



Trinity Presbyterian Church

Celebrating the Diversity of All

December 21, 2008
Fourth Sunday of Advent

6800 Washington Avenue
University City, Missouri 63130

314.725.3840
www.trinityucity.org

Prelude Veni, Emmanuel (Oh Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel)
 I. Praeludium
 II. Andante con moto
 Composers: I. Marilyn Biery (b. 1959) & II. Flor Peters (1903-1986)

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE & REFLECTION ON TODAY'S ADVENT THEME: LOVE

During the season of Advent, we will light the Advent wreath using the light from the Peace Candle. For many years, Trinity has had a peace candle in the Sanctuary to remind us of our calling as peacemakers. In Advent, we become aware again of our need and the world's need for peace, and how in the person of Jesus, God's peace is made manifest.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love we only find in you, our God.
(from *There Is a Longing* by Anne Quigley)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Advent is a season of expectation. God calls us in this season to watch and be alert. This morning's Call to Worship uses the words of members of the Trinity congregation who, on Pledge Sunday, wrote down times when they saw the Lord. Their words help us to see the Lord who is already coming in this Advent season. As much as possible, the original words of the members were preserved even when they make for slightly awkward constructions.

One: In the season of Advent, we are invited to watch and wait.

All: We watch and wait for the coming of the Lord.

One: But even now we catch glimpses of Immanuel, God-with-us. When have we seen the Lord?

All: We see the Lord... In the life and death of my best friend. Watching him go was hard on all of us, but it brought old friends back together and gave his fiancée a new mission—to cure (or at least help search for a cure) for brain tumors. Most of all I saw the Lord in the nine hundred plus people at his funeral. Knowing he'd touched all those lives was a glimpse of grace.

One: When have we seen the Lord?

All: We see the Lord... through the work of the Food Pantry—the clients' appreciation.

One: When have we seen the Lord?

All: We see the Lord... everyday! I hope to see Him when I breathe my last! He is a great and loving God!

One: Even now we see the Lord. Let us worship God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *UNISON*

Gracious God, in whom all things are possible, we confess that we have doubted what we cannot explain. We have sought strength and enjoyment apart from you. We have taken pride in ownership more than giving praise through stewardship. We have neglected to thank you, either in good times or when you have supported us during days of uncertainty. We look for what we can gain more than we look for what we can give. Restore us, O God. Make our hearts new and turn our lives in the right direction. We turn to you now, O God, and we wait for a word of grace from you.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

One: The Spirit of God speaks in the stillness of our hearts, saying:

All: Do not be afraid for the loving presence of God is coming among you.

One: Receive this good news:

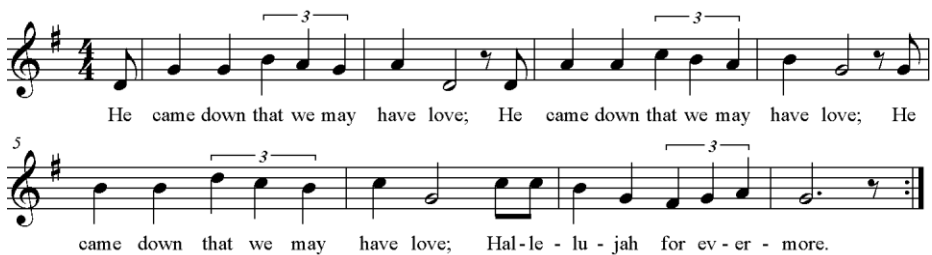
All: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

One: This light comes to our world in the person of Jesus Christ,

All: In whom the love of God was illumined fully.

One: Receive this love and follow the Light of the world.

SONG OF PRAISE *UNISON*



He came down that we may have love; He came down that we may have love; He
came down that we may have love; Hal-le-lu-jah for ev-er-more.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Please greet one another with the words, "The Peace of Christ be with you." Those who have been standing may sit.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38

ANTHEM

Dixit Maria

Music: Hans Leo Hassler; Words: Luke 1:38

*Mary said to the Angel, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the lord,
Let it be done to me, according to your word."*

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-55

SERMON

Mary's "Yes!"

Those who are able are invited to stand.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD – HYMN 16

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Those who have been standing may sit.

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

FOOD PANTRY CART DEDICATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

During the offering, please sign the Fellowship Pad and pass it to the person sitting next to you. When the pad reaches the end, please pass it back and take note of who is worshipping with you this morning.

OFFERTORY

In the Silence, Wondrous Love

Arr. by Ruth Elaine Schram

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand.

Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand

Christ our God to earth descending, comes our homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary; what wondrous love is this, O my soul!

Lord of lords in human body; what wondrous love is this

That caused the Lord of bliss to leave His crown and come down,

O my soul, to lay aside His crown and come down!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul! Let all mortal flesh keep silent.

Those who are able are invited to stand.

SONG OF PRAISE UNISON

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Praise Him[†] all creatures here below!

Praise Him[†] above ye heavenly host!

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost![‡]

[†]*You may substitute the word "God"*

[‡]*You may substitute the words "Creator, Word, and Holy Ghost!"*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN #9

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

WORDS OF SENDING & BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Veni Emmanuel (Oh Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel)

Composer: Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)

Advent is the season that precedes Christmas. It is a time of waiting and expectation for the Savior of the world.

The color of Advent is purple, the traditional color of mourning and royalty.

Liturgist – Kristin McKenzie, Jean Merson, the Rev. Julie March

Advent Peace Prayer – Luise Hoffman

Preacher – The Rev. Nancy Wagner

Organist – Dr. Bill Wade, CAGO

Choir Director – Vicki Carmichael

Choir – Trinity Choir

Musical Acknowledgments—He Came Down, *Music and Words: Trad. Cameroon; transcribed and arr. by John Bell © 1990 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland). Used by permission of GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-707661*

Notes on today's music: We continue our preparation and anticipation of the birth of the Christ child. Our longing and waiting for this event is reflected in the 15th century processional *Veni Creator*. We hear four settings of this by different composers. *Dixit Maria* reflects Mary's submission to the will of God and the inconvenient ramifications of that decision. The mystery of Christmas and all that it means implores us to keep silent and ponder such love as this.

Poinsettia Dedications

Rose Ann Bodman ଶର ଶର In memory of Milt Bodman

Rachel Bowell, Kevin and Aurora Harkins ଶର ଶର In honor of our grandmothers—Rhea Harkins and Sarah Ellen Eichar

Margaret Gary ଶର ଶର To my parents Wilbert and Mary Brock

Diana Gray ଶର ଶର To the memory of our sister-in-law/aunt—Betty Gray—with love from Diana Gray, Mark, Katie & Wyndham Ferris

Luise N. Hoffman ଶର ଶର Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell. Born is the King of Israel!

Anna Moffatt Gardner-Andrews ଶର ଶର In celebration of my parents' visit to St. Louis for Christmas! We love you!

Nedra Schoeberlein ଶର ଶର Merry Christmas to friends and family in this blessed season

Christopher Moffatt & Anna Moffatt Gardner-Andrews ଶର ଶର To the glory of God in remembrance of William and Gregory Gardner. To the glory of God in remembrance of Mark and Elizabeth Andrews

Jane & Milt Rand ଶର ଶର In thanks for our loving family

Bill & Cathy Smith ଶର ଶର In honor of our families

Nancy & Bob Wagoner ଶର ଶର In memory of our beloved parents and in celebration of our children and grandchildren...blessings to all at Christmas time!

John & Corie Merker ଶର ଶର In celebration of the season and our lives at Trinity.

Christy, Matt, Mia and Heidi Schindler ଶର ଶର In memory of Karen—her light shines on brightly!

Joanne and John Roman ଶର ଶର To Jeff, Leah and Zach with blessings of the season

The McKown Family ଶର ଶର In loving admiration of Mary's parents Ray & Elizabeth Brown

Kitty Underwood ଶର ଶର To our homebound friends

Virginian McKabney ଶର ଶର To the Heintzmann/Farrell and McKabney families

Sharon Christopher & Matt Bowman ଶର ଶର To our loving families—thank you for our many blessings!

Sue Young ଶର ଶର For those dear family members no longer physically with us: Bob, Mom, Dad, Cookie, and Annie

Neil & Sandy Norkaitis ଶର ଶର In celebration of the birth of Ethan Francis Norkaitis. Merry Christmas

Lorie Damon ଶର ଶର In memory of Donald Glotfelty

Bill Wade & Mike Kaberline ଶର ଶର For Cade Parker

Alberto Ng ଶର ଶର In memory of Winnie Tan Ng

Rev. Nancy Wagner ଶର ଶର In memory of John's parents, Hank & Evelyn Wagner. In honor of Nancy's parents, Mary and Herschel O'Shaughnessey

Dave, Liz, Karl & Julia Nelson ଶର ଶର In loving memory of Jerry Purkey

Polly Brown ଶର ଶର For Mother Bessie Levy and husband James Brown

Carol & Cathy Kramer ଶର ଶର **Art Platt** ଶର ଶର **Carrie & Brian Muegge** ଶର ଶର

Susan Rava ଶର ଶର **George & Jean Sallwasser** ଶର ଶର **Alice & George Phillips**



Excess donations to the three large plants were given to **Ride On St. Louis**, an equine-assisted therapy charity used by Trinity members

December 21, 2008
Spiritual Growth – 9:30 a.m.
Gather for Worship – 10:20 a.m.
Worship -- 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship – 11:30 a.m.



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Trinity Presbyterian Church

News and Notes

We open our doors to all persons to join in worship, fellowship, educational programs, and service.

We welcome into membership all who profess faith in Jesus Christ without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, worldly conditions, sexual orientation, disability, or any other human condition.

We elect and ordain persons who are called by God and committed to serving the Lord Jesus Christ in the Church.

WELCOME TO TRINITY!

If you are seeking a church home, we encourage you to consider becoming a member. New member classes occur quarterly. Please speak with Nancy Wagner if you are interested.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Trinity Church welcomes children in its worship services. Nursery and childcare are provided downstairs for children pre-school and younger. And, Trinity kids, remember to pick up your own worship bags in the back of the Church! Spiritual growth classes for kids are held at 9:30 am Sunday mornings. *We will not have education today, Dec. 28 and January 4.*

TODAY AT TRINITY

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS COFFEE: Please plan to gather for a time of fellowship at the Christmas Candlelight Coffee in the Dining Room following worship.

THE RECORDER GROUP will practice in the Narthex Room at 8:45 am this morning.

ADULT EDUCATION

We will not have education today, December 28 and January 4.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITY'S PASTOR DAN ANDERSON-LITTLE is on a temporary leave of absence from his pastoral duties between November 24 and January 11. He will be back in the office on January 12. The Rev. Nancy Wagner is providing pastoral leadership in his absence. If you need pastoral assistance, you can reach Nancy at church; if you have a pastoral emergency, you can reach her on her cell phone.

BIRTY'S ACCIDENT: Our Building & Grounds Caretaker, Birty Hodgson, fell Wednesday night and severely broke his shoulder and arm and injured his hips and head. He has had surgery and will undoubtedly be in rehab and unavailable to us for quite a while. We are working on getting coverage for him (as well as possible coverage for his wife, our security/door guard) in the short term and long term, but this will also be an opportunity for the congregation to pitch in when spaces need to be set up or cleaned up. Please let Liz in the office know if you'd like to be on a list to assist as needed with specific event set ups or periodic cleaning jobs (kitchen, etc.). You can send him a card at: 4440 Norfolk, St. Louis, MO 63110.

EDUCATION INFORMATION: Please note there will not be **Spiritual Growth classes for children or adults on Dec. 21, 28 and January 4.** Education will resume January 11 - 25 with a 3-part discussion "Thinking theologically about controversial social issues – capital punishment." It will be led by Mike Holley and Diana Oleskevich, from the St. Louis Chapter of Missourians to Abolish Death Penalty, Dan Anderson Little and Damayanthi Niles. Details on the spring spiritual growth plans are in your December *Trinity News*. The adult education branch of Spiritual Growth is looking for people interested in joining the adult education team in 2009 and is looking for suggestions on topics/speakers for future classes. Please contact George Philips.

HERE WE GO A- CAROLING! Meet at Trinity at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow for some old-fashioned, door-to-door caroling in the neighborhood surrounding the church. Gather in the church basement afterwards for some hot cocoa and goodies to warm up!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: Our "No-Shushing" lessons & carols family service will be at 5pm and our candlelight lessons & carols service will be at 11pm. Offerings from both services will support our food pantry.

"FAIR SHARES" works with local farmers and producers to form a Combined CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). Each week they collect, organize and distribute the freshest, seasonal, sustainably-produced foods available in St. Louis. We have helped them move their distribution site from the garage in an alley nearby to our basement on Wednesday late afternoons and they have already started to donate excess food to our food pantry. They have a waiting list, but welcome your interest. See Jim Person for more information.

WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING unfulfilled pledges for 2008. Please contact Linde with any questions.

CONSIDER SENDING one of your Christmas cards to Trinity....we love displaying them in our hallway.

PERIODIC TREATS: Want to do a simple thing for our church with huge reward? Why not think about taking a week now and then to provide the fellowship treats that we and our families all enjoy after worship? It's so simple. Something that kids enjoy helping with, too, as well as significant others. Quinn has a lot of fun helping me pick things out at the store then helping arrange them on trays in the church kitchen. Reimbursement is quick and simple, too. Just give Liz your receipts for items bought if you want to be reimbursed. If you'd like to give this simple ministry a try please contact Cheryl Evans, Dave Nelson or Jim Person. Thanks!

THE WILD WITH WORDS writing group will meet in the Chapel from 6:30-8:30 pm on December 28, January 11 and January 25. All are welcome!

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

If you would like an addition to the prayer list or know of a member in need of prayer, please contact the church office.

Joys

Prayers of Joy and Thanksgiving:

- For the niece of Rev. Nancy Wagner, Meredith Adler in Indianapolis, who is diabetic and pregnant with twins.
- For the birth of Evangeline Grace Jeter on November 30 to Mike and (Rev.) Narcie Jeter in Rock Hill, SC. Grandparents are Rick and Vickie Jeter.
- For the healing of Mimi Jeske, Tom Wilhite's significant other, who has completed chemotherapy.

Prayers for Those Preparing for Ministry:

- For Rhonda Dunbar as she begins studies at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA.
- For Diane O'Brien as she pursues theological studies at Eden Theological Seminary.

Concerns

Prayers for Comfort:

- For Wally Klein and his family at the loss of his brother, Ronald, on December 11 in a car accident in Bozeman, MT that occurred Dec. 8
- For the family of a former classmate of Damayanthi Niles', who was killed in the terror attacks in Mumbai Thanksgiving weekend, and for all those who suffered loss during those attacks.
- For the Higginbotham family as Jennifer's 101-year-old grandmother enters hospice.

Prayers for Healing:

- For Birty Hodgson, our Building & Grounds Caretaker, recovering from surgery after a fall and severely broke his right shoulder and arm on December 10.
- For Julia Nelson, daughter of Liz and Dave, recovering from eye surgery Friday, Dec. 12 at Children's Hospital.
- For Fran Kruger, former Trinity member, who had colon surgery December 9 in Seattle.
- For Walt Phillips, close friend of the Hotalings, who has been diagnosed with colon cancer and will undergo treatment at Barnes.
- For Jerry Royce, recovering from cataract surgery.
- For Carol Rustemeyer recovering from surgery on her hand to repair a ruptured tendon.
- For Lana Edwards, friend of Cathy Smith, experiencing heart trouble.
- For Jake Jones, 17 yr old nephew of Sue Young, who is recovering from reconstructive surgery on October 27.
- For Curt March who is suffering with shingles.
- For Bill Hedrick, former pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in St. Louis who has been diagnosed with myelofibrosis, a bone marrow disorder.
- For Barbara Isaac, daughter of Janet Guenther, and her family as Barbara moves into a nursing home to care for her Alzheimer's Disease.
- For Karon Bilbrey's niece, Lisa Becker who is dealing with thyroid cancer.
- For former members Bill and Joyce Brackman, as Bill receives care for brain cancer in California.
- For Lynn Reid's grandfather in Iowa who is in poor health.
- For Dan Little, Dan Anderson-Little's father, being treated for brain cancer in Madison, WI.
- For Christy Schindler's cousin Mark Mellinger, in Flower Mound, TX, receiving chemotherapy for lung cancer and experiencing many complications.
- Marilyn Kuhn, counselor for Care & Counseling and good friend of Trinity Presbyterian Church, undergoing treatment for lymphoma.
- Ann Weems, having blood pressure problems.
- Don Weems, having back and eye concerns.

- The Pontious family (Elaine, Larry, Adam & Tati) as they help Adam have an abundant life in the midst of disabilities.
- Kim Merritt, dealing with multiple health issues.
- Barbara Robinson, who is in a coma following a stroke in October 2006.

Prayers for Homebound Members:

Helen Bauer

Myrtle Beckmeyer

Colleen Osborn

Jim Pettus

Mabel Howell

Juanita Bruns

Eleanor Griffin

Maxine Story

Evelyn Patterson

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Monday, December 22

1:00 pm

Genesis House Bible study, Youth Lounge

Wednesday, December 24

5:00 pm

Christmas Eve Family Service of Lessons & Carols

11:00 pm

Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

Thursday, December 25

Office closed, Merry Christmas!

Friday, December 26

Office closed

Sunday, December 28

6:30-8:30 pm

Wild With Words writing group, Chapel

TRINITY STAFF

Dr. Daniel R. Anderson-Little, Pastor (*on temporary leave*)

The Rev. Nancy Wagner, Pastor During Leave

The Rev. Julie March, Associate Pastor for Equipping

Vicki Carmichael, Interim Minister of Music—Choir Director

Dr. Bill Wade, CAGO, Interim Minister of Music—Organist

Dawn Fleishman, Minister of Spiritual Growth

Elizabeth Nelson, Church Administrator

Linde Baechle, Financial Administrator

Birty Hodgson, Building & Grounds Caretaker

The Rev. Nancy Wagner, Parish Associate

Dr. Donald A. Weems, Pastor Emeritus

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Trinity belongs to the Covenant Network and is a member congregation of the

