

January 4, 2026 ~ 10:30 a.m.

**Welcome to Worship
Epiphany Sunday
Communion**



They followed the star

Trinity Presbyterian Church
420 Melrose Avenue, Santa Cruz, California 95062
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(831) 423-8995

Prelude and Procession *Coventry Carol*
Composer unknown

Nicki Kerns

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Diane Ford

Preparation for Worship

Epiphany is the season of revelation—not of what is broken, but of what is good. In Epiphany, God’s grace appears where we did not expect it, like a star in the night or gifts offered by strangers. Today we remember moments when goodness surprised us—and we gather at Christ’s table, where abundance is given again.

Introit

Surely the Presence

Choir

Call to Worship (*responsive*)

Michael Christie

God has revealed light in the darkness.

We come to see what God has made known.

There are moments that expose what is broken in the world.

And moments that reveal what is good.

In this season of Epiphany, God surprises us with grace.

We gather, ready to receive the gift already given.

Come, let us worship the God who is revealed among us.

We come, drawn by light and love.

***Hymn PH #66**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Call to Prayer of Forgiveness and Healing

Diane

Before we enter a prayer for healing and forgiveness, I invite you to take a quiet moment to remember:

a time when goodness appeared unexpectedly,

when kindness came from an unlikely place,

when grace arrived before you knew you needed it,

when light surprised you.
That is Epiphany.
(time for silence)

Prayer of Forgiveness and Healing (*unison*)

Michael

God of light, you reveal what is true—not to shame us, but to heal us. We confess that we sometimes miss your goodness, overlook your gifts, or assume scarcity where you offer abundance. Forgive us when we fail to recognize grace, and restore in us the joy of being surprised by your love, through Jesus Christ.

(Time for silent prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsive*)

Michael

The good news of Epiphany is this: God's grace does not wait for our readiness. God's goodness is already revealed. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and invited again into life. **Thanks be to God!**

***Gloria PH #579**

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

"The Peace of Christ be with you." **"And also with you."**

Let us share a sign of that peace with one another.

Children are invited to go to Sunday School after passing the peace.

Prayers of the People - God of Life and Hope, Hear our Prayer

Presbytery's Unity Candle: we pray for the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos, Rev. Dr. David Watermulder, and Rev. Erica Rader.

Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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.

Anthem

By Star and Candlelight
by Kathy Powell and John Dallas

Choir

*O holy light of Jesus, unfold upon our night,
With sparkling love come free us by star and
candlelight.
May stars and candles tremble til lives are manger
bright,
And all our hearts resemble this star and
candlelight.*

*We bow with shepherd reverence as as angel
praise takes flight;
With magi we bring presents by star and
candlelight.
The gold of consecration, the incense of delight,
The myrrh of consolation by star and candlelight.*

*Across the nighttime meadows you guide us
faithfully,
Til in the stable's shadows we worship reverently,
May no one shrink or stumble to see this wondrous
sight:
The Infant, poor and humble, in star and
candlelight.*

*O candlelight and starlight, bring all who lost their
way
The ill, the hurting, lonely, into your endless day.
No more to wilt or wander, nor walk in doubt or
fright,
In Bethlehem come ponder by star and candlelight.*

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

Michael

God of revelation, you speak in light and truth. Open our hearts to recognize your presence and receive the goodness you reveal, through Christ, our light. Amen.

Readings

Matthew 2:1-12

Michael

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.””

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and

myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Diane Ford

Call to Offering

Offertory

Wise Men Seeking Jesus
By Franklin Ritter

Nicki

***Doxology PH #591**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith** *A Brief Statement of Faith, section 11.4*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit

everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,

**sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

The same Spirit

**who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

The outer ring is wine; the inner rings are grape juice ~ Gluten-free bread is made available.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

***Blessing and Charge**

***Amen**

Choir

*Postlude

We Three Kings

Nicki

by John Henry Hopkins, Jr., and Miles Davis, arr. Kerns

*We invite all to stand in body or in spirit.

PH - Presbyterian Hymnal; GH - Gather Hymnal;

GTG - Glory to God Hymnal

Special Thanks to Our “Sunday Saints”

Pastor: Rev. Diane Ford

Music Director: Nicki Kerns

Lector: Michael Christie

Usher: Pete Halper

Audio/Video/Zoom Techs, Sejin Oh and Ellen Bauerle

Announcements

Welcome to Trinity Presbyterian Church Are you new today? We look forward to getting to know you. Please fill out a visitor welcome card and place it in the offering plate during the Call to Offering. After worship, join us for coffee/refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. We're glad you're here!



Pastor Diane's Schedule in January. Diane is on vacation and returns Saturday, January 3, just in time to celebrate Epiphany and Communion on January 4. Diane then goes to New Jersey, January 7-12 to attend the celebration of the merger of her previous congregation with First Presbyterian Church, Matawan. Laura Hamby will be preaching at Trinity on January 11. In the case of a pastoral emergency, please get in touch with our Moderator of Deacons, Kim Johnston, or our Clerk of Session, Ellen Bauerle. They will contact a pastor who is on call when Diane is away.

The 2026 Per Capita assessment for Trinity is due to the Presbytery on February 6. The total amount per person is \$45.50. If you would like to contribute to Trinity's payment, please note "Per Capita" in the memo of your check. Thank you!

Please continue to remember these people and situations in your prayers.

- Congregation and staff at San Jose Trinity Church: blessings on their ministries, particularly their collaborative ministry with the Indonesian Christian Church.
- Marta Narus: dealing with back issues.
- The Thormanns: joyously anticipating the arrival of their first great granddaughter.



Trinity Presbyterian Church
CHRIST-CENTERED and MISSION-DRIVEN:

An OPEN AND AFFIRMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH
trinitypressc.org (831) 423-8995 Facebook Instagram

Office Hours: Tuesday -Thursday 10:00 - 2:00 ❖ Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.