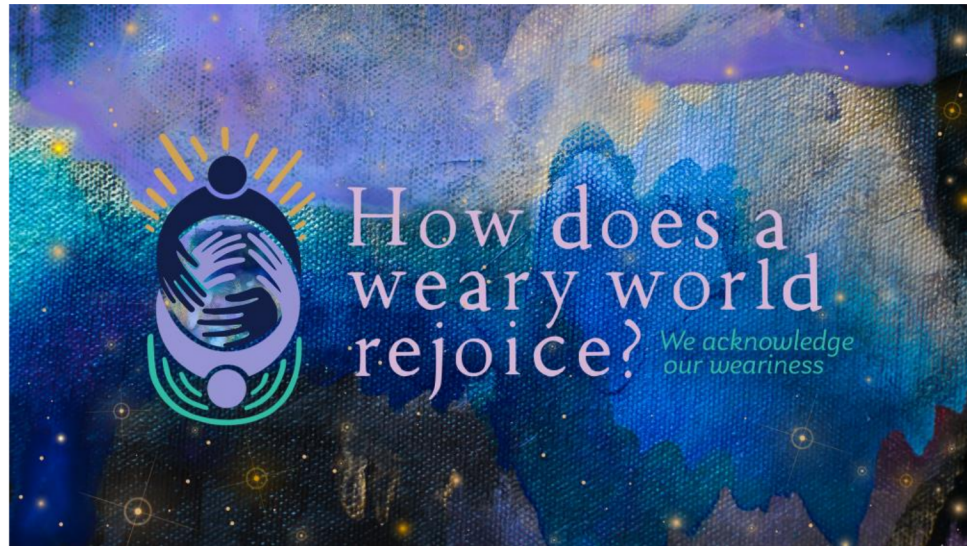


First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023



Trinity Presbyterian Church
 156 Florida Park Drive N. Palm Coast, FL 32137
 (386) 445-4757 ♦ www.trinitypalmcoast.org
 Facebook: Trinity Presbyterian Church USA
 Live-Stream our Worship at www.trinitypalmcoast.org

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey W. Beebe, Pastor
 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

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

Welcome

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" arr. Parry

Advent Candle Lighting ♦ (Jason, Shelley, David & Andrew Wheeler)

In God's house, we can be joyful. We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.
 In God's house, we can be weary. We can be anxious. We can be grieving.
 In God's house, we can be honest—inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful,
 connected or curious, and everything in between.
 This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

How does a weary world hope?

By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night,
 and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.
 By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the sidewalk.
 By insisting that small acts can make a difference.
 There are a million ways to practice hope.
 So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.
 With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world.
 Let us worship our loving God.

* Hymn #82 "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Stuttgart

Call to Confession ♦

Friends, in today's scripture passage, a man named Zechariah is given good news from God and his response is to ask, "How can this be?" Have any of you ever felt that way when receiving good news? It can be hard to receive good news when we don't expect it. It can be hard to accept God's grace and God's love when we think we don't deserve it. But friends, scripture tells us over and over again of a loving, generous, and gracious God. So may we come to the prayer of confession today, not with fear, but with an awe so deep that we ask ourselves, "How can this be?" Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession ♦

Gracious God, we are weary. For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.

Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

Forgive us for creating so many distractions.

Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.

Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness ♦

Family of faith, no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin,
 no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions,
 no matter how many times we ask ourselves, "How can this be?"
 God's love keeps showing up for us. So say this with me:
We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

* Gloria in Excelsis Deo (Refrain from "Angels We Have Heard on High")

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

* Affirmation of Faith ♦

We believe in a God who hears our prayers, who knows the shape and form of our weariness. We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us, not just survival and existence. We believe in a God who looks ahead, who is not done dreaming for the world— a God who sends hope in the form of people and change, movements and Spirit. And so we return to this space. We bring our joy and our weariness like two sides of the same coin, and we trust that God is already at work. Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

Road to Bethlehem

Invitation to Discipleship

The invitation to follow Christ is filled with hope, peace, joy, and love. There is hope: a new journey with Christ brings transformation. There is peace: in Christ, the old has passed away and the new can now emerge. There is joy: nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. There is love: God so loved the world that God became human in Jesus, our savior. Now is the time to respond to God's love and accept the invitation to follow this Christ. Be filled with hope, peace, joy, and love!

Offering of our Gifts

Offertory "Once in Royal David's City" Irby
 Jack Jaffe, Viola with Jason Wheeler, Tenor

* 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.**

Prayer of Dedication

Prayer for Illumination ♦

Loving God, the source of our joy, as we turn our hearts toward your Word, we ask that you would soften us. Soften the callouses on our hearts. Weave yourself in between the cracks in our spirits. And plant hope where there is room. And as you do this, like flowers toward the sun, we will turn ourselves toward you, eager to hear a Word so good that we cannot help but ask ourselves, "How can this be?" With openness and gratitude we pray, amen.

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

² before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

⁴ O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears
 and given them tears to drink in full measure.

⁶ You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
 our enemies laugh among themselves.

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

¹⁷ But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
 the one whom you made strong for yourself.

¹⁸ Then we will never turn back from you;
 give us life, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Anthem "Soon and Very Soon" arr. Shrader
 Choir

1 Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative about the events that have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, 3 I, too, decided, as one having a grasp of everything from the start, to write a well-ordered account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 so that you may have a firm grasp of the words in which you have been instructed.

5 In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. 7 But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

8 Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, 9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. 10 Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. 11 Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. 13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. 14 You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. 16 He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." 18 Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." 19 The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. 20 But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

21 Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. 22 When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. 23 When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayers of the People ♦ and The Lord's Prayer

Gracious God, You carry us through our days. You know every word on our tongue, every hair on our head. You know the dreams in our hearts, and the weight of our bones. You also know the weariness we bring with us into the morning and into this space. So with honesty we come before you, both with hearts full of gratitude and with prayer requests on our lips. First, holy God, we thank you for the gifts of this life that give energy. For birthday candles and sunrises, for handwritten cards and jobs that we are passionate about. For stories that can make us laugh until we cry, and for friends that feel like family. For all these gifts, thank you. In addition to these prayers of gratitude, loving God, we also bring you the things that weigh heavy on our hearts. For gun violence, for family and friends in chemotherapy, for seasons of transition and grief that won't let us go—we ask for your attention. We ask

for your love and care. Take this yoke from us. Relieve some of the burden on our backs, and wrap your arms around places where we feel most tender. And as we enter into this new Advent season—a season marked with joy, hope and light—we ask that you would remind us that our full humanity is welcome here. There is room for both joy and grief. There is room for weariness and awe. There is room for faith and doubt, for nothing is too big or too far gone for your love to reach it. So with hope in our hearts, we unite our voices once more to pray the words your son taught us to pray, saying: **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.**

Sharing the Bread

This is the Body of Christ, the Bread of Life—given for you.

Sharing the Cup

This is the Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation—shed for you.

- * Hymn #92 "While We Are Waiting, Come" Waiting
- * Benediction ♦
Family of faith, as you leave this place, you go into a weary world— so speak tenderly. Do the good that is yours to do. Choose connection. Hold onto hope. And remember that Christ took on flesh for you. You are God's beloved. So go rejoicing. The world needs it. Amen.
- * Postlude "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" arr. Kim
** Denotes please stand if able.*

WORSHIP NOTES

Today, all of those who are able and/or are comfortable, are invited forward to the Lord's Table to receive Communion, which will be served by intinction, which simply means receiving a piece of bread, dipping it into the cup, and eating them together. Gluten-free and pre-packaged elements will also be available for those who so desire.

Greeters and Ushers: Marti Benz, Ron & Penny Weidner, Bill & Sandy Boland, Susan Kopyar, Don & Cyndy McCormick, Moira Hair, Marjolyn Price
Lay Reader: Jason Wheeler **Audio Tech:** Chuck Radloff
Audio Visual: Jeff Cooke, Ken Mettler, David Wheeler
Flowers: The flowers this morning are given by Delmont & Jeannette Smith in honor of great grandson Aiden W. Dancer's 1st Birthday and by Bill & Tracy Martin in honor of their 44th Wedding Anniversary.
Children's Worship Table: Children are invited to the Children's Worship Table after the Faith Formation to enjoy this week's Children's Worship booklet and/or any of the other quiet activities in the Children's area.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Bill Campbell	12/3		
Ellie Hodson	12/4	<i>Happy Birthday</i>	Karen Stickle 12/7
Colin Earle	12/5		Lillian Warner 12/8
Susan Thomas	12/6		Jim Burns 12/8
Brian Guerin	12/6		Joyce Shirley 12/8

POINSETTIAS SALE: Poinsettias will be available for purchase this Christmas season for \$17 each and is a wonderful opportunity to honor & remember loved ones. Order forms are available outside of the Church Office or in the Narthex. Please submit your orders on or before December 10th. Thank you!

CHOIR & HANDBELL SUNDAYS: Join us for Worship on Sunday, December 10th for Choir Christmas Sunday and on December 17th for Handbell Christmas Sunday.

Join us in prayer for our members and loved ones

Gail Alvaro, **Ajit Banerjee**, Billings Family, Jason Bradley*, Eliza Brown, **Al Burgess, Jim & Willa Burns**, Jasper Casey, John Chappa, **Hal Childs**, Rev. Dr. Jeff DeYoe, Dickiesons Family, **Joe Digby***, William Downs, Patrick Floyd*, Clarisa Gibson, Hadley Gray, Stanley Hannum*, **Bob Johnson, Gene Johnson, Javan N. Jones*, Kathy Jones-Mills, Jennifer Kaczmarek**, Lucas Kelly, Brady Klefman, Bruce Lee, **Florence Lyman**, Marissa Mallicote, **Ed Manen, Gloria Martin, Judy Mascenic**, Sue McCarthy, **Tom & Carol McGovern**, Declan Mitchell*, Pam Mitchell-Hess, **Pat Olson**, Joseph C. Orr*, William Patterson, **Ed Peart, Helene Read**, Bradford Robinson, Ian Samuel, Jennifer Sheringham*, Sara Shoreland, **Diane Simmons, Bonnie Slager**, Michelle Smith, **Brian Thomas, Ryan Tugas*, Tony & Doris Valenti**, Monique Warmington, Norma Warwell, **BJ Waugaman**, Todd Whipper, Ben Whitenack, **Matthew Winternheimer*, Theodore Winternheimer*, Kenny Wittmer**

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.

COME TO THE MEN'S BREAKFASTS: Thursday, December 7th, from 8:30-9:30am in Mehaffey Fellowship Hall. Enjoy Pancakes & sausages, some fellowship and bible discussion.

ADVENT FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON: Join us next Sunday, December 10th, after worship for food and fellowship!

ADVENT SPIRAL WALK AND PRAYER ROOM: We are pleased to once again offer an Advent Spiral Walk throughout Advent. 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.

Sunday, December 3rd - Sacrament of Communion

- 10:00 AM Worship Service
- 11:00 AM Sunday Kids Choir (Music Room)
- 11:00 AM Troopers and Youth & Young Adult Fellowship (Mehaffey/Youth Rms)
- 4:00 PM CCPC Holiday Concert (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 4th

- 9:30 AM Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 PM Faith Formation Meeting (Kepler)
- 3PM & 5PM Youth Choir (Music Room)
- 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
- 6:15 PM Cub Scouts-Pack 281 (Mehaffey, Calvin, Youth Rooms)

Tuesday, December 5th

- 9:00 AM CCPC Music Sorting (Kepler)
- 6:30 PM Scouts-Troops 281 & 4281 (Mehaffey, Calvin, Youth Rooms)

Wednesday, December 6th

- 10:00 AM PW Team Meeting (Mehaffey)
- 12:00 PM PW Gathering & Luncheon (MH)
- 8:00 PM AA Meeting (Mehaffey)

Thursday, December 7th

- 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast (Mehaffey)
- 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
- 6:30 PM ALANON Meeting (Calvin)

Friday, December 8th

- 6:30 PM NA Meeting (Mehaffey)

Saturday, December 9th

- 9AM-5PM Flagler County Co-op Piano Recital (Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 10th

- 10:00 AM Worship Service
- 11:00 AM Hands on Mission (Mehaffey)
- 11:00 AM Advent Fellowship Lunch (Mehaffey)
- 11:00 AM Sunday Kids Choir (Music Room)

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

