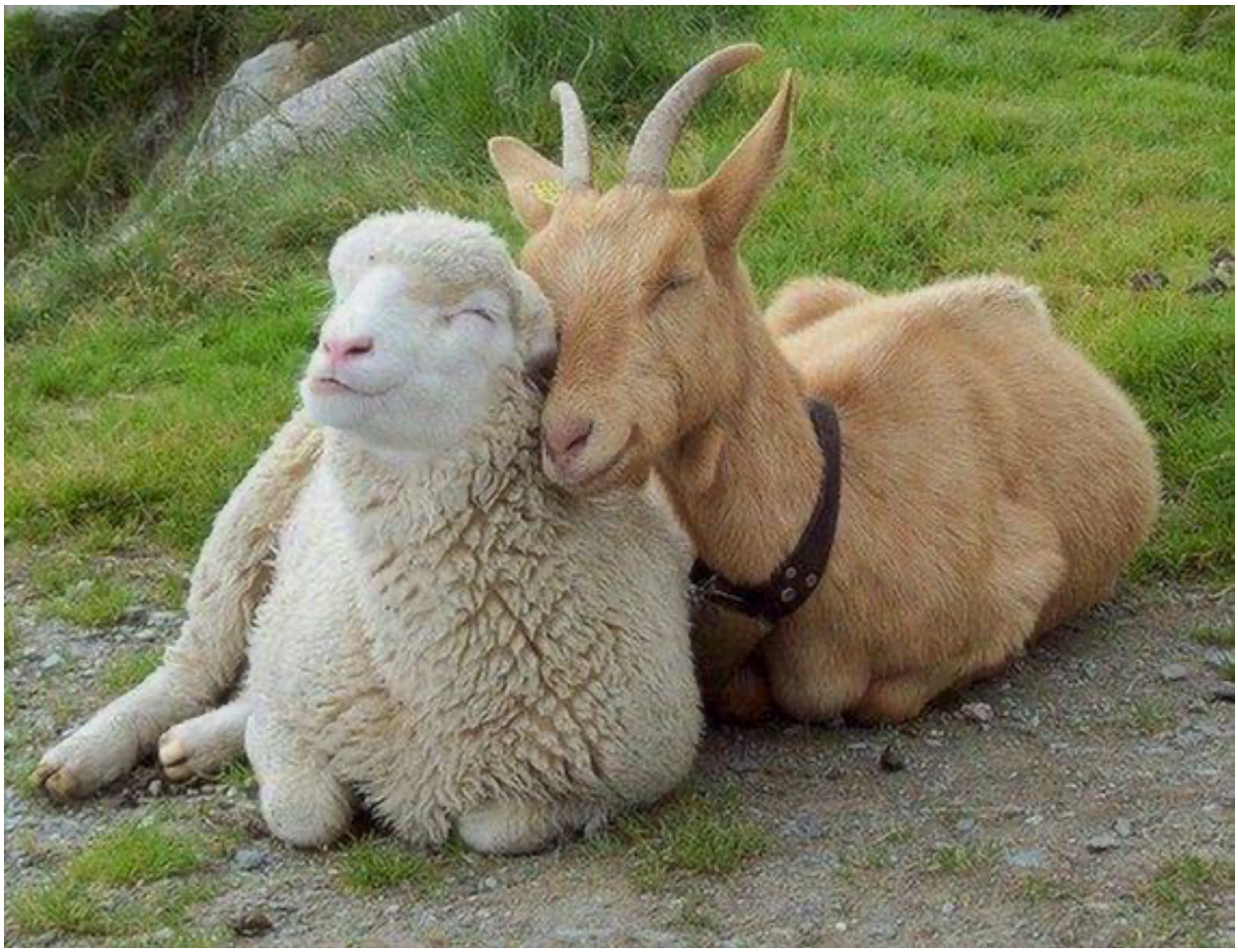
November 22, 2026 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Worship



How to Tell the Difference Between Sheep and Goats: It Mattered a Great Deal to Edwards – Pelton on Preaching

Trinity Presbyterian Church
420 Melrose Avenue, Santa Cruz, California 95062
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Prelude *We Gather Together,* by Joel Raney Nicki Kerns

Procession

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Karla Kress

Introit *Surely the Presence* Choir

Call to Worship (*responsively*)based on Ps. 100 Debbie Bates

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness!
Come into God's presence with singing!
Know this! The Lord is God!
We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.
So, enter God's gates with thanksgiving,
and come into the sanctuary with praise.
Let us give thanks to God and bless God's holy name.
For the Lord is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever!
God's faithfulness is for all generations!
Come, let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn** PH #387 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Prayer for Forgiveness, Healing, and Reconciliation *(responsively)* Debbie

In the lives of neighbors who suffer brokenness and pain:
We confess that you are still speaking!
In the struggle of the poor whose rights are not honored:
We confess that you are still speaking!
In a world crying out for wisdom, love and mercy:
We confess that you are still speaking!

In a world calling for the blessing of truth:
We confess that you are still speaking! Bless us to receive!
Let us confess together:
We let ourselves get so busy that we forget the cause of the poor and suffering. We confess we allow the powers of this world to seduce us into selfishness and silence our witness. Teach us to champion the cause of justice for all; strengthen us to love our neighbor and speak truth no matter the penalty. Amen.

Time for silent prayer

Words of Grace and Renewal *(responsively)* Debbie

The Word of God assures us that we are able to love through the Spirit of Christ, whose grace forgives and empowers us to love our neighbors near and far, to speak up for those who are broken. Beloved, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

***Gloria** *Clapping Gloria*

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

***Passing the Peace of Christ** Karla

"The Peace of Christ be with you all." **"And also with you."**
Let us share a sign of that peace with one another.

Prayers of the People

Presbytery's Unity Candle: We pray for St. Phillips Presbyterian Church, Salinas.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer (*unison*) Karla

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 *A Song of Thanksgiving*, by Sue Farrar Choir

Prayer for Ears that Hear Karla

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh upon your people gathered here today. Allow the fullness of your power, your majesty, your authority and your righteousness to fill this moment. Stir something up in us. Shake us from our reverie. Convict us of the truth we need to hear. And if we have asked you for too little, we pray you do something beyond what we can ever ask or even imagine. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Debbie

For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but

the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the Lord have spoken.

Second Reading: Matthew 25:31-46 Karla

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will

reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.

One: The Word of God for the People of God.
All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Good Goats Rev. Karla Kress

Hymn PH #343 *Called as Partners in Christ’s Service*

Offering Our Lives to God Debbie

God invites us to respond to the grace and providence we have received by returning a portion of what we have been given to the church. So, whether we have much to give or much to receive, let us joyfully celebrate this offering.

Offertory *Album Leaf*, by Gordon Young 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.

***Prayer of Dedication** *(unison)*

Almighty God, all that we have comes from you, and we give you but your own. Bless now these gifts, that the reign of Christ may become manifest in the uplift of the poor, seeking out the lost and lonely, restoring dignity to those whom the world has dehumanized, so that the fullness of Christ's glory may be revealed in the life and ministry of your church. Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ we pray. Amen.

***Hymn** PH #540 *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

***Blessing and Charge** Karla

***Amen** Choir

Postlude *Doxology*, by Wendy Stevens Nicki

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

PH - Presbyterian Hymnal; GH – Gather Hymnal; GtG - Glory to God

Special Thanks to Our "Sunday Saints"

Guest Pastor: The Rev. Karla Kress
Music Director: Nicki Kerns
Lector: Debbie Bates
Usher: Pete Halper
Coffee Hour: Larry and Loraine Vilardo
Greeters: Elizabeth and George Bunch
Flowers: Karen Wichelmann
Audio/Video/Zoom Techs: Chad Bell, Chuck Cobery, Rosie Bell

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!

Our guest pastor today is Rev. Karla Kress. Karla is a leader of Santa Cruz al Salvador, former chaplain at Santa Cruz County Jail, and former pastor of Trinity.

While Pastor Diane is in El Salvador if there is an emergency that calls for a pastor, Clerk of Session Ellen Bauerle, or Deacon, Marta Narus will contact the pastor on call.

Session news ⚡. Session has approved the creation of a "Fellowship Team" to assist staff and officers of our church with various duties and tasks. If you would be interested in joining in that effort, please speak with Pastor Diane or Ron Weaver.

Advent Evening Potlucks and Conversations. Mark your calendars for **Thursday Evenings**, **December 3, 10, and 17** in Trinity's Fireside Room. This annual time of fellowship, food, and conversation is a beloved tradition. If you have not yet attended, we hope you will this year.

6pm Fellowship, wine and appetizers.

6:30 Potluck dinner begins

7:15 Conversations around this year's Advent theme: *The People Who Welcomed Christmas.* We end at around 8:15 p.m.

On Sunday mornings, **you can RSVP,** choose what to bring for the potluck, and whether or not you can assist in setting up the room. Come to one or more of these evenings and invite someone new!

Let's once again decorate our sanctuary with **poinsettias** for the Advent and Christmas season! Honor and remember loved-ones, or simply send a holiday greeting to our church family. Complete the inserted form, attach a check or cash for $15 for each plant, and place in the Sunday plate or mail to the office. Please respond by Sunday, December 6.

Please join us on **Sunday, December 13 at 10:30 AM for our annual Christmas Cantata**. Our choir will be joined by guest singers and a brass quintet to put on the cantata *Sing Christmas!* by Joel Raney and Mary McDonald. There is even an opportunity for the congregation to sing along with us on some familiar and beloved carols. Bring your friends, bring your family, and prepare to be inspired.

For people who are struggling with the holidays: Our "**Longest Night Service**" will take place **December 21, at 7 p.m.** Safe space, breath work, gentle chair yoga, readings, candles, and prayers. Refreshments afterwards.

Our **Christmas Eve Service** will take place at 5:30 pm. All are welcome!

To schedule a visit with Pastor Diane, please email her directly at TrinitySCPastorDiane@gmail.com.

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

- Jerry: prayers for the 8 new people who have joined us today for worship
- Dan: prayers for Vickie who is on the road to recovery and pray it will continue. Also, a prayer of thanksgiving for our wonderful symphony and an outstanding concert last night
- Pete: Prayers for Patty Lawton who took a bad fall and is in the hospital
- Nancy: travel mercies for the group of folks heading for El Salvador
- Larry: Presbytery's Unity Candle is at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Salinas, the Rev. Andy Rausch. Prayers for their church.
- Yesenia: pray for work, and a home, and for the Hernandez family.
- Fernanda: Pray for a job for my parents, and a home.

Since 1938, as a congregation in the Presbyterian Church, USA, Trinity has carried on a ministry of worship and service in the Santa Cruz community and has extended itself into the world through participation in regional, national, and international mission programs. You are warmly invited to join us in the challenge of Christian faith and ministry. Should you have questions about church activities, pastoral services or membership at Trinity, please speak with the Pastor.

Trinity Presbyterian Church Supports

Presbyterian Missionaries in Congo, Indonesia, and on the Mexico/US border ◆ Shower the People ◆ Association of Faith Communities ◆ Urban Works ◆ Welcoming Network ◆ Hospice of S.C. County ◆ Rebele Family Shelter ◆ Habitat For Humanity ◆ Friends Outside ◆ Immanuel House ◆ Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. General Mission ◆ Sweet Pea Project ◆ Alcoholics Anonymous ◆ Santa Cruz al Salvador ◆ Santa Cruz Pride Parade ◆ Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)◆ Scout Troop #604 ◆ Scout Troop #618

Session Elders

Class of 2027	**Class of 2028**
Chad Bell (2nd T)	Michael Christie (2nd T)
Chuck Cobery	Ron Weaver
Mayre Vincent	

Deacons

Class of 2026	**Class of 2027**	**Class of 2028**
Nancy Cobery	Barbara Christie	Gigi Giannini
Kim Johnston	Peter Halper (2nd T)	
	Marta Narus	

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Diane Ford — Music Director: Nicki Kerns
Office Admin: Nicole Donovan — Custodian: Hortencia Martinez

Committee Leads

Clerk of Session, Ellen
Admin/Finance, Chad
Mission, Chuck
Nominating, Ron
Treasurer: Sandy Thormann
Outreach, Larry
Personnel, Lee
Worship & Christian Education (WCE), Ellen and Michael

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