



# Trinity Presbyterian Church

Celebrating the Diversity of All

December 28, 2008  
First Sunday of Christmas

6800 Washington Avenue  
University City, Missouri 63130

314.725.3840  
[www.trinityucity.org](http://www.trinityucity.org)

**PRELUDE** Variations on a Swiss Noel  
*Composer: Louis Claude D'Aquin (1694 – 1772)*

## GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**INTROIT** Alleluia  
*George Thalben-Ball*

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*Unto us a child is born. Alleluia.*

*O come, let us adore him.*

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Christmas is a season of fulfillment. God calls us in this season to receive the gift of Jesus Christ. 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 has come in this Christmas season. As much as possible, the original words of the members were preserved even when they make for slightly awkward constructions.*

*Leader: In the season of Christmas, God appears.*

*People: We watched and waited and the Lord has come.*

*Leader: Even now we see Immanuel, God-with-us in all his glory. When have we seen the Lord?*

*People: We see the Lord... because I was a sinner and still am, but Jesus is always with me and I am comforted.*

*Leader: When have we seen the Lord?*

*People: We see the Lord... when I see—experience—my daughter being a mother.*

*Leader: When have we seen the Lord?*

*People: We see the Lord... in the restoration of life, hope and love after national and personal disaster and loss.*

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

**HYMN 57** The Snow Lay on the Ground

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to

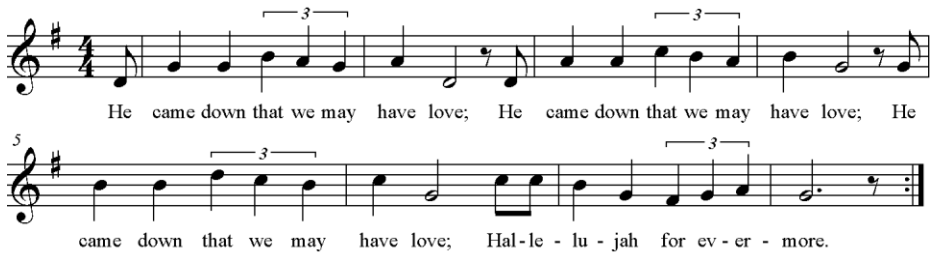
glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen

### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

*Leader: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.*

People: Amen.

### 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

*Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.*

People: 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** Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (Old Testament, page 692)

**ANTHEM** He Whom Joyous Shepherds Praised  
*Music: Gerald Near, Words: Translated Winfred Douglas*

*He whom joyous shepherds praised, when the angels song was raised  
Bidding them be not amazed, heaven's all glorious King is born.  
He whom sages, westward faring, myrrh and gold and incense bearing,  
Worshipped bowing low before him, reigns as King this happy morn.  
Now rejoice with Jesus' mother; praise her newborn Son, our brother;  
Angels vie with one another praising him beyond the sky.  
Sing to Christ, the King who reigneth, yet of Mary manhood gaineth,  
Born our God; let us adore him: Glory be to God on high.*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 2:22-40 (New Testament, page 59)

**SERMON** Transitions

*Those who are able are invited to stand.*

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD – HYMN 37** Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

*Those who have been standing may sit.*

### TIME FOR PEACEMAKING

*Trinity Presbyterian Church has a long-standing commitment to peacemaking. At this time of our worship, we lift up the areas of our world that are in need of peace, we discover ways we can be peacemakers in our lives, and we*

*pray for peace. We light the Peace Candle to remind us that “the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.”*

## **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.

## **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**

Saw You Never? (from Four Carols of Christmas)

*Music: Don Michael Dicie; Words: Cecil Frances Alexander*

*Saw you never in the twilight, when the sun had left the skies,  
up in heaven, the clear starts shining through the gloom like silver eyes?  
So of old, the wise men watching, saw a little stranger star,  
and they knew the King was given, and they followed it from far.  
Heard you never of the story, how they crossed the desert wild;  
journeyed on by plain and mountain, ‘til they found the Holy Child;  
How they opened all their treasure, kneeling to that infant king;  
gave the gold and fragrant incense, gave the myrrh in offering.  
Know ye not that lowly baby was the bright and morning star,  
He who came to light the pathway of all people near and far.  
And we too, may seek his cradle, there our hearts’ best treasures bring,  
Love and faith and true devotion for our Savior, God and king.  
Those who are able are invited to stand.*

### **SONG OF PRAISE UNISON**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!  
Praise Him<sup>†</sup> all creatures here below!  
Praise Him<sup>†</sup> above ye heavenly host!  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!<sup>‡</sup>

<sup>†</sup>*You may substitute the word “God”*

<sup>‡</sup>*You may substitute the words “Creator, Word, and Holy Ghost!”*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

### **HYMN 28**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

## **WORDS OF SENDING & BLESSING**

### **POSTLUDE**

Glory To God In The Highest

*Composer: Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736)*

Christmastide is the twelve-day season when we celebrate the birth of Immanuel—God-with-us. The color of Christmas is white, the traditional color of joy.

**Liturgist** – Spirit Sorensen, the Rev. Julie March

**Peace Prayer** – Jeremy Williams

**Preacher** – Paul Devine. Paul is a lay pastor and a member of Trinity.

**Organist** – Dr. Bill Wade, CAGO

**Choir Director** – Victoria Carmichael

**Soloists** – Laura Brady, Amanda Meinen and Thomas Sitzler

December 28, 2008  
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. The next new member classes will be held January 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 and January 4.*

### **TODAY AT TRINITY**

**THE WILD WITH WORDS** writing group will meet in the Chapel from 6:30-8:30 pm.

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

### **ADULT EDUCATION**

*We will not have education today 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.

**EDUCATION INFORMATION:** Please note there will not be **Spiritual Growth** classes for children or adults on **until January 11<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

**SMALL GROUP DINNERS ARE BEING PLANNED:** Session would like to renew this meaningful fellowship time, as it has been a few years since we’ve gathered in this way. Elders plan to have dinners on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Feb. 19, 20, and 21—a chance to combine a Mardi Gras theme with a brief and informal discussion of our discerning process. The sign-ups to attend dinners will be coming later. What Session needs to know now is who is interested in hosting a potluck meal? You don’t need to be an elder to host—if you are not comfortable leading a discussion about Trinity’s discerning process, you can request that an elder or other leader come to your dinner and lead that discussion. Some of the houses would have child-friendly gatherings and others will be more adult focused. If you can host a small-group dinner, please sign up before January 23 with Stacy Shupe or Pat Gibbons (s00.sshupe@wittenberg.edu or pcg@wustl.edu). We will be in the Narthex with signup sheets after worship, once we are past the holidays. We’re looking forward to sharing a meal with you!

**CAN WE DO IT? YES WE CAN!:** Thanks to all who have stepped to up assist with various set-ups and clean-ups in Birty’s absence. Thanks to those who re-fashioned the wreaths for the sanctuary and those who helped hang all the greens. Thanks to all who stepped to help fill a food pantry bagging gap, and those who have answered the calls to assist after fires and accidents. This congregation is full of talented, dedicated, sacrificing people and together we can do more than we thought possible.

**“UN-DECORATING”:** It does all have to end at some point. Please consider staying after worship next Sunday, January 4th, to pack up the Advent decorations until next year. The more people we have, the less time it will take!

**“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.

**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE:** To date, the congregation has pledged \$255, 000. Thank you to all who have pledged so far. Our 2009 budget asks for \$334,000 in pledges. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge before the end of the year if you have not already done so, as the information helps the Session with budget and program planning. Trinity’s Session members coordinated the stewardship campaign and will be happy to answer any questions: *Margy Brown, John Pfeifer, Rick Jeter, Tom Serfass, Liz Nelson, Lynn Reid, Luise Hoffman, George Philips, Pat Gibbons, Sharon Christopher, Bill Cahoon, Stacy Shupe, Cheryl Evans, Matt Schindler, and Dayna Early. Financial Administrator, Linde Baechle, can be reached at: 725-3840.*

**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 tonight, 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 Lynn Reid and her family at the passing of her 100 year old grandfather.
- 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 Susan Harris and her young family, close friend of the Evans', recently diagnosed with a sinus/brain tumor and await further testing.
- 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 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 hand surgery 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 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**

**Thursday, January 1**

Office closed, Happy New Year!

**Friday, January 2**

Office closed

**Sunday, January 4**

11:30 am

Taking down decorations

**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

