



Trinity Presbyterian Church

Celebrating the Diversity of All

November 29, 2009
First Sunday of Advent

6800 Washington Avenue
University City, Missouri 63130

314.725.3840
www.trinityucity.org

Throughout the four Sundays of Advent, we will explore global themes that cry out for the Savior who is coming into the world. At Christmas, Jesus, the Light of the World brings healing and wholeness to the world that is enshrouded in darkness and gloom. This morning our focus is HIV/AIDS.

PRELUDE Tif in Veldel (Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah)
Composer: Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954)

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 103*

Leader: Bless the Holy One, my soul.

People: Let all that is within me bless God's name.

Leader: Bless the Holy One, my soul.

People: Remember all that God has done –

Forgiving our sins,
Healing our diseases,
Delivering us from despair,
Crowning us with steadfast love and mercy.

Leader: God will satisfy us with goodness all our lives.

People: God will raise us up and renew our strength.

HYMN 5 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, you know our sinful ways. We have tried to deny the reality of AIDS, we have neglected sisters and brothers in need, we have been silent when you called us to speak out, we have stepped back in fear, instead of reaching out in love. Have mercy on us, living God. Restore us to right relationships with you and with one another, through Jesus Christ our redeemer.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Leader: Hear the good news of the gospel! There is nothing in life or death that can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and free.

People: Thanks be to God!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE & RESPONSE

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on us light has shined.

Your word, O Lord, is a light. My God, en-ligh-ten my dark-ness. O Lord, my
 God, en-ligh - ten my dark-ness. O Lord, my - God, en-ligh - ten my dark-ness.

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 53:1-3 (Old Testament, page 683)

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 103: 1-5 (Old Testament, page 554)

MUSICAL ADVENT REFLECTION The Not-Yet Flower: A Crisis of Growth
Music: Richard Felciano; Words: John 1: 1-5

*In the beginning was the Word,
 And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 And God was all things; without God was nothing.
 And God was the light of all; the light that shines in darkness,
 And the darkness knows it not.*

TESTIMONY – Millie Johanningmeier

SERMON When I Was Sick

Those who are able are invited to stand.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD – HYMN 380 O Christ, the Healer

Those who have been standing may sit.

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This prayer is adapted from the Prayers of Intercession used at the Ecumenical Worship Service at the International AIDS Conference in Canada in 2006. The congregation is invited to stand and turn and face the AIDS Memorial Quilts as a focus for our Prayers of the People.

*Leader: Holding on to God's promises, we pray for God's people.
 Gracious God, your promises are life giving, but for many death is close at hand lurking in their bodies waiting to make them defenseless. The farmlands of whole villages in Africa and Asia have been turned into graveyards, so widespread is the clutches of AIDS. Entire neighborhoods in our American cities have been devastated by this scourge. We pray for those for whom your promises seem remote for those without medicine without needed care, without loved ones nearby. God, keep your promises.*

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: Faithful God, we pray for those who seek treatments for HIV/AIDS, for those who compassionately care for people afflicted with this dreadful disease. Instill within us your promises, that we might be faithful people, building together covenants which lift up the fallen and heal the sick, which claim orphans as your heirs, and the outcast as our sisters and brothers. Make us fearless in serving you.

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: We are all affected by HIV and AIDS;

People: we are the body of Christ.

Leader: *We have lost close relatives;*

People: heal our bodies.

Leader: *We have lost close friends and neighbours, church and work mates;*

People: heal our hearts.

Leader: *We have been rejected and despised by ones we thought we could count on;*

People: heal our spirits."

Leader: *We have lost our hope.*

People: heal our minds.

Leader: *We put our trust in you;*

People: You are Emmanuel,

You are God With Us.

You will never leave us or forsake us;

You will be with us to the end of the ages.

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 MISSION & FELLOWSHIP – Christmas Coffee & Cookie Sharing

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

O Sun of Justice

William Ferris; text 6th Century Latin trans. by Peter J. Scagnelli

*O Sun of justice, Jesus Christ,
Dispel the darkness of our hearts,
Till your blest light makes darkness flee
And brings the joys your day imparts.*

*In this our "time acceptable"
Touch every heart with sorrow, Lord,
That turned from sin, renewed by grace,
We may press on toward love's reward.*

*The day, your day, in beauty dawns
When in your light earth blooms anew;
Led back again to life's true way,
May we, forgiven, rejoice in you.*

*O living Trinity, our God,
To you we bow through endless days,
And in your grace newborn we sing
New hymns of gratitude and hymns of praise.*

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 15 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

WORDS OF SENDING & BLESSING

INVITATION TO ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

As environmental stewards of this earth, we have to opportunity to do our part by recycling our worship papers. After worship, please dispose of your bulletin in the blue or green recycling containers in the Narthex or outside the sanctuary doors by the pulpit.

POSTLUDE “O Praise the Lord with One Consent” Tune: St. Anne
Composer: William Thomas Best (1826-1897)

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.

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Decorations – This year, the Trinity congregation awaits the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World by progressively adding light and decoration to our Sanctuary through the season of Advent. Our celebration of the Incarnation will culminate on January 3, Epiphany Sunday.

AIDS Memorial Quilt – The two AIDS Memorial Quilt panels hanging on the North wall belong to The Quilt which began with a single panel created in San Francisco in 1987. Today, The Quilt is composed of more than 47,000 individual 3 x 6 foot panels, each one commemorating the life of someone who has died of AIDS. In its entirety, The Quilt is measures 1,293,300 square feet and weighs 54 tons, but only represents about 17.5% of the people in the United States who have died of AIDS. These panels come from every state in the nation, every corner of the globe and they have been sewn by hundreds of thousands of friends, lovers and family members into this epic memorial, the largest piece of ongoing community art in the world.
(<http://www.aidsquilt.org>)

Liturgist – Chris Schmidt

Preacher – The Rev. Julie March

Organist – Dr. Bill Wade, CAGO

Choir Director – Vicki Carmichael

Choir – Trinity Choir

Notes on today’s Musical Advent Reflection – Today’s musical reflection contains a “drone”—a musical note that continues to sound throughout the entire piece of music. According to the composer, this drone (which is accomplished today by the use of a wooden dowel rubbed along the outer rim of a handbell, known as a “singing bell”) represents perfection. The piece was inspired by a quote from Teilhard de Chardin’s “The Divine Milieu” which talks of a sense of premonition and expectation that the author felt was present among humankind at the time of the writing (1926-27). This expectancy, in Teilhard’s opinion, was that of humankind “visibly passing through a crisis of growth.” The composer’s instructions are for the readers to choose their own quotation from a current periodical or other source which would serve as a concrete example of humankind’s as yet incomplete and unperfected nature. Members of the choir have chosen today’s readings to help us acknowledge the darkness in our world that is longing for the healing of Christ’s love. This is the longing that we explore during the season of advent as we await our celebration of Christ’s birth on Christmas day. As you listen to the piece you may feel a longing for resolution brought about both by the texts you will hear and the sound of the music itself as it wants to resolve into the pitch of the drone and as the droned pitch seeks resolution into peaceful silence.

Musical Acknowledgements – “O Sun of Justice” music by William Ferris, text translated by Peter J. Scagnelli, ©1986 GIA Publications, Inc.; “Your Word O Lord” words and music by Jacques Berthier, ©2001 GIA Publications, Inc./Les Presses de Taize; both reprinted under OneLicense.net A-707661.



Trinity Presbyterian Church

News and Notes for November 29, 2009



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 speak with the pastors about our membership class. Our schedule can be found in the welcome brochure in the pews. We welcome children in worship, with childcare provided downstairs for children pre-school age and younger, if wanted. *Spiritual growth classes for children and adults are held at 9:30 am.*

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Illuminating The Word through Stained Glass (final session): the final session, a talk by St. Louis' own Stephen Frei, a descendent of Emil Frei, who now heads the family business, the Emil Frei Stained Glass Company.

"They Like Jesus but not the Church" (12/6/09 - 12/20/09: 3 Sundays) At some point we have all wondered why attendance at mainline churches, even theologically and socially progressive churches such as our own, has been slowly and inexorably declining. We are concerned; we are worried; but we don't really understand. If people are indeed spiritual, why aren't they religious? Join us as we explore this topic. We will use emergent pastor, Dan Kimball's, DVD educational series, "They Like Jesus but not the Church," as the jumping off point for our discussion and exploration of the "spiritual but not religious" phenomenon.

OUR WEEKLY PARENT GROUP offers a relaxed place to talk about the joys and challenges of parenting. Topics will be determined by the group. Speak with Dan for more information and join us when you can. Room 206 (by the Choir Room) at 9:30am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S SERVICES + TRINITY = MISSION. Come to an informational meeting on Sunday Dec. 6 (Chapel) after worship about the ways in which Trinity can build a relationship with PCS for direct, hands-on outreach to kids in foster care. There are so many ways for us to assist... work days, mentoring, fostering, and more.... Trinity values hands-on mission and values happy, healthy families of all types. Partnering with PCS would give us a chance to use our passions to create change for needy children.

ADVENT DETAILS: You will find poinsettia order forms in the pew pads—help us decorate the chancel. Once again, you have the option to either order your own plants (\$8) or donate towards the cost of decorative arrangements for the chancel. The order deadline is Tuesday, Dec. 1st and the order form was also sent in an all-church email last week.

OUR YEARLY ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLET is now available in the Narthex. It is also available on our website (www.trinityucity.org) and as a daily email reflection. *Please write in the pew pad if you DO NOT want to receive a daily reflection written by congregation members or if you do not think we have your latest email address.*

THE SCHEDULE OF ADVENT EVENTS is now available in the Narthex. Take a few and share them with friends and neighbors.

PRAYER PARTNERS FOR ADVENT: Sign up in the narthex. Directions, pairings and praying begins today.

THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS SALAD DINNER will be held at **6pm** on Tuesday, Dec. 1st in the dining room. Please bring a salad or dessert, as well as a "white elephant" gift to exchange. We can't guarantee the quality of the gift, but promise lots of laughs, fellowship and food. Women of all ages are welcome.

WANT TO SING SOME OF HANDEL'S MESSIAH? Trinity Choir would like to invite you to join them in singing during worship on December 20th. We'll do two choral pieces from the Christmas portion of The Messiah that day-- "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion" and "And the Glory of the Lord". Come to rehearsal at 7:00 PM on Thursday Dec. 17th and again in the morning on Sunday Dec. 20th at 9:30 AM. All are welcome!

RAPID RE-HOUSING CLIENTS HAVE NEEDS: We've partnered with this organization to help provide furnishings and necessities for people moving from homelessness into homes. Check the Narthex and magnetic board by the elevator for items needed. Donations can be stored in the room next to the food pantry. Arrangements can be made for larger donations to be picked up.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! This congregation heard the Call to Stewardship and answered "Here We Are Lord"! At last count, 92 pledges have been turned in, totaling more than \$260,000 committed for 2010. This is a great start to our campaign, but we need everyone's support. If you haven't renewed your pledge yet, or if you are considering making a pledge for the first time, please do so now. Simply contact Linde Baechle, our Financial Administrator, by calling the office or sending her an email with your name and the amount of your pledge (beckjeffries@yahoo.com). If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak with anyone on the Stewardship committee (Jenn Clodi, Sarah Hotaling, Brian Muegge, Rob Peglar, Larry Pontious, Evan Reid).

THE COMMONS IS ON HIATUS as the planning group re-tools the service. The congregation will be apprised of when the service will return.

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 Susan Lim having completed all of her treatments for breast cancer.
- For newborn Max Griffin & his parents Jordan & Claire, friends of Stephanie Ball, recovering from a Congenital diaphragmatic hernia

Concerns

Prayers for Comfort:

- For Revs. Dan & Linda Anderson-Little, Daniel, Jacob and Leah at the death of Dan's dad Dan Little on November 16.
- For Birty Hodgson at the death of his father George Hodgson, in Nicaragua on Nov. 12.

Prayers for Safety:

- For Shanthi Phillips, who is serving with the Peace Corps in Lesotho.
- For Jon Gibbons, son of Pat and Jane Gibbons, husband of Emily Shapiro and father of Harriet and Frances, who is serving in a military hospital in Afghanistan until May 2010.

Prayers for New Beginnings:

- For Leo and Lois Eason spending the winter in Florida.
- For Ray and Ginny Scholin spending the winter in Arizona.
- For Those Preparing for Ministry.
- For all Trinity members struggling with economic and employment concerns.
- For Cricket & Brian Gordon, spending a semester in Canterbury, England for a University program.

Prayers for Healing:

- For Pat Warren, Ginny Richmond's niece, receiving radiation and chemotherapy for multiple cancers.
- For Sandy Macy, friend of Cheryl & Reed Evans, just diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor.
- For Sahara, the 2 yr old daughter of friends of Rachel Presti & Jeremy Williams, who is hospitalized with swine flu.
- For Dee Wharton, friend of Lois Sechrist, recovering from breast cancer surgery.
- For Rex Bull, father of Cathy Hasler, in Missouri Baptist for congenital heart failure, kidney problems, and recovery from a mini-stroke.
- For Rev. Don Weems, Trinity's Pastor Emeritus, receiving treatment for prostate cancer.
- For Vicki Carmichael's brother Warren, his wife, Lori, and his family as they go through difficult times.
- For Rev. Louis Platt, Art Platt's brother, being treated for lung cancer.
- For Katy Gordon, daughter of Cricket and Brian Gordon, being treated for cysts on her liver.
- For Lorraine McGhee, Roberta McBride's neighbor, who is dealing with multiple health problems.
- For Suzanne Trahan, friend of Traci O'Bryan, who is being treated for breast cancer; and for Suzanne's father John Foushee who is undergoing treatment for esophageal cancer.
- For Fred Gould, Stacy Shupe's uncle, diagnosed with an aggressive rectal cancer that has spread to his liver.
- For Jon Billings, Vicki Carmichael's sister-in-law's brother, who is recovering from surgery for pancreatic cancer.
- For Lisa Becker, Karon Bilbrey's niece, who is dealing with thyroid cancer.
- For Ann Weems, being treated for kidney disease.
- For Mark Mellinger, Christy Schindler's cousin in Flower Mound, TX, receiving chemotherapy for lung and brain cancer.

Prayers for Ongoing Support:

- For Jean Dausch, Cricket Gordon's friend, who has been diagnosed with ALS.
- For the Pontious family as they work to help Adam have an abundant life in the midst of disabilities.
- For Harold Glad and Jan Schulte-Glad as they deal with Harold's Early Stage Alzheimer's.
- For Bob Reynolds, significant other of Janet Guenther, in a nursing home after a stroke.
- For Bill Hedrick, former pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in St. Louis who has been diagnosed with myelofibrosis.
- For Anna Gordon, as Cricket & Brian continue to work on her care issues.
- For Dianne Anderson, mother-in-law of Dan Anderson-Little, who is dealing with liver disease.
- For Kim Merritt, dealing with multiple health issues.

Prayers for Homebound Members:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| • Helen Bauer | • Myrtle Beckmeyer | • Eleanor Griffin | • Mabel Howell |
| • Evelyn Patterson | • Maxine Story | • Jim Pettus | |

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Tuesday, 12/1: Presbyterian Women's dinner, 6pm, Dining Room,

Wednesday, 12/2: Food Pantry, 1-4pm; Session, 7pm, Chapel

Thursday, 11/3: Handbells, 5:30pm, Choir Rm.; Choir, 7pm, Choir Rm.