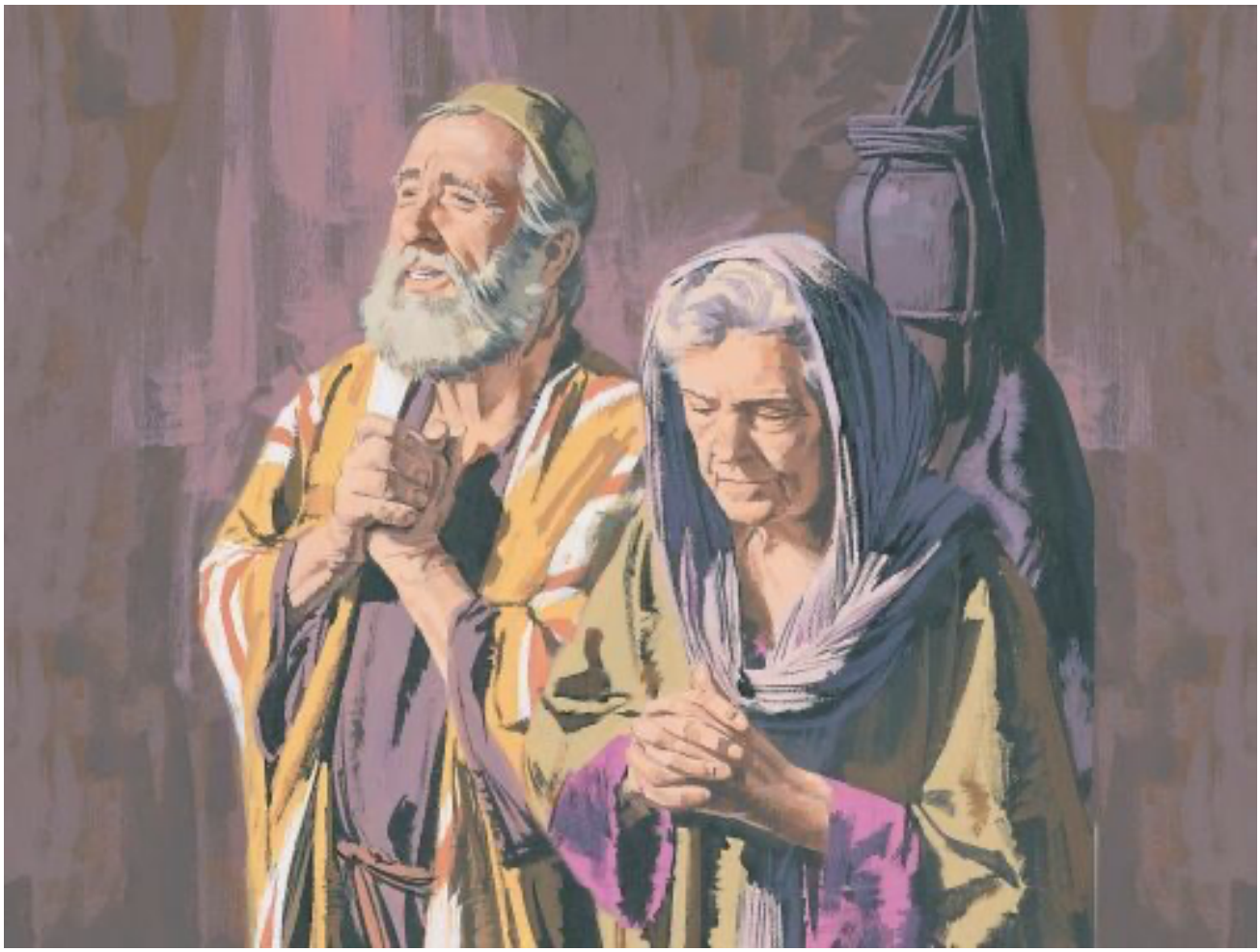
November 29, 2026 ~ 10:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent: Hope

Welcome to Worship



Zechariah and Elizabeth

Trinity Presbyterian Church
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(831) 423-8995

Prelude and Procession Nicki Kerns

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, by Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Diane Ford

Introit *While We Are Waiting, Come* Choir

Lighting the Advent Candles *(responsively)* Marta Narus
Caroline Chambers, Marta's Daughter
Emma Chambers, Marta's Granddaughter

Today we begin our journey through Advent, a season of waiting and expectation. We remember Zechariah and Elizabeth, who waited a long time for something they thought might never happen. Their story reminds us that hope can live even when the future is uncertain.
(*Pause to light candles*)

As we light the first Advent candle, we remember the hope of Zechariah and Elizabeth, and we hold onto the promises of God.
We wait in hope, trusting that God is still at work among us.

Song *Light an Advent Candle*, by Becky Slagle Mayo
Advent is a time of hope, of waiting for the light
To lead us to the promised One to break the dark of night.
Light a candle, our Messiah will come,
Light a candle, for the Promised One.

Prayer for Forgiveness, Healing, and Reconciliation *(unison)*Jerry Thormann
God of Hope, sometimes we lose sight of your goodness. We become discouraged by the changes and disappointments of life, and forget to notice the wonder of being alive in your creation. Forgive us when fear closes us off to possibility, when despair overshadows hope, and when we fail to see your presence among us. Open our hearts again. Heal what is wounded, reconcile what is divided, and help us live with gratitude, wonder, and hope. *Time for silent prayer*

Words of Grace and Renewal (*responsively*) Jerry

Hear the good news: God is faithful, even when hope feels distant. God's love meets us in our disappointments, heals what is wounded, and opens possibilities we may not yet see. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***Gloria PH #23** *refrain only*

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo

***Passing the Peace of Christ** Diane

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

Message for the Children Diane

(Children are invited to go to Sunday School after the Message)

Prayers of the People

Presbytery's Unity Candle: We pray for Lincoln Avenue Presbyterian Church, Salinas, and Rev. Jason Barraca.

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

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 *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*, by David Lantz III Choir

The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks;
When beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.
Not as of old, a little child, to bear and fight, and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.

The King shall come when morning dawns and earth's dark night is past;
O haste the rising of that morn, the day that e'er shall last.
Then let the endless bliss begin, by weary saints foretold,
When right shall triumph over wrong, and truth shall be extolled.

The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings;
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray, come quickly, King of kings.
Come quickly, King of kings.

Prayer for Ears that Hear Diane

God of hope, as we wait for the coming of Christ, open our ears to hear your promises. In the voices of prophets, in the stories of those who waited before us, and in the cries of a world longing for peace, help us recognize your presence. Keep us attentive to the signs of your coming and awake to the hope you are bringing into the world. Amen.

Reading: Luke 1:5–20, 24–25 (Adapted) Jerry

During the reign of King Herod, there lived a priest named Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth. Both were faithful people who lived according to God's commandments. They had no children, and they were both getting on in years.

One day, while Zechariah was serving in the temple, an angel of the Lord appeared to him. Zechariah was startled and afraid.

But the angel said, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. He will bring you joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth."

Zechariah asked, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years."

The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to bring you this good news. But because you did not believe my words, you will be unable to speak until these things take place."

When Zechariah returned home, Elizabeth became pregnant. She remained in seclusion for five months, saying, "This is what the Lord has done for me. God has looked favorably upon me."

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

Sermon Rev. Diane Ford

Offertory *Romanza* – Beethoven/Scott 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)* Diane

God of hope, receive these gifts and our lives. May they reflect our gratitude for the gift of creation, our love for one another, and our wonder at the life you have given us. As we make room for your presence in our hearts and lives, fill and use us to share your hope with the world. We pray in the name of Christ Jesus, Emmanuel. Amen.

***Hymn** GtG #105 *People Look East*, verses 1, 2, 4
(*please see insert*)

***Blessing and Charge** Diane

***Amen** Choir

Postlude *Soon and Very Soon*, by Andrae Crouch 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"

Pastor: The Rev. Diane Ford
Music Director: Nicki Kerns
Lector: Jerry Thormann
Flowers: Marta Narus
Greeter & Coffee Hour: Pete Halper
Advent Candle Lighters: Marta Narus, Caroline and Emma Chambers
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!

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!

Poinsettias. 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 Today!

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.

Trinity Staff Christmas Gift. Our tradition is to thank church staff with a monetary gift at Christmas. Deacons are accepting these donations through December 13. Please make your check payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church, write Staff Gift in the memo line, and place in the offering plate. Your generosity is appreciated

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!

The Board of Deacons relies on the generosity of members and friends of the congregation to provide financial support for their endeavors. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Please use the envelopes in the pews to designate your contribution to the work of the Deacons. Thank you!

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

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

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