Volunteers today:** Ushers: Thomason, Heintz, Standerfer, Younger. Nursery: Moen, McCall, S. Hendricks, J. Petty. **Next Sunday:**

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.

**No Men's Night** this week.

**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-Coordinator (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 took a tag from the tree please be sure to return your donation to the basket on the wall or make your donation on Church Center. A list of ministries we hope to support can be found on the next page.

If you do not receive our **weekly email updates** on Tuesday mornings, please send your email address to [amy.mitchell@trinitychurchkirkwood.org](mailto: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](mailto:Paul.Schaffer@trinitychurchkirkwood.org),

**Greeters:** James Broughton

([jlbroughton12@gmail.com](mailto:jlbroughton12@gmail.com)), **Children's**

**Ministry:** Melissa Kocher

([Melissa.Kocher@trinitychurchkirkwood.org](mailto: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:



## **ThriVe Baby Shower and Baby Bottle Update!**

Huge thank you to all who participated in the ThriVe Baby Shower and Baby Bottle drive. A special thank you to the **Women's Ministry** who made it possible. They coordinated, collected, and delivered all of the items.

In all we raised \$2621.07 and this gift was tripled by a ThriVe partner for a total of \$7863.21!

The items collected had an estimated total value of \$2077. This included 536 diapers, 5 Pack N Plays, 5 car seats, 102 cans of formula, and numerous items of clothing and women's care product. Amazing.

## **Local/National Missions Subcommittee is officially off the ground!**

Please pray for the members of 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.*

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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