

Trinity Presbyterian Church Palm Coast

December 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Love



FROM
GENERATION
TO GENERATION...
We see God in each other

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey W. Beebe, Pastor
Brooke Tucker, Director of Faith Formation
Heasuk Che, Director of Music/Organist
Lillian Warner, Director of Handbell Choir
Judy Grady, Financial and Administrative Assistant
Thomas Buonocore, Sexton
Jane Pellmann, Clerk of Session
Jeff Cooke, Ken Mettler & David Wheeler, Visual/Audio

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Live-Stream our Worship at www.trinitypalmcoast.org



Trinity Presbyterian Church is called by God, through our
Lord Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
to be a **worshiping, nurturing and serving** community.

Prelude "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" arr. Page

Welcome

Introit

Advent Candle Lighting* *Jill & Jack Koenig and Janet Schaaf*

Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, "What makes you feel connected; what makes you feel loved?"

Hear now their answers:

Handwritten notes. Casseroles. Being invited in.

Reading a book together. The passing of the peace.

Family walks. Youth group. When I see my friends at preschool.

Surprise phone calls. Making music with other people.

Home-cooked food. Belly laughs. Eye contact.

Dinner parties. An inside joke. Hugs.

Dancing with my partner in the kitchen.

Today we light the candle of love as a reminder that from the very first generation, God has surrounded us with love.

May this good news—these threads of love—not only weave deeper connections between neighbors, but shape our actions and allow us to see God more clearly.

In a lonely world, let this light shine bright.

From generation to generation, we are held in God's love.

Thanks be to God for that good news. Amen.

* Hymn #140 "Once in Royal David's City"

Call to Confession*

One of the greatest gifts and challenges of faith is that we cannot be Christian alone. We need one another. We need one another to grow. We need one another to love. And we need one another to see God more clearly. So together, let us lift our voices in unison. Let us lean into the ties that bind and pray to our merciful God.

Prayer of Confession*

God of today and tomorrow, When Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth's house. Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her. How often do we have that same opportunity? How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off? How often do we shower critique or judgment instead of blessings and joy? Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs. We want to see you when we see our neighbor. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness* *(Unison words from Luke 1:46:55 NRSV)*

Friends, this is what I know— God delights in us. God throws open the door, just like Elizabeth, and says, "Come on home. There is room for you here!" And in that moment, we are blessed. In that moment, we are forgiven. In that moment, we are seen, healed, and welcomed home. So rest in this good news: you are saved by grace. Let us respond together, using the words from Mary's song:

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant, Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed."

* Gloria in Excelsis Deo

(Refrain from "Angels We Have Heard on High")

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

* Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

* Affirmation of Faith*

We believe that creation is inextricably linked. We belong to one another in an undeniable way. We are bone of bone and flesh of flesh, life breathed into dust.

We believe that God invites us to live into that truth— to love without abandon, to see the good in one another, to trust that all belong to God.

We know that this life of connection is easier said than done, which is why we gather in this space, week after week, generation after generation, to be reminded:

We see God in each other. This we believe. Amen.

Baptism

Road to Bethlehem

Handbell Choir "Songs of Shepherds
(While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks)"

Poem "Where I Saw God Last"*

The dimple in your right cheek,
the child playing peek-a-boo from his stroller,
the abuelita who spends her afternoons in the park by 86th;
the teenagers on the subway who cannot control their laughter;
Neil, my neighbor, who always asks about you,
the mother who whispers a dozen times a day,
"thank you, Jesus, thank you, Jesus, thank you, Jesus";
the saxophone player at 42nd street,
the poets, the artists, the garden volunteers;
the metro car driver who sticks his head out the window
to make sure we're all aboard;
the man who gave up his seat on the subway,
the kid in the dinosaur pajamas who cannot be convinced
they're not school attire;
the teachers, the nurses, the taxi cab drivers;
the woman at the end of the block with her yappy dogs and
her books in the window,
the lovers that lay sprawled out on park blankets,
the runners, the daydreamers, the sidewalk chalk artists;
John from upstairs whose favorite flowers are yellow tulips,
the Persian man at the grocery who tells me to be safe when I leave,
my grandmother in Georgia;
my neighbor, the stranger;
thank you, Jesus, thank you, Jesus, thank you, Jesus.

Handbell Choir "Angels We Have Heard On High"

Prayer for Illumination⁺

God of all, we are a mixed bag of distracted and forlorn, eager and anxious. We hope that you might move through the obstacle course we build up around our hearts— made out of questions and defenses— and douse us in good news. For at the end of the day, all we want is to know that we are not alone, that you are always near. So knock on our door, Sweet talk the guard dog we place in front of our vulnerable hearts, and come right in. Make yourself at home. Pull us close and tell us your story of unbelievable good news. We are listening. We are grateful. Amen.

Handbell Choir "Angels From the Realms of Glory"

Gospel Lesson Luke 1:39-58

Handbell Choir "Ring the Bells on Christmas Day" arr. Westerkucker

Meditation "Why Me Lord" Rev. Dr. Jeff Beebe

* Hymn #136 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

Prayers of the People⁺ and 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.

* Hymn #145 "What Child Is This"

* Invitation to Discipleship and Offering of our Gifts

* Benediction⁺

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved. From generation to generation, God has been by our side. From generation to generation, we are not alone. The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth, saying, "Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and come back soon." May it be so. Amen.

* Congregational Response (Hymn #82)

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

* Postlude "And the Glory of the Lord" Handel

Imago Dei Luminaries

We often see God most clearly in the divine light others carry. We invite you after service to come to the table up front to honor those in your life (past and present) in whom you have seen God's light shining brightly. Choose a white paper bag and inscribe their names using the gold pens and ink. These bags will serve as luminaries during our Christmas Eve candle light worship to help us remember that we all carry Christ's light with us.

⁺ Denotes please stand if able.

⁺Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

WORSHIP NOTES

Greeters: Susan Kopyar

Ushers: Marti Benz, Ron & Penny Weidner, Bill & Sandy Boland

Lay Reader: Ginny Elgin

Audio Tech: Colin Earle

Join us in prayer for our members and loved ones

Gail Alvaro, Margaret Applegate, Andrew Billings, **Doris Boone**, Bret Bosier, Jason Bradley*, Dontrell Brown, Eliza Brown, **Al Burgess, Priscilla Cahill**, Jasper Casey, John Chappa, **Hal Childs, Gary Clickard**, John Decina, Maverick Dennis*, Rev. Dr. Jeff DeYoe, Dickiesons Family, **Joe Digby***, William Downs, **Saida Evensen**, Patrick Floyd*, Clarisa Gibson, Stanley Hannum*, **Pat Head**, A.J. & Vicki Jebbia, **Bob Johnson, Javan N. Jones*, Kathy Jones-Mills, Jennifer Kaczmarek**, Bruce Lee, **Florence Lyman**, Marissa Mallicote, **Ed Manen, Jan Markiewicz, Marie McCray**, Declan Mitchell*, Pam Mitchell-Hess, Joseph C. Orr*, **Howard Parker, Paul Parker**, William Patterson, **Bob Pearson, Helene Read, Ginny Reisinger**, Bradford Robinson, Ian Samuel, Jennifer Sheringham*, **Lois Settles, Diane Simmons, Bonnie Slager**, Michelle Smith, **Brian Thomas, Ryan Tugas***, Norma Warwell, Todd Whipper, Ben Whitenack, **Matthew Winternheimer*, Theodore Winternheimer*, Kenny Wittmer**

*Sympathy is extended to BJ Waugaman and family on the death of **John Waugaman**, who died on December 8, 2022.*

If someone is in need of prayer, please let the church office know.

Those listed in bold are members of the church and the asterisk indicates active military service.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

Rebecca Bower	12/18		Bella Kaczmarek	12/24
Lorrie Blue-Angle	12/20		Arnold Lema	12/24
Brenda Digby	12/21		Liz Monaco	12/28
Ray Tipton	12/22		Michele Peters	12/29
			Karen Walker	12/29

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: Want to help spread some Christmas cheer? Join us for Christmas Caroling today! Meet us in the front parking lot at 3pm, dressed in jolly clothes. We will caravan across Flagler County spreading the joy of the season where ever we go ending at the Butlers home for refreshments at 6pm. Contact Brooke Tucker for more information.

ADVENT SPIRAL WALK AND PRAYER ROOM: We are pleased to once again offer an Advent Spiral Walk throughout December. The spiral is set up in the Chapel and available anytime. Each week, a different prayer station will invite you to prepare for Advent, walk the spiral, and take time to ponder and pray.

ADVENT SPIRITUALITY ROOM: This sacred space resides in the Wesley room and is open Mon-Thurs 9am-12pm. In this room you will find self-guided lessons on the week's scripture and an art project that will help you dive further into your advent walk. All supplies are provided.

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION: The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. This Advent, may you remember that you belong—to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won't let you go.

2023 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES: The contribution envelopes for 2023 are delayed due to equipment and staffing issues at the manufacturer. They are working long hours to get caught up and will ship as soon as ready, but can't tell us if it will be before or after the holidays. Thank you for your patience.

TRINITY'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES ♦ Saturday, December 24, 2022



♦ 4:00pm Candlelight Service with Communion in the Trinity Sanctuary *Service will be in-person and live-streamed at trinitypalmcoast.org*
♦ 6:30pm Trinity's Outdoor Candlelight Service at The Florida Ag Museum Barn, 7900 Old Kings Road, Palm Coast, FL

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Join us online or in the Church Sanctuary at 10am for a pre-recorded service to celebrate Christmas Day.

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

Join us on January 1st as we welcome the New Year with scripture and song. Special Guest Worship Leader Dr. Barry Davies Retired Professor of Sacred Music at Columbia Theological Seminary

OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper will next be observed at Trinity on Saturday, December 24th at the 4pm Service and on Sunday, January 8, 2023.

TRINITY EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

The Magi followed a star, which ultimately led them to Jesus. Therefore, we too use all the resources we have available to us to move closer to Jesus. We invite you to be a part of our third Epiphany Celebration on **Friday, January 6, 2023 from 4:30pm-5:30pm.** A New Year's opportunity for you to be blessed and to be a blessing to others.



This Week in our Church (Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs.: 9:00am-12 noon)

Sunday, December 18th

10:00 AM Worship Service

3:00 PM Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 19th

9:30 AM Handbell Choir (Sanctuary)

6:15 PM Scouts-Pack 281 (Sanctuary/Mehaffey)

Tuesday, December 20th

5:30 PM Trinity Troopers (Youth Rooms)

6:30 PM Scouts-Troops 281 & 4281 (Mehaffey)

Wednesday, December 21st

10:00 AM Stretch & Balance with Brooke (Calvin)

8:15 PM AA (Mehaffey)

Friday, December 23rd

5:00 PM ALANON Meeting

6:30 PM NA Meeting

Saturday, December 24th

4:00 PM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

6:30 PM Outdoor Worship Service (Florida Ag Museum Barn)

Sunday, December 25th

10:00 AM Worship Service

**Share your gifts!
Trinity Online
Giving:**

