



ADVENT 2020

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord



Welcome to Trinity Presbyterian Church

November 29 2020 – First Sunday of Advent

To Our Guests:

Visiting a church can be an intimidating experience, especially in this time of a pandemic! We are glad that you are here, and we hope to remove as much of that awkwardness as we can from your visit to Trinity.

Our Sunday service usually lasts about an hour, and this bulletin is designed to help you navigate it. There are short paragraphs on the following pages to explain each part. The goal of the service is to help each of us to see Jesus more clearly and understand more fully how he makes a difference in our lives. Our hope is that every part of the service is accessible to you, whether you've spent years in the church or you've never been to a church service in your life.

If you are new to Trinity or just visiting, we would love to meet you! If you can, please hang around for a few minutes after the service so we can get to know you. If you have any questions about Trinity, Pastor Geoff Ziegler would enjoy hearing from you (you can email him at geoff@trinityhinsdale.com).

Our weekly e-newsletter is full of information about Trinity events and ways to get involved in our church life. To find out more information about our church or sign up for our e-newsletter, visit our website, www.trinityhinsdale.com.

Welcome

Call to Worship:

The primary actor in Christian worship is not us. It's God. He is the one who has forgiven us and lovingly enables us to worship him. The Call to Worship reminds us that no matter what our economic or social status is, no matter how much we have failed or how inadequate we might feel, God welcomes us to draw near.

Call to Worship – From Isaiah 25:8-9

(silent reflection & prayer)

Our God will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day,

“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

We light this candle as a sign of hope. Though we grieve now, as we live in a world that is subject to death and decay, we do not despair. For the Lord Jesus has come into the world to give life, and we wait for him to come again to make all things right.

Our King is coming!

Come, Lord Jesus!

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Words: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent. Music: French Melody, 7th cent.

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 descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of Kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph;
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Confession of Faith:

At the heart of worship is the confession of what is true: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive honor and power." As we together confess historic creeds and catechisms, we unite with churches throughout the world and throughout the ages in declaring the greatness of our God.

Confession of Faith

(From the Apostles Creed and Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 29)

Christian, what do you believe about the Son of God?

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Q. Why is the Son of God called "Jesus," meaning "savior"?

A. Because he saves us from our sins, and because salvation should not be sought and cannot be found in anyone else.

More information can be found in our *Life at Trinity* e-newsletter.

Announcements

Prayer is one of the primary ways we fulfill our calling to love God and neighbor. We are given the privilege of asking our gracious God to care for the needs of each other and the world around us. And as we pray together, we reorient ourselves to the greatness of our God, learning to depend on him in expectant hope.

Prayers of the People

Unexpected God, your advent alarms us. Wake us from drowsy worship, from the sleep that neglects love, and the sedative of misdirected frenzy. In this season as we remember your first coming and anticipate when you will come again, awaken us to this certain hope. As we wait for you to bring redemption and renewal to this world and all who belong to you, as we behold the depth of the darkness, the many miseries and sorrows of this life, may we do so with fierce confidence in you, our good and gracious King.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear and hearts that gladly receive all that you are and all you say to us in your word that our hearts may be well prepared and heartily welcoming of our Savior when he comes in His glory.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With the churches throughout the world,
we pray as your son has taught us, praying together,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

At the very heart of worship is not our speech, but God's. We express our loving faith in God first and foremost by listening carefully to him.

Scripture Reading – Matthew 11:2-24

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”⁴ And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see:⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John,¹⁴ and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come.¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

¹⁶ “But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates,

¹⁷ “‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”

²⁰ Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent.²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.²² But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you.²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.²⁴ But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Confession of Sin:

Our loving Father welcomes us into his presence to confess how we have sinned against him and our neighbors. This allows us to speak about our sin truthfully, both publicly and privately.

Community Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father,
Your Son is our truest hope,
worthy of our undivided faith.
He is the source of our deepest joy,
and in him alone do we have peace.
Yet we confess that we so often look elsewhere for these things.
We place our hope in the promises of this world,
and we trust the things we feel we can control.
We fail to savor and rejoice in the good gifts we have in Christ.
We confess to you our sinful ingratitude and pride.

(Silent confession)

Unfulfilled by our choices and humbled, we ask for your forgiveness.
By your Spirit, turn our hearts toward Jesus.
Help us to look to him for all that we need,
that we might serve him faithfully and joyfully, to the glory of your name.
Amen.

Good News of the Gospel – Isaiah 53

The prophet Isaiah speaks of the Shepherd King who was to come into the world:

“But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.”

Brothers and sisters, in Christ your sins are forgiven,
and you are at peace with God.

Thanks be to God!

The Lord's Supper

God welcomes us to his table, promising to nourish believers spiritually in Christ through these signs of his loving commitment to us, his church. All baptized believers in Christ are invited to participate in this family meal and have their faith strengthened. If you have not yet professed your faith in Christ, we ask that you instead use this period as a time of reflection and prayer. We invite you to use any of the prayers printed below.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord God, I don't really know who you are. Please show yourself to me. The Bible says that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. If this is true, please help me to see this and accept Jesus as your Son, no matter what that might cost me. Help me to know you.

Prayer of Belief and Repentance

Lord Jesus Christ, I confess to you that I am deeply sinful and desperately need your help. I believe what you have said in your Word: that you love me and have died for me to bring me back home to God. I turn from my old way of life, from being my own master, and I place my trust in you. You are now my king. You are now my savior who has forgiven me. I promise to follow you wherever you lead me.

Prayer for Those Overcome By Doubt and Sin

Lord God, I'm no longer sure that I believe in you or that any of this is real. And I realize that my life doesn't reflect a faith in you. I feel like something is missing, but I don't know what to do. Please have mercy on me and lead me back to you.

What Child Is This

Words: William C. Dix, 1865. Music: GREENSLEEVES, 16th Century English melody.

What Child is this who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Just as we gather for worship at God's initiative, so also do we finish our time with God's Word. Together we hear and receive God's blessing upon us as we go and seek to worship him in our lives throughout the week.

Benediction

Liturgist – Nick Owens
Scripture Reader – Ann Powers

Musicians:

Nick Owens – acoustic guitar
Erik Swanson – electric bass
David Barshinger – piano
Ian Barshinger – violin
Timothy Ziegler – percussion



To be Christ's beautiful church for the good of the world.

Pastors & Staff

Geoff Ziegler, Lead Pastor
geoff@trinityhinsdale.com

Nick Owens, Pastor of Outreach
nick@trinityhinsdale.com

Ann Powers, Executive Director
ann@trinityhinsdale.com

Ted Powers, Pastor of Missions
tpowers01@outlook.com

Dave Luce, Director of Congregational Care
dave@trinityhinsdale.com
(630) 674 0341

Jennifer Houch, Director of Children's Church
jenny.houch@gmail.com

Madeleine Cooper, Church Administrator
madeleine@trinityhinsdale.com

Kristen O'Rourke, Director of Nursery
orourkeks@gmail.com

Becky Vander Veen, Treasurer
treasurer@trinityhinsdale.com

Susan Dudek, Director of Children's Sunday School
spdudek@sbcglobal.net

Elders (The Session)

Scott Baartman (sabbatical), John Bone, Wayne Dingler, Nathan O'Bryon, Matt Potoshnick, Tom Vander Veen

Diaconal Team (Deacons in Italics)

Eric Anderson, Benjie Biscoglia, Colleen DeKraker, Sue DiSanto, LaVon Lenaway, Tim Hoving, Stu Mills, Rich Tameling, Jeff Snape, Jacqui Wooldridge

You can contact the diaconal team directly at dave@trinityhinsdale.com.

Women's Shepherding Team

Barb Mills (sabbatical), Karen Dingler, Rebecca O'Bryon, Nicole Potoshnick, Ann Powers

Community Groups

Community groups are one of the chief ways we team up to care for each other and seek the good of our neighborhoods. We currently meet in the following locations:

Downers Grove • Elmhurst • Hinsdale East • Hinsdale West • Lisle/Woodridge
Western Springs North • Western Springs South • Wheaton/Glen Ellyn

For more information about our ongoing ministries and community life, subscribe to our e-newsletter at www.trinityhinsdale.com, or you can email us with any questions at office@trinityhinsdale.com.