



Trinity Presbyterian Church

Celebrating the Diversity of All

December 20, 2009
Fourth 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 hunger.

PRELUDE Comfort, Comfort, Now My People (Freu dich Sehr)
 Composer: Egil Hovland (b. 1924)

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 34

Leader: I will bless the LORD at all times; God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

People: My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

Leader: O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt God's name together.

People: I sought the LORD, and God answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Leader: Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

People: This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear God, and delivers them.

Leader: O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in God.

People: O fear the LORD, you God's holy ones, for those who fear God have no want.

Leader: The young lions suffer want and hunger,

People: but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

HYMN 8 Lift Up Your Heads

CALL TO CONFESSION

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Leader: Lord, each day, more people than we can imagine go to bed hungry...

People: Give us this day our daily bread.

Leader: Lord, each day, the people of our country throw away enough food to fill a football stadium...

People: Give us this day our daily bread.

Leader: Lord, each day, people just like us die from lack of enough food to eat...

People: Give us this day our daily bread.

Leader: Lord, each day, in places both near and far, the hungry cry out not just for a meal today, but for the knowledge that each day they will have enough to feed themselves and their family...

People: Give us this day our daily bread.

Leader: Lord, each day, the earth provides a bounty that would feed every one of us, but through inequality, poor planning, and indifference that food does not get where it needs to go...

People: Give us this day our daily bread.

Leader: *Lord, in your mercy and love, we are bound to everyone, those who are hungry and those who are filled with good things...*

People: Give us this day our daily bread.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Leader: *In Isaiah, God promises abundance to the world's people: Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.*

People: Lord, we are listening. With grateful hearts we receive your abundant gifts and with open hands we share your gifts with the world!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE & 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.

Two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and contains the lyrics: "Your word, O Lord, is a light. My God, en-light-ten my dark-ness. O Lord, my". The second staff continues with: "God, en-light-ten my dark-ness. O Lord, my - God, en-light - ten my dark-ness." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat.

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 Luke 15:11-32 (Old/New Testament, page 78)

ANTHEM O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion from *The Messiah*
Music: G.F. Handel; Words: Isaiah 40:9, Isaiah 60:1

*O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain;
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength;
lift it up, and be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!*

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

SERMON Why Are People Hungry? How Can We Respond?

Those who are able are invited to stand.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD – HYMN 300 Down to Earth as a Dove

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.

CALL TO MISSION – Winger Food Pantry

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS & FOOD PANTRY OFFERING

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. If you want to make a contribution to the Food Pantry, please mark that on the memo line of your check or put your offering in an envelope and mark “Food Pantry” on the envelope.

OFFERTORY

And the Glory of the Lord from *The Messiah*

Words: Isaiah 40:5; Music: G.F. Handel

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together:
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

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 13

Prepare the Way

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

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending (Tune: Helmsley)

Composer: Karl Osterland (b. 1956)

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 will anticipate the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World by progressively adding light and decoration to our Sanctuary through the season of Advent as we wait for Immanuel, God-with-Us. 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>

The Creche – The crèche in the display case in the northeast corner of the Sanctuary is made up figurines given in loving memory of Todd Weems, a son of Trinity who was tragically killed in 1982.

Liturgist – Dave Nelson, the Rev. Julie March

Preacher – Dr. Dan Anderson-Little

Organist – Dr. Bill Wade, CAGO

Choir Director – Vicki Carmichael

Choir – Trinity Choir and Members of the Festival Choir

Soloist – Vicki Carmichael

Musical Acknowledgements – “Your Word O Lord” *words and music by Jacques Berthier, ©2001 GIA Publications, Inc. / Les Presses de Taize; reprinted under OneLicense.net A-707661.*

Poinsettia Dedications

- Afuwape, Doyin: To the Glory of God
- Bernhard, Lisa: Given in honor of all those brave visionaries who dare to act for a better world
- Bodman, Rose Ann: In memory of Milt Bodman
- Brown, Polly A.: For mother Bessie Terry & Husband James Brown
- Carmichael, Vicki: In loving memory of Chris Carmichael and Al Eckwald
- Childs, Liz: For grandmothers Libby & Juliet, with love from their grandchildren, Will and Ana Childs-Klein
- Gibbons, Jane & Pat: With love to our family both near and far away
- Gray, Diana: To the joy of the Christmas season
- Kaberline, Mike: In memory of Cade Parker Roman, Joanne & John: To Jeff, Leah & Zach
- Kramer, Carol & Cathy
- Krivonak, Michael, Lorie and Zach
- McKabney, Virginia: Loving memories (the Heintzmann, Farrell, McKabney family)
- Merker, Corie and John Smith, Bill & Cathy: In celebration of families
- Muegge, Brian & Carrie: In memory of our grandparents, Rita Schoenfeld, Joan H'Doubler, and Fred Muegge.
- Pontious, Larry & Elaine: In gratitude for all our friends at Trinity
- Presti, Rachel & Jeremy Williams
- Rand, Barb and Tim: We sing praises to the Lord for the blessings that we have been given.
- Rand, Jane and Milt: In gratitude for family
- Rava, Susan: With thanks for the light shining in the darkness
- Sallwasser, Jean & George
- Shields, Juli: In memory of grandparents, aunts and uncles
- Twellman, Patti & Don: For our beloved grandson, Dustin
- Wagoner, Nancy & Bob: In celebration of the season and of our beloved family
- Young, Sue: For the love of family



Trinity Presbyterian Church



News and Notes for December 20, 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.*

TODAY AT TRINITY

The Sunday School kids will bake cookies in the kitchen at 9:30am.

COOKIES FOR ALL: Join us after worship in the Chapel for our Christmas Cookie Coffee. This year, as we have fellowship we will also package and deliver cookies to those less fortunate. *Please bring cookies to the Chapel on the 20th before worship.* There will be opportunities to eat, package, deliver and clean up!

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

"They Like Jesus but not the Church" (final session). 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.

THE NEXT SERIES: Join us between January 10th and 31st as gifted school teacher and member Rick Hasler leads a discussion based on the *Harry Potter* book series that has captured the imagination of children and adults alike.

OUR WEEKLY PARENT GROUP offers a relaxed place to talk about the joys and challenges of parenting. Join us when you can! Room 206 (by the Choir Room) at 9:30am. The group will not meet in January due to the Harry Potter class.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING TO BE TAKEN FOR WINGER FOOD PANTRY: Today's Advent theme is "hunger" and the offering will be going to our food pantry. The Christmas Eve offering will also benefit our mission of feeding the hungry.

CHANT FOR PEACE: The 10th Annual Worldwide Winter Solstice Chant for Peace will be happening around the world on December 20th /21st. Participate in a 1 hour chant for peace here at trinity, coordinated by the House of Mica Peace/Sound Chamber community in New York. Songs & chants from various traditions around the world will be taught. No experience necessary. Chapel: 7:30-9pm. Suggested donation (\$7-\$11 adults). Kids welcome. Bring a cushion to sit on; some chairs available.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: Family Service (No-Shushing), 5 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols, 11 p.m.

ANYONE MISSING A SET OF KEYS? Keys on a long colorful lanyard were left in the office. Describe to Liz and claim them.

OUR YEARLY ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLET is still available in the Narthex, on our website (www.trinityucity.org) and as a daily email reflection. Please contact the office if you wish to receive the emails (725-3840)

RAPID RE-HOUSING CLIENTS HAVE NEEDS: Thanks to all who have donated so far! 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.

LATEST STEWARDSHIP UPDATE – DECEMBER: 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, especially in these trying times. It's particularly exciting that we have more than a dozen new pledges from members or friends of the church – our ministry and spiritual community is growing as we speak! The Session is working hard to eliminate the budget deficit and expand mission efforts, and increased pledging is essential to achieve that goal and help their planning. We are on target to exceed the number of pledgers and total amount pledged compared to 2009, but to make this goal a reality 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).

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.

Concerns

Prayers for Comfort:

- For the family of Bob Reynolds, significant other of Janet Guenther, and for Janet as he nears the end of his life.
- For the family of Mark Mellinger, Christy Schindler's cousin who died on Dec. 13.

Prayers for Strength:

- For everyone who works in and contributes to the Winger Food Pantry at Trinity.
- For Habitat for Humanity as it builds homes for those who have no home.
- For peacemakers all over the world who are working to make the world a safer and more peaceful place to live.
- For Matthew Fairchild, brother of Connie Torretta who is working & raising money to fight HIV/AIDS both locally & abroad

Prayers for Safety:

- For Shanthi Phillips who is serving with the Peace Corps in Lesotho. You can read her blog at shanthiphillips.blogspot.com
- 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 those preparing for ministry (Dawn Fleishman, Rhonda Dunbar, Diane O'Brien)
- For Leo and Lois Eason spending the winter in Florida.
- For Ray and Ginny Scholin spending the winter in Arizona.
- For all Trinity members struggling with economic and employment concerns.

Prayers for Healing:

- For Do Kirk, who is recovering well at home in Whidbey Island, WA after a neurological event.
- For Ray Stone, Ginny Richmond's nephew, in ICU with an unknown problem.
- 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 Dee Wharton, friend of Lois Sechrist, recovering from breast cancer surgery.
- For Rex Bull, father of Cathy Hasler, coping with 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.

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

Monday, 12/21: 6pm OASIS concert, Dining Room; 7:30pm Chant for Peace, Chapel

Tuesday, 12/22: Presbyterian Women, 11am, Dining Room

Wednesday, 12/23: Food Pantry, 1-4pm

Thursday, 12/24: Family No-Shushing service, 5pm; Lessons & Carols, 11pm

Friday, 12/25: OFFICE CLOSED