



TRINITY

P R E S B Y T E R I A N

A S H E V I L L E

December 3, 2023

Welcome to Trinity Presbyterian Church!

(Presbyterian Church in America)

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. Please use this worship bulletin as an aid in following the service. 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. Christian Education classes are available for all ages following the worship service.

Devices for the hearing impaired are available. Please go to the sound booth in the sanctuary if you would like one.

There are a few options for your children. We welcome children of all ages and abilities 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. Children ages two through five are given the choice of attending a children's worship time in Room 104; 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.

The Trinity 'Weekly' is an email that comes out every Thursday evening. It is the central line of communication for our church. To receive the Weekly, please subscribe at the bottom of the church website home page.

To connect with our church, please feel free to speak with our pastor, elders, or greeters. They can give you information on our small group Bible studies and other ministry opportunities. You may also complete a contact card (found on the back page of this bulletin) or send an email to tish@trinityasheville.com. Additional information may also be found at the welcome table in the foyer or on our website: trinityasheville.com.

*Scripture quotations from The Holy Bible,
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GOD CALLS US

** Please stand as you are able.*

* Gathering Song

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Christ Presbyterian Academy Choir & Congregation

Choir

*Wonderful, merciful Savior, precious Redeemer and friend;
who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men?
oh, you rescue the souls of men.*

Choir & Congregation

*(Chorus): You are the One that we praise, you are the One we adore.
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for,
oh, our hearts always hunger for.*

Choir

*Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace;
you offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way.
oh, we hopelessly lost the way.*

Choir & Congregation

Chorus

Choir

*Almighty, infinite Father, faithfully loving your own;
here in our weakness you find us falling before Your throne.
Oh, we're falling before your throne.*

Choir & Congregation

Chorus

Rodgers / Wyse | © 1989 Curb Dayspring Music; Curb Word Music | CCLI Song # 106879

Welcome and Announcements

(See rear pages for more information)

* Call to Worship

Luke 1:30-33

Leader: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

All: He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

Leader: And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

All: Amen! Let us worship our God and King!

* Hymn of Praise

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near,
the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heav'n's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
until the glorious crown be won.

Trinity Hymnal 198 (V. 1, 4, 5, 6) | Based on Psalm 24 / Weissel / *Psalmodia Evangelica* | © Public Domain | CCLI Song # 629899

* Prayer of Invocation & Adoration

GOD CLEANSSES US

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things — our hearts are filled with joy. By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us. But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your grace. Help us to live grateful lives in return. For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Matthew 1:21

Leader: "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

* Hymn of Assurance

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Christ Presbyterian Academy Choir & Congregation

Choir

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.

Choir & Congregation

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high appear;
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
by his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Choir

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Trinity Hymnal 196 | Wesley / Hunt / Pritchard | © Public Domain | CCLI Song # 31999

Pastoral Prayer (concluding with 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering

The offering isn't about our monetary gifts alone, since the Gospel demands a much deeper response: God demands "our all" – every ounce of who we are. This act of 'worship through giving' is a spiritual discipline – and a joy – in offering ourselves as "living sacrifices" to God (Romans 12:1), and giving cheerfully out of our thankfulness to him. (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Online Giving: Text any dollar amount to 84321

Children's Church (ages two through Kindergarten) may dismiss at this time.

Offertory Anthem

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Christ Presbyterian Academy Choir

Of the Father's Love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending, he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Savior of our race,
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

Prudentius / 13th Century Plainsong / arr. Wohlgemuth | © 1973 Hope Publishing Co.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

Please stand for the reading of God's Word.

* Scripture Reading

John 1:1-5

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

John 1:1-5

The Light Shines in the Darkness

Rev. Robert Recio

GOD STRENGTHENS US

Confession of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell.†
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic‡ church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

† “descended into hell” means Jesus Christ literally experiencing God’s wrath

‡ “catholic church” means the universal church

The Apostles’ Creed

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Trinity Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who have made a public profession of faith and are members of any Bible-believing church to participate in the sacrament of the Lords Supper with us.

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

Understanding the Gospel

John 3:16 tells us: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

This passage answers basic questions of who, what, why, when, and how. Please ask any of our church leaders to talk with you about what the Bible says about Jesus.

- God so loved the world...
God loved the world is such a way to rescue people from their sins against Him (John 3:17; II Corinthians 5:21).
- He gave His only begotten Son...
He sent His Son to live among us to show us His love and to pay the penalty for our sins through His death on the cross (Romans 5:8; 6:23).
- That whoever believes in Him...
Believing in Christ means trusting in Him as the One who fully paid for our sins, and turning from our sins (including trusting in ourselves). It means receiving His free gift of salvation and full forgiveness, and trusting His Lordship in our lives (John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-10; I John 5:11,12).
- Shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

Through faith in Jesus, we have eternal life and a family relationship with God as our Father. Because we trust Jesus as the One who died for our sins, we are rescued from God's judgment and have new life in His name (John 5:24; John 10:10; John 11:25,26).

Communion Anthem

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Christ Presbyterian Academy Choir

I heard the bells on Christmas Day, their old familiar carols play,
and wild and sweet their songs repeat of peace on earth, goodwill to men!

And the bells are ringing: Peace on earth, like a choir they're singing;
Peace on earth, in my heart I hear them peace on earth, goodwill to men.

And in despair I bowed my head; "There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth, goodwill to men!"

But the bells are ringing: Peace on earth, like a choir they're singing;
Peace on earth, does anybody hear them? Peace on earth, Goodwill to men.

Then rang the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead; nor does he sleep!
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail with peace on earth, goodwill to men!"

Then ringing, singing on its way, the world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime of peace on earth, goodwill to men!

And the bells are ringing: peace on earth, like a choir they're singing:
Peace on earth, with our hearts we'll hear them peace on earth, goodwill to men.

Do you hear the bells? They're ringing! Peace on earth. Like the angels singing:
Peace on earth. Open up your heart and hear them! Peace on earth, goodwill to men.

Longfellow | Herms | Oliver | Hall | © 2008 BanaHama Tunes; Be Essential Songs; My Refuge Music; Travelin' Zoo Music; Curb Word Music

* Closing Hymn

Immanuel

From the squalor of a borrowed stable, by the Spirit and a virgin's faith,
to the anguish and the shame of scandal, came the Savior of human race.
But the skies were filled with the praise of heav'n. Shepherds listen as the angels tell
of the gift of God come down to man, at the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven now the friend of sinners, humble servant in the Father's hands,
filled with power and the Holy Spirit, filled with mercy for the broken man.
Yes, he walked my road and He felt my pain, joys, and sorrows that I know so well;
yet his righteous steps give me hope again. I will follow my Immanuel.

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal, he was lifted on a cruel cross.
He was punished for a world's transgressions; he was suffering to save the lost.
He fights for breath, He fights for me, loosing sinners from the claims of hell;
and with a shout, our souls are free; death defeated by Immanuel.

Now he's standing in the place of honor, crowned with glory on the highest throne,
interceding for his own beloved 'til his Father calls to bring them home.
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds hope of heaven or the fear of hell.
But the bride will run to her Lover's arms, giving glory to Immanuel.

Townend | © 1999 Thankyou Music | CCLI Song # 2733786

* Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him, above, ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Ken / Bourgeois | © Public Domain | CCLI Song # 25417

GOD SENDS US

* Benediction and Dismissal

The LORD always has the final word in our worship service.
This "bene" (good) "dictos" (word) is always a promise
of His presence and blessing for all those who are in Him.

MISSION FOCUS

David and Danielle Grotton | MTW - Chile

We are back in Chile! We arrived on October 13th and have spent much of the last few weeks unpacking, meeting with key families, and slowly returning to our ministry responsibilities. Thank you for praying for our travels and our transition.

Housing: The owner of our apartment notified us one week prior to our return that he needs to sell the apartment. This was difficult to hear, as we had signed a two-year lease into 2024. We are trying to negotiate with him so that we do not incur any expenses when we move out... Please pray.

CEMIPRE: On October 16th we celebrated 20 years of ministry with an afternoon full of testimonies from participants, parents of our younger participants, university professors who partner with CEMIPRE, employees, and volunteers. Several representatives of local municipalities and churches share with the staff afterwards how much they appreciate the ministry and are actively seeking ways to partner with us. Pray for follow-up!

Trinity Church: The Concon church plant added several families over the six months of our HMA, for which we give thanks to the Lord! Due to over-booking and rising costs, we need to find a new meeting space. Our deacons and elders have identified two properties that would work. Pray for wisdom and productive conversations with the property owners.

Family: Jacob started 7th grade and Elijah began 5th grade in October. David and I (Danielle) are alternating days for teaching, which allows David to be more available during the day for ministry. Danielle is going into CEMIPRE Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, rather than every day. So far, this seems to be a good schedule.

Presbytery Meeting: Tomorrow, November 11, Trinity hosts Presbytery meeting. Elders from all of Chile (one Presbytery for the whole country) will be present, traveling from as many as 13 hours away. Pray for travel mercies, profitable discussions, and clear examinations of candidates for teaching elders.

December 1 – CEMIPRE Board Meeting (elections for 2024-2028)

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, December 3

Worship Service.....9:30AM in Worship Area
Sunday School for Children and Youth 11:00AM in Classrooms
 Twos and Threes (Room 102), Pre-K and K (Room 104), 1st-2nd (Room 105), 3rd (Room 106), 4th-5th (Room 107)
 MS and HS (Modular Room 501)
Sunday School for Adults..... 11:00AM in Classrooms
 The Unfolding Mystery of the Bible (Worship Area)
 Sola Fide (Room **203**)
Christmas Carols and Dessert..... 6:00PM in Worship Area
 Please bring a dessert to share for fellowship in Room 205, following the Carol Sing

WEDNESDAY, December 6

Prayer Meeting 5:45PM in Foyer

THURSDAY, December 7

Band Rehearsal 7:00PM in Worship Area

UPCOMING DATES

December 10 – Quarterly Missions Offering
December 10 – Sunday Night Gathering
December 11 – Session and Diaconate Meetings
December 24 – No Sunday School
December 24 – Family Candlelight Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENERAL

We welcome the **Christ Presbyterian Academy Choir** from Nashville today, under the direction of Mrs. Lynn Jung. We are grateful for their musical contributions to our worship service this morning as part of their Christmas Vocal Tour, which includes the Grove Arcade, the Grove Park Inn, the Biltmore Estate Candlelight Christmas Evening, and the Chatlos Memorial Chapel at the Billy Graham Training Center at the Cove.

Come join us for **Christmas Carols and Dessert** this evening, at 6PM. Bring in the Advent season by singing some of your favorite carols, hearing a few seasonal selections by our vocalists, and enjoying a dessert fellowship together. If you are able, please bring a dessert to share.

During the month of December, the Session is receiving **nominations** for both elder and deacon. Please prayerfully consider this responsibility and privilege. Forms are in the foyer.

WOMEN

Trinity women are invited to participate in the winter **Cove Bible Studies** (morning or evening) beginning January 9. Details are in the women's flyer.

OFFICERS

ELDERS: Zach Ashton, Randy Bartlett, Bill Brown, Conley Brown, Bryson Fleming, Chuck Linkston, Joe Mullen, Brandon Ray, Robert Recio, Stephen Todd

DEACONS: Adam Foss, Harold Frost, Steve Miner, Dale Slusser, Luke Stotz

TRINITY STAFF

Pastor Robert Recio | ext. 303 | robert@trinityasheville.com

Associate Pastor Joe Mullen | on sabbatical

Director of Music Dwight Basham | ext. 301 | dwight@trinityasheville.com

Youth Transition Coordinators Chuck and Jimmie-Lynn Linkston | 828.457.9191

Office Manager & Children's Ministry Assistant Tish Hawks | ext. 305 | tish@trinityasheville.com

Bookkeeper Karen Pick | ext. 302 | karen@trinityasheville.com

MISSIONARIES

SUPPORTED BY TRINITY

Andrew & Becc Baron
Cru – Australia

David & Danielle Grotton
MTW – Chile

Alec and Riley Cotton
RUF – App State

Collin & Zury
West Africa

Paul & Christie Kendall
Helps Ministries

Jamie & Elizabeth Kabernick
Helps Ministries

Jonah
Sensitive area

Joel & Kate Ledbetter
Campus Outreach – Georgia

Chuck & Jimmie Lynn Linkston
Paraclete Mission

Flavien & Inyange
Sensitive area

James & Sharon Royal
YWAM – Australia

Andrew & Trish Shank
RUF – Western Carolina

Dale Slusser
Helps Ministries

Donnie & Kara
West Africa

Steve & Rita Williams
MTW – New Zealand

SUPPORTED ORGANIZATIONS

Asheville Buncombe Com Christian Ministry

Highlands Presbytery

Mountain Area Pregnancy Support Services

Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry

Western Carolina Rescue Ministries

CONTACT CARD

We are thankful to have you with us this morning.

*Please fill out this card if you would like to let us know you were here or if you would like to update your contact information with us. **We ask that you place contact cards in the offering plate or turn them in at the welcome table or church office.***

- I am new to church
- I am new to Trinity
- I am a regular attendee
- Please update my contact info

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss.

Name:

Email:

Spouse:

Spouse email:

Children (names & ages):

Street Address:

City/State/ZIP:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

I would like to receive more info about:

- Learning about Christianity*
- Joining a growth group*
- Becoming a church member*
- Volunteering at Trinity*
- I would like to receive church emails*