

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Hymnals are available in the back.
Hard copies of the full content of the worship service are available in the back as well as on the church website.

The Third Sunday of Advent

GOD CALLS US

Gathering Song *Joy Has Dawned upon the World*

Welcome, Greeting, and Announcements

*Childcare is available during the worship service.
Infants/Toddlers (nursery); Two and Three year olds (Rooms 102, 103)*

Call to Worship from Isaiah 35

Prayer of Invocation

Worship Singing *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GOD CLEANSSES US

Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon 2 Corinthians 5:21

Worship Singing *Joy to the World*

Prayer for Mark and Jen Whipple

Worship through Giving

(8:30) Musical Offering *God with Us*

sung by Paul & Rebecca Hawkinson

(11:00) Adult Choir *See Amid the Winter Snow*

GOD SPEAKS TO US

Sermon Immanuel: How is God with Us? Joe Mullen
Luke 2:1-7 | God with Us in the Lowly

GOD STRENGTHENS US

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Gluten/Soy-free crackers are in the paper liners of each tray.

(BREAD) Musical Offering *Sing We the Song of Immanuel*
sung by Caroline Clark, Jeff Crayton, Melanye Crayton

(CUP) Worship Singing *O Come All Ye Faithful*

GOD SENDS US

God's Promise of His Presence and Blessing

VISITORS

We are thankful to have you with us this morning. If you would like to get more information about Trinity, please send an email to visitor@trinityasheville.com. You may also pick up a simple visitor card, located on the stands in the back and at the welcome table.

Immanuel: How is God with Us? Luke 2:1-7 (NASB) | God with Us in the Lowly

Joe Mullen

Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. ²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. ⁴Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, ⁵in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. ⁶While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

God's Love in Christ Is Timely

God's Place in Christ Is Lowly

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children – Middle School (9:45 – 10:45 AM)

Infants-Toddlers – 100 **Kindergarten** – 105 **Fourth Grade** – 302
Preschool I – 102 **First Grade** – 107 **Fifth Grade** – 304
Preschool II – 103 **Second Grade** – 106 **Middle School Girls** – 403
Pre-K – 104 **Third Grade** – 303 **Middle School Guys** – 402

High School – Adults (10:00 – 10:45 AM)

High School – High School building

Adult Classes

From Family to Community: Discipling Your Family with a Kingdom Perspective

Joe & Brenda Mullen; Steve & Joanne Wright (Room 205)

We are covering topics such as: sorting out our idols so we see Christ more clearly, discerning between the flesh and the Spirit as we seek to parent our children, understanding a biblical concept of authority and discipline, learning how to give and receive forgiveness, and dealing with conflict among our family members. This course is geared mainly to families with younger children and we will have follow up opportunities to address issues that may not be fully covered in the class.

The Heidelberg Catechism

Stephen Griffith, Eric Freeman, Judy Venning (Room 204)

Lord's Day 34, part 2: Idolatry is extreme admiration, love, and reverence for something other than the only true God who has revealed Himself in His Word. What are the idols to which we cling?

Sola Fide: Jesus in Jeremiah

Steve Eargle and Bill Ressler (Room 203)

In this course, we seek to learn more of what God is teaching us in each book of the Old Testament, especially as we clearly see the centrality of Jesus in the persons, events and symbols throughout Redemptive History.

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Prayer meeting 7:45 AM in Room 205
Worship Service 8:30 AM in Worship Area
Sunday School for Middle School and younger 9:45 AM in classrooms
Sunday School for High School and Adults 10:00 AM in classrooms
Worship Service 11:00 AM in Worship Area
Lessons and Carols Service 6:00 PM in Worship Area

UPCOMING DATES

December 24 Worship at **9:00** and 11:00 AM (no SS)
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (no nursery/childcare)
December 25-27 Office Closed
December 31 Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 AM (no children's SS)
 Long Range Planning Team Presentation during SS

OFFERING UPDATE			OFFICERS ON DUTY		
Fiscal Year ending June 30	LAST WEEK	YTD	ELDER	DEACON	
GENERAL FUND GIFTS	\$47,095	\$508,826	TODAY	Smith Smith	Clark Morris
BUDGET	\$23,300	\$559,200	NEXT WEEK	Carlson Harris	Tyson Ray

ELDERS		DEACONS	
Stephen Bates, Andrew Belz, Conley Brown, Brad Burlingham, Bryson Fleming, Ned Gibson, Stephen Griffith, Jim Hill, Calvin Marshall, Joe Mullen, Darrell Rhoden, Norman Riddle, Chad Smith, Stephen Todd, Aaron Voigt		Harry Buckner, Spencer Clark, Adam Foss, Harold Frost, Rick Green, Zach Holland, Josh Pacosa, Brandon Ray, Jim Smith, Tim Tyson, Scott Wilhelmi	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Services and Schedule

TONIGHT: Lessons & Carols (6:00 PM)

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols celebrates the birth of Jesus through nine Bible readings covering the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus.

Our informal service will alternate these readings with congregational carol singing and special music by Watson & Becky Frawley, Amelia & Evangeline Wilds, and Jack Womack.

Friday, December 22 Informal Messiah Singalong

5:30 to 7:00 PM at Trinity

We have books. Just come ready to sing!

Sunday, December 24

Worship at 9:00 & 11:00 AM; no Sunday School

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7:00 PM; no childcare

Sunday, December 31

Worship at 8:30 and 11:00; Long Range Planning Presentation during SS

Visitors, we are thankful to have you with us this morning. If you would like to get more information about Trinity, please email visitor@trinityasheville.com. You may also fill out a simple visitor card, located on the stands in the back and at the welcome table.

Play time! Due to generous giving and commitments from the Trinity budget, plans are underway to upgrade and update the play experience at Trinity. Design and construction plans have been prepared to obtain permits and seek bids for contractors for installation. We are anticipating City permit approval by the end of this year, and contractor selection in January. Emphasis is being placed on security, supervision and a high quality play experience across a wide range of unique and differing equipment. Stay tuned for further updates and thank you for supporting this important part of our outreach and our lives here at Trinity!

On December 31 during Sunday School, Chad will present the recommendations of the Long Range Planning Team to address our current space needs as well as future growth. This time will be recorded and available online for those who are unable to attend.

Year End Giving: In order to meet the requirement of the Internal Revenue Service related to contributions qualifying for inclusion in your tax return for the current year, you should note the following:

- Your checks should be dated no later than December 31.
- The envelope must be postmarked no later than December 30.
- Donations hand-delivered to the office must be received by the end of second service on Sunday, December 31.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Friends, Kids, and Families, if you took one of the **Habitat for Humanity banks**, we are collecting them outside the reception office through the end of the year.

CHILDREN (contact Elaine or Tish)

Please take a picture of one of our Ledgewood children to pray for in 2018. They are on the welcome table in the foyer.

Our Outreach Ministry to the children of Ledgewood housing development begins Tuesday, January 9. Drivers and driving assistants meet at the church at 2:50. Helpers should be in place at the church at 3:25 in room 205. The children are taken home at 4:50. Volunteers are needed!

MISSION FOCUS

Flavien & Inyange

For more information, contact Trinity Missions Team member Stan Hamaker (sjham@charter.net).

Our trip to Japan went well, in spite of the disruptions caused by two typhoons. It was good to be just the two of us in a very different place. We encountered awesome beauty, a bewildering array of exotic flavors, amazingly friendly people, complex and ancient cultures, unfathomable puzzles, deep spiritual darkness, and much more! My level of energy was much better than expected and we were able to walk and see a lot, praise be to God! The children did well and had a good time while we were away, including the little ones.

Thank you for your continued prayers for our healths. Inyange and I are both struggling with fatigue and with weariness. Every day is a struggle to muster the energy required "to get most things done." I have made some good progress but I'm still officially anemic. Inyange has difficulty to sleep. Life and its many duties can be overwhelming at times. We greatly value your prayers for us, that we would be wise in managing our energy and prioritizing our activities, that we would keep heart and trust our Lord in all things and circumstances.

My mother was finally moved to a specialized rehab center last week. She continues to improve slowly, and seems to have good spirits in facing the challenges ahead. The Lord graciously allowed me to care for her pastorally during my visit last month. It was a sweet and encouraging time for me, as she demonstrated a genuine hunger to be reminded of the promises we have in Christ. Thank you for your prayers on her behalf, and may the Lord continue His work in her and my step-dad's hearts through this ongoing trial!

The children keep on growing, as they always do. Hosanna turned 6 last week and Eden 8 yesterday. Timothée, our oldest, will turn 16 on the 17th... Life is busy with school (especially for our older two who are in high school), dance classes (for the girls) and church. We are looking at the possibility of having our two oldest (then 16 and 15) spend some formative time in the US next summer. We think they would greatly benefit from being disciplined by other Christians (both peers and more mature ones) and from gaining life experience through an activity like a summer job or an internship somewhere. Let us know if you have ideas or suggestions, as this is a whole new ball game to us!

My work with the Pastors' Academy (formerly John Owen Center) continues, with Greek Study Days at London Seminary and Biblical Studies Days around the country. Two new BSD topics should be proposed in 2018. The editing of my book was stalled by my health trouble this summer, and right now my priority goes to the French version of the Westminster Larger Catechism. Come January and, hopefully, I'll be able to put the final touch to the book. Then I'll be back to working on the Catechism (there is much editorial work to be done) and the translation of an address of B.B. Warfield. Finally, I am blessed to encourage and mentor a handful of young men preparing for pastoral ministry or missionary service in various locations.

One of the pressing items on our agenda is to reflect on the shape that our ministry should take in the near future. The challenges we have faced this past year have highlighted the need to re-evaluate our commitments and activities. For one thing, I am not able to do as much as I used to, and find myself over-committed (too many different things going on at once). Besides, my wife and children do need me to be more present at home and in their lives (and education). So we are reflecting on how we can best re-organize things and pace ourselves to serve our partners to the best of our (limited) ability, and are seeking the wisdom and advice from friends and ministry partners. This means, among other things, considering carefully what our role at our local church should be, what ministries should have priority, what we should drop, as well as which new ideas and opportunities we should pursue and integrate in the overall picture. We need much more wisdom and courage than we possess for this process. Thank you for your intercession on our behalf!

TRINITY STAFF

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OFFICE HOURS 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Mon-Thu); 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Fri) | **PHONE:** 299-3433 **FAX:** 299-0244



TRINITY

ASHEVILLE

CENTERING OUR LIVES AROUND JESUS
LOVING ONE ANOTHER
LOVING THE WORLD

December 17, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 and 11:00 AM

Welcome to Trinity Presbyterian Church!

We are glad that you are with us this morning! We hope you feel welcome. Please let us know if we can help you in any way. Our Worship Service lasts for about 75 minutes. We hope you will find the service accessible whether you have spent your whole life in church or are attending for the very first time.

There are a few options for your children. We welcome children of all ages to remain with their parents in worship. We have children's bulletins and Bibles available in the foyer. Room 101 is a dedicated cry room for nursing mothers. Childcare is provided during the entire service for children up to age three. Children ages four and five are given the choice of attending a children's worship time in Room 105; dismissal is before the sermon. We love children here at Trinity. For their safety, please do not leave them unattended in or outside the building.

Additional information is available at our welcome table in the foyer. Please speak with someone at the table if you have questions. You may also complete a contact card (found on the stands in the back) or send an email to visitor@trinityasheville.com.

To connect with our church, please feel free to speak with one of our pastors, greeters, or welcome table attendants. They can give you information on our small group Bible studies and other ministry opportunities. Information may also be found at the welcome table in the foyer or on our website: trinityasheville.com.

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