



HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

MIGHTY GOD

EVERLASTING FATHER

Prince of Peace

ISAIAH 9:6

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Trinity Church

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

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WORSHIPING THE GOD OF JOY

(Children of all ages are welcome in our worship service, but if your family needs a break from the sanctuary or wants to move around, our family overflow room with toys is available in room 111. We also have an area for nursing moms in room 106 by the back entrance.)

Nursery Volunteers (worship service): Deborah Moen, Barb Schlitt, Mickie and Emmy Schmidt

Liturgist: Clark Emerson

Scripture Reader: Alyce Bava

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Pablo Rosales

Welcome and Announcements

Quotes and Reflection

“Christ is our peace in every sense of the word. He restores fellowship with God, brings harmony into human relationships, and will finally renew the whole creation.”
— Herman Bavinck

“Jesus does not come merely to give us a feeling of peace; He comes to establish peace by satisfying the justice of God.” — R.C. Sproul

“The peace Jesus brings is not the absence of conflict but reconciliation with God that transforms every other relationship.” — D.A. Carson

WE READY OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

What Kind of Peace does Jesus Bring? (An Abridged Pastoral Reflection by John Piper)

The dominant note that needs to be struck at Christmas time, at Easter time, and every other time in the Christian life is the note of God-exalting happiness. “Happiness” because the first thing the angel says to the shepherds in Luke 2:10 is “Behold, I bring you good news of great joy” — huge happiness, big happiness, God-sized happiness. That was the first word out of the angel’s mouth. And I say “God-exalting happiness” because the first thing out of the army of angels when they start talking in Luke 2:14 is “Glory to God in the highest.”

The other note that needs to be struck, and comes a few verses later, is Luke 2:34-35 where Simeon says to Mary, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

So, the dominant note of Christmas: God-exalting happiness. The subordinate note of Christmas: many will reject this happiness and perish. We won't have this God-exalting happiness if we prefer another kind of happiness.

What Kind of Peace?

So, what kind of peace and what kind of war? That's the basic question. When the angel armies said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased," I think that peace had at least three dimensions.

1. First and foremost, it meant peace with God. God himself was creating in Christ a way for him to be reconciled with a rebellious world. 2 Corinthians 5:19: "In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."

2. The second dimension of the peace that Christmas brings is between hostile groups of people. Eph. 2:14-16: "He [Christ] himself is our peace, who has made us both [Jew and Gentile, and all other factions in Christ] one . . . that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God . . . through the cross, thereby killing the hostility." That's amazing in a world like ours.

3. The third dimension of peace that Christmas brings is relief from anxiety. Phil. 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." If conscience troubles us, we preach peace to ourselves because of Christ. He paid for our sins. They can't condemn us.

What Kind of War?

We don't wage war against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers and demonic forces Eph. 6:12, or as Paul says in 2 Cor. 10:3-5 "Though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh" — that is, not merely natural and human — "but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ." This is a war in which we are trying to rescue prisoners. We are trying to defeat God-diminishing unbelief, and therefore we make war using the weapons of the gospel of peace.

So, yes, Christmas brought both peace and war. But oh, how dominant is the note that the angels strike — God-exalting happiness through peace with God, and merciful warfare against everything that destroys people's God-exalting happiness.

Call to Worship—Psalm 16 (selected)

Leader: I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

People: I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Leader: Therefore, my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

People: You make known to me the path of life;

All: In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Leader: Now, O God of abundant provision, fill our hearts with joy so that we might offer you the praise due your name!

WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

***Songs of Adoration**

Once In Royal David's City

Sufjan

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Lead  Intro 4

1. Once in Roy-al Dav-id's ci-ty stood a low-ly cat-tle shed Where a mother laid her ba-by in a man-ger

Lead  12 3

for his bed. Ma-ry was that moth-er mild, Je-sus Christ her lit-tle child.

Lead  21

S
A

2. He came down to earth from hea-ven Who is God and Lord of all
3. And our eyes at last shall see Him Through His own re-deem-ing love
4. Not in that poor low-ly sta-ble With the ox-en stand-ing by

T
B

Lead  25

S
A

And his shelt-er was a sta-ble And his cra-dle was a stall
For that child, so dear and gen-tle Is our Lord in heav'n a-bove
We shall see Him; but in hea-ven Set at God's right hand on high.

T
B

Lead  29

S
A

With the poor op-pressed and low-ly Lived on earth our Sav-ior ho-ly.
And He leads His child-ren on To the place where He is gone.
When like stars, His child-ren crowned, All in white shall wait a-round.

T
B

Psalm 150 (Praise the Lord)

Matt Boswell & Matt Papa

$\text{♩} = 74$ G C/G G

1. You made the star - ry host, You traced the moun - tain peaks, You paint the eve - ning skies with
 2. Let sym - pho - nies re - sound, let drums and choirs rung out, all heav - en hear the sound of
 3. You spoke in - to the dark, the si - lence of the womb, and wove a liv - ing soul to -

C/G G C/G Em

won - der. The earth, it is Your throne, from des - ert to the sea; all na - ture test - i - fies Your
 wor - ship. Let eve - ry na - tion bring its hon - ors to the King; a roar of har - mo - nies e -
 - geth - er. A life, a beat - ing heart; Lord, I was made for You. Your glo - ry to re - store for -

Chorus

C D G Am7 G/B C Dsus Em

splen - dor.
 - ter - nal. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, all cre - a - tion sing His prais - es, praise the Lord, raise your
 - ev - er.

1.2. Dsus G/B C G/B Am7 Dsus

voice, you heights and all you depths, from furth - est east to west, let eve - ry - thing that has breath praise the

3. G C/G G/B C

Lord!
 2. Let west, you dis - tant burn - ing stars, all crea - tures near and
 3. You

22 G/B Am7 G/B C Em Dsus G rit.....

far, from sky to sea to shore, sing out for ev - er - more, let eve - ry - thing that has breath praise the Lord!

*Prayer of Adoration

WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading—Zephaniah 3:14-20

Israel's Joy and Restoration

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
"Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.
I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.
Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes," says the Lord.

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— Habakkuk 3:17-19

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

Silent Confession and Lament

WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—Rom. 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Leader: People of God, give thanks to God for filling us with joy!

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's Sermon— Joy

WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

Pastoral Prayer



Tithes and Offerings

Children ages 3 (by July 31) through 1st grade are dismissed for Children's Church to Room 106B

If you would like to give your tithe online, scan your camera phone here:



Sermon

"Prince of Peace"

Isaiah 9:6-7

Sermon Series: His Name Shall be Called

Rev. Dr. Chris Polski

*Song of Response

He Will Hold Me Fast

Intro from 'Finlandia' by Jean Sibelius. Vv. 1-2 by Ada Habershon. Alt words vv1-2, 3 Matt Merker

VERSE 1 & 2

5 G G/B C D G

1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
2. Those He saves are His de - light, Christ will hold me fast;

9 G/B C D G

When the tempt - er would pre - vail, He will hold me fast.
Pre - cious in His ho - ly sight, He will hold me fast.

13 Em D/F# G C B Em

I could nev - er keep my hold through life's fear - ful path;
He'll not let my soul be lost; His Prom - is - es shall last;

17 D/F# G/B C D G

For my love is oft - en cold; He must hold me fast. _____
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. _____

CHORUS

22 C D Em D/F# G

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;

26 Am⁷ G/B C D Gmaj⁷ G/B

For my Sav - ior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

30 C² Gmaj⁷ G/B C² Em⁹ C

VERSE 3

3. For my life He bled and died,

35 C/E D/F# G Em⁹ C

Christ will hold me fast; Just - ice has been sat - is - fied;

39 D G Em D/F# G/B C

He will hold me fast. Raised with Him to end - less life,

43 B Em D/F# G/B C

He will hold me fast till our faith is turned to sight,

47 D G C D Em

CHORUS

when He comes at last! He will hold me fast,

52 D/F# G Am⁷ G/B C

He will hold me fast; For my Sav - ior loves me so,

56 1. D G 2. D G

ENDING

He will hold me fast. He will hold me fast.

61 Am⁹ G/B C G/B Am⁷ D^{7sus} G

He will hold me fast.

***Benediction** *If you would like a time of prayer with one of our elders, please come to the front of the sanctuary after the service.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

No Sunday school classes today. We will resume on Jan. 4.

Visitors: If you are visiting with us today we would love to give you a small gift. Please stop by the Welcome Table so we can say "hello."

Volunteers today: Ushers: Schaffer, Schlitt, Thomason, Kocher. Nursery: Moen, Schlitt, Schmidts. CC: Oehlerking, Wagberg, Schmidt. **Next Sunday:** Ushers: Sweet, Heintz, Standerfer, Younger. Nursery: Elzinga, Highmark, Poe, McCall. CC: Mitchell, Williamson, Younger.

Men's & Women's Bible studies will resume in Jan.

Please be sure to sign the **Trinity Hymnal in the narthex for the Rosales family!**

Our 2025-2026 Concert Series theme is "Ponder anew." You can find art displayed in the Narthex inspired by this theme. These are **original pieces created by Trinity members.** Their art causes us to consider God's goodness with a sense of wonder and amazement.

Pastor Polski will be leading a **Sunday school class** beginning Jan. 11. This 8 week interactive study of Dr. Dan Doriani's book, Work That Matters is limited to 7 people. For more info and to register go to Church Center or use the QR code.

Tonight is the last night for our annual Christmas concert, "His Name Shall Be Called." For those registered, the concert begins at 6:30 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm for a special prelude by Concert Pianist Annie Gregurich). Questions: see Katie Polski.

Giving Tree: The Deacons handle mercy ministry at Trinity. Throughout the year, our own members and sojourners, reach out for assistance. Sometimes it's for gas to get to work, other times food. You could allocate funds towards this ministry by grabbing a tag off the giving tree in the Narthex.

Our candlelight **Christmas Eve service will be at 5pm.**

Year End Giving: Thank you for your tithes and offerings this past year. If you desire to provide stock to be used for 2025 contributions or any other method, please be sure that this is sent to the church office prior to 12/31. If you have any questions see Duncan Highmark.

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 (James. Broughton@trinitychurchkirkwood.org),

Children's Ministry: Erin Wagberg (Erin.wagberg@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:](#)



UPCOMING DATES

Dec. 20 & 21 Christmas Concert
Dec. 24 Candlelight Service 5pm
Dec. 28 Reception for Rosales Family
Jan. 4 Sunday school Resumes
Jan. 4 Youth Parent Meeting
Jan. 11 YA Potluck Lunch
Jan. 16-18 Youth Retreat
Jan. 17 YA Bowling @ Bowlero
Jan. 21 Women's Bible study
Feb. 27-28 Women's Retreat

MISSION UPDATE

ALL the links mentioned below can be found using this QR code:



Prayers:

- Prayer is essential to Trinity's mission. Please see our December 2025 newsletter for ways to pray for our ministries and missionaries. Grab a physical copy in the Narthex or scan the QR code. **Also, see our public prayer list to pray for congregational needs.**

Goers:

- **Hope Presbyterian Church Plant** – Is God calling you to be part of the Hope Pres launch team in a small or large capacity? What does it mean to live your life “on mission”? A church plant is a huge undertaking and prayers, welcomers, senders, goers, and mobilizers, are all a vital part. For any questions, please reach out to Rev. Tim Jackson.

Senders:

- **Giving Tree**— The work of mission is only possible because of your generous donations. If you'd like to make an end of year gift directly to any of our missionaries or ministries, please scan the QR codes next to their names on our Mission Wall in the Narthex.
 - **The Deacons handle mercy ministry at Trinity.** Throughout the year, our own members and sojourners, reach out for assistance. Sometimes it's for gas to get to work, other times food. You could allocate funds toward this ministry by grabbing a tag of the giving tree in the Narthex.

Welcomers:

- **Robinson Food Pantry** — This week was our final pantry of the calendar year. However, there will be monthly pantries through the remainder of the school year!

Volunteer positions are open and available. As a volunteer you will greet, help pack groceries, and assist with loading into cars (if needed). Wear your Trinity swag if you have it! You can sign up using the QR code above or by visiting the events page on the church app.

- **Mission Gate Angel Tree** — Thank you to all who brought gifts! Please continue to pray for these families going through a very difficult season without the ones they love. Thank you, Jane Caldwell, for coordinating this. It is truly a blessing to give!

Mobilizers:

- If you've ever thought to yourself, “I wish we could do this,” or “I wish we would do that.” Let's have a chat about Missions. Are you passionate about PowerPoint and communicating mission opportunities to the congregation? **The Mission Committee is looking for you.** Reach out to RE Tom Schmidt for more 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