

# Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24, 2023



## Trinity Presbyterian Church Palm Coast, Florida

156 Florida Park Drive N.  
Palm Coast, Florida 32137  
(386)445-4757

[www.trinitypalmcoast.org](http://www.trinitypalmcoast.org)

Like us on Facebook: Trinity Presbyterian Church USA

Live-Stream our Worship at [www.trinitypalmcoast.org](http://www.trinitypalmcoast.org)

### Christmas Eve

Prelude

Welcome

\* Hymn #133 "O Come All Ye Faithful" Adeste Fideles

Celebrating The Light

*The Tucker Family*

To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared,  
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
(Isaiah 9:2, 6)

We light these candles as signs of the coming light of Christ, who is called the Son of the Most High, and of whose kingdom there will be no end.

We have watched and we have waited,  
We have waited in hope.  
We have waited for peace.  
We have waited in joy.  
We have waited with love.

Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us. And so on this night, we light the Christ candle.

\* Hymn #134 "Joy to the World" Antioch

Call to Confession ♦

Did you know that a version of the phrase, "Be not afraid" is written in scripture as many as 365 times? That's one for every day. God says, "Be not afraid." The angels say, "Be not afraid." Over and over again, we are told to not be afraid. Friends, that sentiment carries us into this moment of prayer. During the prayer of confession we are honest with God about the mess of our lives and we are met with God's grace. God does not meet us with anger. God does not hold a grudge. God does not keep score. Instead, God wraps us in mercy and holds us in love. So be not afraid, and join me in the prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession ♦

**Loving Christ, Scripture tells us that you were born in a stable because there was no room in the inn. There was no room in the inn for a woman in need, no room in the inn for an innocent baby. Forgive us. We should have learned our**

**lesson by now, but just as others turned their backs on you, we continue to turn our backs on one another. Teach us how to make room for one another. Teach us how to make room for you. Carve out space in our hearts to love as you love, for we do not want to build hostility here. We want to build your promised day. Guide us forward. With hope and honesty we pray, amen.**

Words of Forgiveness ♦

Friends, the angels say, "Be not afraid," but they also say, "Unto you a child is born." Christ is born for you. Christ walked this earth for you. Christ forgives you. That's what love does. It makes room. It offers grace. It learns your name. So repeat these words of hope after me:

Unto us a child is born. **Unto us a child is born.**

Unto us grace is given. **Unto us grace is given.**

May this good news change the very fabric of our lives.

**Christ has made room for all of us. Amen.**

\* Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

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

Road to Bethlehem

Special Music "Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child"  
Kids Choir

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" arr. Bill Ingram  
Handbell Choir

\* Hymn #119 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Prayer of Dedication

Anthem "O Holy Night" arr. Phillip Le Bas  
Choir with Jack Jeffe, Viola

Prayer for Illumination ♦

Loving God, We have heard this story before— the story of a star in the sky and a baby who was laid in a manger. We have heard this story before— passed down in hopeful whispers through the generations. So this night, as we lean our hearts and our ears closer to you, we ask that you would make room in our souls to hear this story again. Make room in us for awe. Make room in us for wonder. Make room for heartache and compassion. Make room in our hearts for you. Pull us into the narrative, that we might hear the truths in this ancient Word as if it were the first time. For we know that you are still speaking. So speak to us again this night. We are listening. We are already making room. Amen.

Gospel Lesson                      Luke 2:1-20  
Meditation                      "Faith Before Fear"                      Rev. Dr. Jeff Beebe

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper  
*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.*

Invitation to the Lord’s Table  
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.**

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.

Lighting of Candles from the Christ Candle  
Hymn #122                      "Silent Night, Holy Night"                      Stille Nacht

\* 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                      "In Dulci Jubilo"                      Bach  
\* Denotes please stand if able.

*"Lord Jesus, master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, 'Come Lord Jesus!'"*  
-Henri Nouwen



*We at Trinity Presbyterian Church wish you a blessed and joyous Christmas!  
The old life is gone, and the new life is begun. That has been, that is, and that will be forever the Good news of the Gospel. Merry Christmas.*



WORSHIP NOTES

**Greeters & Ushers:**  
Ron & Penny Weidner, Bill & Sandy Boland,  
Peter Harrison, Bill & Tracy Martin  
**Lay Reader:** Carol Corson  
**Audio Tech:** Ken Mettler



**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 walk-thru Epiphany Celebration in Mehaffey Hall on Sunday, January 7, 2024 following Worship. A New Year’s opportunity for you to be blessed and to be a blessing to others.



**Share your gifts!  
Get to Trinity Online  
Giving by scanning  
here:**



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.*

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