

THE SONGS WE SING

First Sunday in Advent November 29, 2020

WORSHIPING THE GOD WHO BRINGS RELIEF FROM OUR SORROWS

Liturgist: Rev. Chris Polski

Scripture Reader: Amy Mitchell and Kathy O'Neal

Pastoral Prayer: Ruling Elder, Fielding Poe

Quotes and Reflections

"Certainly there was an Eden on this very unhappy earth. We all long for it, and we are constantly glimpsing it: our whole nature at its best and least corrupted, its gentlest and most humane, is still soaked with the sense of 'exile'... As far as we can go back the nobler part of the human mind is filled with the thoughts of sibb, peace and goodwill. And with the thought of its loss."

— J.R.R. Tolkein, Personal Letters

What hope! An Eden prophesied Where tame live with the wild; The lamb and lion side by side, Led by a little child!

A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem, A branch from David's line, A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem: The fruit of God's design.

As banner of God's love unfurled, Christ came to suffer loss, That by His death a dying world Would rally to the cross.

Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord, Lost Paradise restore; Lead past the angel's flaming sword -Come, open heaven's door. — Lutheran Service Book, 342

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

WE READY OURSELVES TO WORSHIP

"As you walk the lonely dirt road into a shameful exile, away from what you've known in a sheltered American past, you're not alone. In fact, you're not even excluded. Just the opposite. You're being included into God's global family. You're joining Christ outside the camp." — Elliot Clark, Evangelism as Exiles

"The secularist mocks prayer as irrational, irrelevant, ineffectual, and ultimately irresponsible. Yet implicit in their mockery is another kind of faith—a Babylonian faith...So it is no surprise that in a secular age, we constantly feel exhausted and vulnerable—without land or temple. We feel the panic of this pandemic within a Babylonian kind of enclosure. Yet the Christian must bear witness to a different faith. Our account of creation is the same as that of ancient Israel in exile."

— C.C. Pecknold, Creation, Fall, and Coronavirus

"From [David] onward the faithful remnant looked for a messiah of David with whom God would be present and by whom he would extend his peace, justice, righteousness, and wisdom to his people. Only a few kings that followed David and Solomon responded positively to God's challenge. Such kings helped to bring in the kingdom of God among the people. Unfortunately, those periods were like oases in the desert of Judah's history. After the exile, the faithful continued to look for the fulfillment of the promises based on God's oath to David."

— William VanGemeren

Song of Preparation (Ensemble) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

Leader: 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 Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come Trinity Hymnal #195

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

Words and Music by Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Stuart Townend, and Keith Getty





WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading—Isaiah 64:1-9

The prophet asks for God to intervene

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—

as when fire kindles brushwood

and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome things that we did not look for,

you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From of old no one has heard

or perceived by the ear,

no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.

You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways.

Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;

in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?

We have all become like one who is unclean,

and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.

We all fade like a leaf,

and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls upon your name,

who rouses himself to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,

and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

But now, O LORD, you are our Father;

we are the clay, and you are our potter;

we are all the work of your hand.

Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,

and remember not iniquity forever.

Behold, please look, we are all your people

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—2 Corinthians 7:9-10

As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

Silent Confession and Lament

WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—1 Cor. 1:7-9

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

Leader: People of God, give thanks to God for his faithfulness.

People: Thanks be to God!

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

People: And also with you!

Advent Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Trinity Hymnal #194 (vs. 1-3)

(Children may come forward on vs. 3)

Children's Sermon

Advent Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Trinity Hymnal #194 (vs. 4-5)

WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

Pastoral Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

Children may be dismissed for Children's Church (8:45 service only)

Offertory Song (Ensemble)

He Who Is Mighty

Words and Music by Rebecca Elliot and Kate DeGraide

Sermon

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Isaiah 35 Rev. Nate Taylor

*Song of Response

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus Trinity Hymnal #196 (vs. 1, 4)

*Benediction

These are just announcement highlights. If you'd like to know more about Trinity, connect with us in one of the following ways...

• 314/821-7311 • www.trinitychurchkirkwood.org • Facebook: Trinity Church Kirkwood Worship and General Church Information

Please look for communication mid-week about ongoing activities at church. We will let you know if there is a change to any of the activities below.

- Volunteers next Sunday: Ushers: Thomason, Younger, Standerfer.
- **Small Groups** are a great way to get connected. For more information pick up a flyer at the Welcome Center.
- Ladies, our Tues. evening study meets two Tuesdays a month at 7pm. This semester we are going through Tim Keller's book, <u>Generous Justice</u>. You will have the option to meet at Trinity or via Zoom. Our next gathering is Dec. 1st.
- Men's Night this Wed. at 8pm at Chris Freeman's.
- Men's Bible Study this Friday at 6:30am. Pastor Polski is leading the men through the Book of Judges. The study takes place on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Friday of each month.
- The **Wednesday Women's Bible study** meets weekly using a hybrid format in the morning (9am). We will also offer a Zoom only study at 7:30pm. The ladies will be studying 1 & 2 Samuel this fall and spring.
- Did you know you can use the **Church Center app** for online giving, to sign up for events, connect with your small groups, bible studies, etc? Contact the church office for assistance.
- If you do not receive our **weekly email updates** on Tuesday mornings, please send your email address to amymitchell@trinitystlouis.org.
- RSVP NOW for a special evening of Christmas music and poetry-Sat., Dec. 12th at 5pm or 7pm. This year's concert is *Songs of Hope*. **Space is limited so register your family and friends today on Church Center** or contact Amy at the church office.
- This year we will offer two Christmas Eve candlelight services: 4pm and 5:30. Both will be the same. Due to Covid restrictions, we ask that you go to Church Center to let us know which service you plan to attend.
- There are several easy ways to serve at Trinity. Feel free to reach out to these ministry coordinators if you would like to get involved: Ushers: Josh Hendricks (coachjph@msn.com), Children's Church: Melissa Kocher (medcalf.melissa@gmail.com), Greeters: Elisa Tharp (elisa.f.tharp@gmail.com), Nursery: Sarah Oehlerking, Deborah Moen, Alyssa Hall, and Ruth Harlow (nursery@trinitystlouis.org), Sunday coffee: Amy Mitchell (amymitchell@trinitystlouis.org).
- Trinity's annual **Giving Tree** is in the Narthex. Please **see today's insert** for details about the ministries we will be supporting this Advent. If you would like to make a donation, pick up a tag on the tree and follow the instructions. Donations may be given via Church Center or dropped off in the basket by the tree in the month of November.

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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.