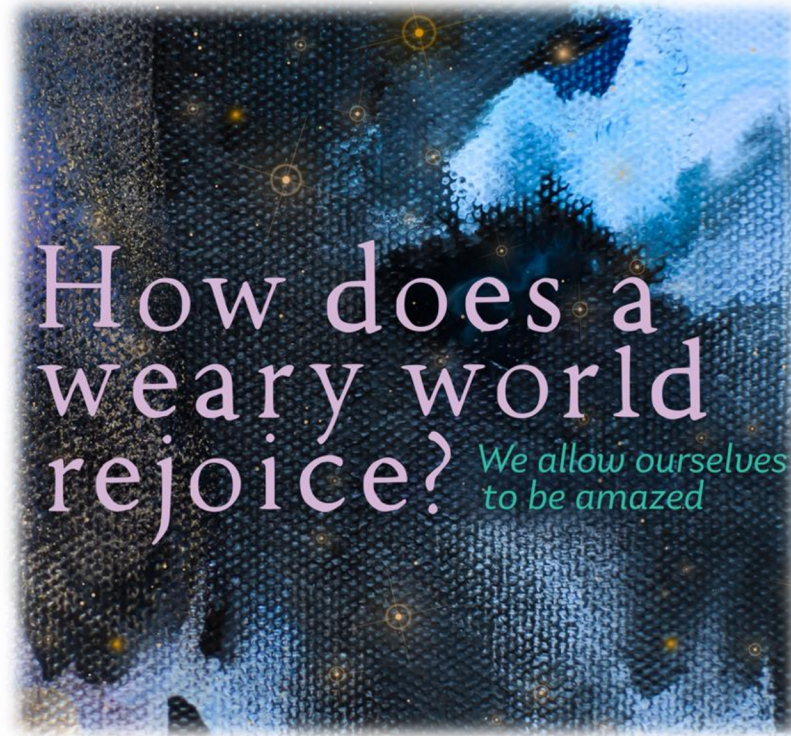


Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 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 **worshiping, nurturing and serving** community.

Sunday, December 17, 2023 ♦ Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" arr. Waldon
 Handbell Choir & Organ

Advent Candle Lighting ♦ *Lisa Hammond, Eric Munzberg, Sierra Holt, Gavin Munzberg, Thomas Polacek*

Our God can part the sea. God can bring water from a rock, and provide bread in the desert. Our God can walk on water. He can heal the sick, and turn water into wine. Our God sets the stars in the sky. God hears our voice when we cry, and is closer than our own breath. There is nothing our God cannot do. Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.

How does a weary world practice joy?
 By dancing, and throwing birthday parties.
 By hanging Christmas lights, and holding sleepy babies.
 By singing loudly, and looking for good news.
 By telling the story of Jesus, and showing up for our community.
 There are a million ways to practice joy.
 So today we light the candle of joy as a reminder and a charge.
 With God's help, may we bring joy into a weary world. Amen.

* Hymn #143 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Call to Confession ♦

If you spend any time with a child, you will quickly notice that children see the world differently. For a child, a ladybug is a miracle. A pine tree is a wonder. Curiosity is a love language, and water is not only for survival, but for joy. As adults, we forget this language of awe and wonder, and when we do, we distance ourselves from God. In confession, we have the opportunity to close that distance. So let us return to God with hearts wide open. Let us return to God in prayer. Join me in the prayer of confession:

Prayer of Confession ♦

Holy God, Somewhere in our childhood we face pressure to outgrow awe. We turn into adults who obsess over data and facts. We praise those who have answers, and assume that wonder is an answerless game. Forgive us for closing that door to you. Remind us that the kingdom of God belongs to children. Teach us the ways of awe and wonder, so that like Zechariah, when we find ourselves speechless, our first words will be words of praise. With hearts open wide, we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness ♦

Family of faith, just as we marvel at mountains and newborns, at sunrises and sunsets, God marvels at us. There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could prevent God from loving you. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
We are forgiven. We are loved. We belong 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 knows our names,
who counts the hairs on our heads, and carries the dreams in our hearts.

We believe that God's fingerprints are all over creation,
and that God is forever speaking to us in a million different ways.

We believe that awe and wonder,
goosebumps and laughter, telling stories and paying attention,
 are all ways that we can say thank you to our creating,
 sustaining, and loving God.

Therefore we commit ourselves to moving through this world with eyes wide open, with porous hearts, and grateful spirits.

We commit ourselves to living lives of awe, wonder, and gratitude,
trusting that these things will forever draw us deeper into God's loving arms.

We believe. **We stand in awe. Thanks be to God!**

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 "The First Noel" arr. Eithun
 Handbell Choir

* 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.**

Prayers of the People ♦ and The Lord's Prayer

Holy God, Christ with us, Once again we bow our heads. Once again we close our eyes. Once again we draw ourselves closer to you in prayer. Meet us here. Surround us with your loving presence. From sunrise to sunset, you fill us with awe. For that, we pause to give you gratitude. Thank you for the way the sun shines through our windows, for the mist rising off the river, for the warmth of a cup of coffee, for the joy of returning home, for the beauty of a crowded table, and for the glory of a sky full of stars. God, we are in constant awe of you. The story of Zechariah and Elizabeth reminds us that there is nothing you cannot do, and there is no grief that you do not know. For that we give thanks. However, even with this good news at hand, we know that there are many in this world who cannot find the energy to practice awe or wonder because they are so deep in grief. So today, gracious God, we pray for those for whom awe feels out of reach. Be with every parent who worries about a sick child. Be with every child who worries about a sick parent. Be with every person waiting on the doctor's phone call, waiting on the next month's paycheck, waiting for the next warm meal. Holy God, surround those with broken hearts who are trying to stitch the pieces together, praying that one day they might be able to feel awe again. All the while, we will keep gathering together and turning to you to remind us that you are the God of the impossible. You are the one who floods our world with awe. You are the one who knows our names. So together we pray, using 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.

Prayer for Illumination ♦

God of the universe, make our hearts porous. Open our eyes, as if for the first time, so that we might see your world with awe and wonder once again. We often approach scripture with an analytical lens, intellectualizing the stories heard, bringing historical context and textual criticism to the table. For just a moment, pause those instincts to make room for wonder. Help us greet this text with awe and gratitude before we begin dissecting it for truth. For I am confident, that in doing so, we will not only find you in the hallways of our thoughts, but in the pathways of our hearts. With gratitude we pray: keep us open. Amen.

Gospel Lesson Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; ⁵⁰indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Anthem "Still, Still, Still" Transc. & edi. Timberding
Handbell Choir

Gospel Lesson Luke 1:57-66

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." ⁶¹They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." ⁶²Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For indeed the hand of the Lord was with him.

* Hymn #106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

Gospel Lesson Luke 1:67-80

⁶⁷Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: ⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David, ⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. ⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant, ⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days. ⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his

ways, ⁷⁷to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." ⁸⁰The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

Meditation "Bring Us Joy" Rev. Dr. Jeff Beebe

* Hymn #113 "Angels We Have Heard on High" Gloria

Advent Candle Lighting (Love)

As we go out into the world, we light the candle of love as a reminder and a charge. With God's help, may we bring love into a weary world. Amen.

* 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 Hallelujah" from Messiah arr. Thompson
Handbell Choir & Organ

* Denotes please stand if able.

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

WORSHIP NOTES

Greeters and Ushers: Susan Kopyar, Roger Ailshie, Marti Benz, Ron & Penny Weidner, Bill & Sandy Boland

Lay Reader: Shelley Kleinfelder **Audio Tech:** Steve Yeh

Audio Visual: Jeff Cooke, Ken Mettler, David Wheeler

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.

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**, Ruth 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, Queenester Jones, 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**, Fred Pellmann, **Helene Read**, Bradford Robinson, **Norma Rogero**, Ian Samuel, Jennifer Sheringham*, Sara Shoreland, **Diane Simmons, Bonnie Slager**, Michelle Smith, **Brian Thomas, Ryan Tugas*, Tony & Doris Valenti, Mick Walker**, Monique Warmington, Norma Warwell, **BJ Waugaman**, Todd Whipper, Ben Whitenack, **Matthew Winterheimer*, Theodore Winterheimer*, Kenny Wittmer**

Sympathy is extended to Ruth DeYoe on the death of Rev., Dr. Jeffrey DeYoe on December 12, 2023.

Jeff and Ruth DeYoe served together as a team on Trinity's staff from 1997-2007 as Pastor and Director of Christian Education.

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

Doris Valenti	12/17		Bella Kaczmarek	12/24
Rebecca Bower	12/18		Arnold Lema	12/24
Lorrie Blue-Angle	12/20		Liz Monaco	12/28
Brenda Digby	12/21		Michele Peters	12/29
Ray Tipton	12/22		Karen Walker	12/29

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: There will be a Congregational meeting today after Worship for the purposes of approving Terms of Call.

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.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: Meet in the Church parking lot today, December 17th, at 3pm with your festive attire and own transportation. More information to follow or email or call the Church office at 386-445-4757 or trinityoffice@cfl.rr.com

FINANCE UPDATES: Reminder to please turn in your pledge cards for 2024 and all 2023 contributions *must* be received in the church office by December 31st, 2023. Thank you!

2024 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES: Contribution envelopes are located in the Narthex, please pick up yours today. If you do not see yours and would like envelopes, please contact Judy in the church office at 445-4757 or trinityoffice@cfl.rr.com

Trinity's Christmas Eve Services
Sunday, December 24, 2023

4:00pm Candlelight Service with Communion
in the Trinity Sanctuary
Service will be in-person and live-streamed at rinitypalmcoast.org

6:30pm Trinity's Outdoor Candlelight Service at The Florida Ag Museum Barn,
7900 Old Kings Road, Palm Coast, FL

Reminder: There will be no 10:00 am Service on the 24th.



This week in our Church (Office Hours are Monday-Thursday, 9am-12noon):

Sunday, December 17th

- 10:00 AM Worship Service
- 11:00 AM Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 AM Sunday Kids Choir (Music Room)
- 3:00 PM Christmas Caroling (Meet in Church Parking Lot)

Monday, December 18th

- 9:30 AM Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 PM Session Meeting (Kepler)
- 6:15 PM Cub Scouts-Pack 281 (Mehaffey, Calvin, Youth Rooms)

Tuesday, December 19th

- 6:30 PM Scouts-Troops 281 & 4281 (Mehaffey, Calvin, Youth Rooms)

Wednesday, December 20th

- 12:00 PM Staff Luncheon (MH)
- 8:00 PM AA Meeting (Mehaffey)

Thursday, December 21st

- 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
- 6:30 PM ALANON Meeting (Calvin)

Friday, December 22nd

- 6:30 PM NA Meeting (Calvin)
- 6:30 PM AA Meeting (Mehaffey)

Sunday, December 24th

- 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 PM Christmas Eve at the Barn (Florida Agricultural Museum Barn)

Share your gifts!
Trinity Online Giving:

