



**TRINITY**  
P R E S B Y T E R I A N  
A S H E V I L L E

**December 10, 2023**

# Welcome to Trinity Presbyterian Church!

## (Presbyterian Church in America)

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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](mailto:tish@trinityasheville.com). Additional information may also be found at the welcome table in the foyer or on our website: [trinityasheville.com](http://trinityasheville.com).

*Scripture quotations from The Holy Bible,  
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## GOD CALLS US

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*\* Please stand as you are able.*

\* Gathering Song

*Sing We the Song of Emmanuel*

Sing we the song of Emmanuel,  
this the Christ who was long foretold.  
Lo, in the shadows of Bethlehem,  
promise of dawn now our eyes behold.  
God most high in a manger laid;  
lift your voices and now proclaim:  
great and glorious, love has come to us;  
join now with the hosts of heaven.

Come we to welcome Emmanuel,  
King who came with no crown or throne.  
Helpless he lay, the invincible,  
Maker of Mary, now Mary's son.  
Oh, what wisdom to save us all,  
shepherds, sages, before him fall.  
Grace and majesty, what humility;  
come on bended knee, adore him.

Go spread the news of Emmanuel,  
joy and peace for the weary heart.  
Lift up your heads, for your King has come.  
Sing, for the light overwhelms the dark.  
Glory shining for all to see,  
hope alive, let the gospel ring.  
God has made a way, he will have the praise;  
tell the world his name is Jesus.

Papa | Townend | Boswell | © 2015 Getty Music Publishing | CCLI Song # 7078042

Welcome and Announcements

(See rear pages for more information)

\* Call to Worship

Psalm 148

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts! Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

**All: Let them praise the name of the LORD!**

Leader: For he commanded and they were created. And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away. Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

**All: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.**

Leader: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him.

**All: Praise the LORD!**

\* Hymn of Praise

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*(Refrain)*

*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light: *(Refrain)*

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: *(Refrain)*

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;  
evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One: *(Refrain)*

\* Prayer of Invocation & Adoration

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## GOD CLEANSSES US

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### Unison Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you have remembered your covenant mercy to us through Jesus. You came to redeem us from all our sins and to set us free to serve you all our days. But instead, we have chosen our own way, followed our own paths, walked according to our own counsel. Forgive us, O God. Do not cast us away, but rather remember the mercy that you promised to our fathers and to us. Grant us grace to rest in your promises and to live out of obedient gratitude before you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### Silent Confession

#### Assurance of Pardon

2 Corinthians 1:19-20

Leader: For the Son of God, Jesus, whom we proclaimed among you...was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.

#### \* Hymn of Assurance

*What Child Is This?*

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:  
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

- 1 Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.
- 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her  
that her hard service has been completed,  
that her sin has been paid for,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.
- 3 A voice of one calling:  
"In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the LORD;  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.
- 4 Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.
- 5 And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.  
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
- 6 A voice says, "Cry out."  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
- "All people are like grass,  
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.
- 7 The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.  
Surely the people are grass.
- 8 The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures forever."

## 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.***

## Hymn of Preparation

## *Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor*

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
all for love's sake becamest poor;  
thrones for a manger didst surrender,  
sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
all for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
all for love's sake becamest man;  
stooping so low, but sinners raising,  
heav'n-ward by thine eternal plan.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
all for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Savior and King, we worship thee.  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,  
make us what thou wouldst have us be.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Savior and King, we worship thee.

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## GOD SPEAKS TO US

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*Please stand for the reading of God's Word.*

\* Scripture Reading

John 1:9-13

<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Minister:     The Word of the Lord.

**ALL:**        **Thanks be to God!**



# **Sermon Notes**

John 1:9-13

*The True Light Has Come*

Rev. Robert Recio

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## GOD STRENGTHENS US

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### Confession of Faith

### The Nicene Creed \*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen!

\* The Nicene Creed is a catholic (universal) creed confessed by Christians throughout the world. The creed was first formulated at the council of Nicea in 325 AD, and then finalized at the council of Constantinople in 381. This creed contains the fundamental beliefs of Christianity, and we confess it together as an act of worship.

# 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).

## \* Closing Hymn

## *Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King.  
He, the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.  
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come!  
Look to Christ who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery: he the perfect Son of Man,  
in his living, in his suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.  
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man,  
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law; in him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery: Christ the Lord upon the tree.  
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory!  
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold,  
bringing many sons to glory: grace unmeasured, love untold!

Come behold the wondrous mystery: slain by death, the God of life.  
But no grave could e'er restrain Him; praise the Lord, he is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliv'rance, how unwavering our hope.  
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes.

What a foretaste of deliv'rance, how unwavering our hope.  
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes.

Boswell | Papa | Bleecker | © 2013 Getty Music Publishing, McKinney Music Inc., Love Your Enemies Publishing | CCLI Song # 7026028

## \* 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

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## **GOD SENDS US**

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## \* 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

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# THIS WEEK

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## **SUNDAY, December 10**

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), 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> (Room 105), 3<sup>rd</sup> (Room 106), 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> (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)  
Sunday Night Gathering..... 5:00PM in Room 205  
    Please RSVP for pizza!

## **MONDAY, December 11**

Session and Diaconate Meetings ..... 6:00PM in Room 205

## **WEDNESDAY, December 13**

Prayer Meeting ..... 5:45PM in Foyer

## **THURSDAY, December 14**

Band Rehearsal ..... 7:00PM in Worship Area

## **UPCOMING DATES**

December 24 – Worship regular time; No Sunday School  
December 24 – Family Candlelight Service (5PM)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **GENERAL**

This morning the Session is collecting our **Quarterly Missions Free Will Offering**. We ask that the Trinity flock consider this offering above and beyond our regular giving. This offering will help supply the financial shortfall many of our missionaries have experienced. May God use these gifts to supply the needs of his church and bring him glory! Thank you.

**Sunday Night Gathering:** this evening we will gather for pizza and salad, adult sermon discussion, youth group, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade/under group. Please RSVP (we need to know family name and number of pizza slices) if you are coming to our only December meeting!

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.

Thank you for the yummy desserts last Sunday evening; please pick up your dishes.

## **WOMEN**

Trinity women are invited to participate in the winter **Cove Bible Studies** on Tuesdays, January 9 – February 20:

9:30-11:30AM. *Knowing Jesus More Intimately through His Names*, taught by Patty Stump, and  
6:30-8:30PM. *Embracing Your God Given Purpose*, taught by Kendra Graham.

Please register: [www.thecove.org](http://www.thecove.org) or 771-4800.

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## **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

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## **TRINITY STAFF**

**Pastor** Robert Recio | ext. 303 | [robert@trinityasheville.com](mailto:robert@trinityasheville.com)

**Associate Pastor** Joe Mullen | on sabbatical

**Director of Music** Dwight Basham | ext. 301 | [dwight@trinityasheville.com](mailto: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](mailto:tish@trinityasheville.com)

**Bookkeeper** Karen Pick | ext. 302 | [karen@trinityasheville.com](mailto: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*