

December 14, 2025 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Worship

Cantata Sunday

The Third Sunday in Advent



Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice! (Phil. 4:4)

Trinity Presbyterian Church

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Prelude and Procession *Lo How a Rose E're Blooming*
Michael Praetorius, arr. unknown

Brass Quintet

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Diane Ford

Preparation for Worship

As we enter this space, we remember that joy is not simply a feeling—it is a practice, a quiet *resilience* that steadies us when life presses in and narrows the spirit. Like leaning toward light on a dim morning, joy invites us to open our hearts, to breathe deeply, and to trust that God is still shaping goodness among us. May this time of worship kindle that steady, joyful flame within us.

Introit

Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh

Choir

Call to Worship (*responsive*)

Russ Hobbs

Rejoice in God, all you who gather in hope— not because life is simple, but because God meets us in the depths and lifts us toward light.

We come leaning toward the joy God awakens in us.

When the world presses in and our spirits feel narrow,
God widens our hearts with grace.

We come to be renewed, strengthened, and restored.

Let us worship the One who kindles a steady, joyful flame within us.

Thanks be to God!

***Hymn** PH #28

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Lighting the Advent Candle (*responsive*) Ed, Paul, Erin, and Quinn Sams

On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit the first candle, **for Hope**.
Last week we lit the second candle, **for Peace**.

“Why do we light the third candle?”

We light the third candle for Joy.

We light a pink candle to remind us that God gives us joy—a joy that helps our hearts feel bright, even on days that feel cloudy or hard. God’s joy is like a warm light inside us, showing us that goodness is still growing in the world. As this flame grows, may God’s joy grow in us and shine through our life together.

Come, O Christ, our Joy and our Light.

Candlelighting Song *Light an Advent Candle* – 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.*

*Advent is a time of peace, the ancient prophets tell,
A King will be born in Bethlehem, our Lord, Emmanuel.
Light a candle, our Messiah will come.
Light a candle for the promised One.*

*Advent is a time of joy, of looking for the star,
As the wise men long ago followed from afar.
Light a candle, our Messiah will come.
Light a candle for the promised One.*

Call to Prayer of Forgiveness and Healing

Russ

We come to God just as we are—carrying what’s been hard, what we wish were different, and what needs healing. We bring our regrets and our hopes. God meets us with kindness.

Prayer of Forgiveness and Healing (*responsive*)

Russ

Holy One, you know the ways we lose our footing—when worry tightens our hearts, when impatience shapes our words, when we turn inward instead of toward you and one another.

Forgive and lead us. Light your joy within us again. Loosen what is tangled, lift what feels too heavy, and remind us that your grace is always moving toward us.

Make room in us for hope, for peace, and for the quiet strength of joy.

(Time for silent prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness and New Life (responsive) Russ

Hear this good news: God's mercy rises like light at dawn, touching every shadow with tenderness. In Christ, we are forgiven—lifted, renewed, and invited to walk in the quiet strength of joy.

Thanks be to God!

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

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

“The Peace of Christ be with you.” **“And also with you.”**

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

Presbytery's Unity Candle: we pray for Westminster Presbyterian Church, San Jose. Rev. Bryan Franzen.

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.

Moment for Mission

Lee Duffus

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

Russ

Spirit of the Living God, open our minds and hearts to your word. Let your light deepen our understanding and guide us in the way of grace and truth. Amen.

Readings

Isaiah 35, selected verses (NIV)

Russ

The desert and the parched land will be glad, and the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come to save you." Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer and the mute tongue will shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, and the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called The Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Cantata

The Seven Joys of Christmas, arr. Kirke Meche

Choir

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|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The Joy of Love | 5. The Joy of New Year |
| 2. The Joy of Bells | 6. The Joy of Dance |
| 3. The Joy of Mary | 7. The Joy of Song |
| 4. The Joy of Children | |

Call to Offering

Diane

Offertory

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Brass Quintet

John Mason Neale & Henry Sloane Coffin, arr. Aaron Weitekamp

*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

Gracious God, receive what we offer—our gifts, our time, our care, and our gratitude. Use these offerings to strengthen the work of compassion and hope in this congregation and in the world you love. Shape us into people who reflect your light in all we say and do. Amen.

Congregational Singalong of Carols

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.

O come let us adore Him, o come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.

Glory to God in the highest.

O come let us adore Him, o come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

I saw three ships

come sailing in on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,

I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice, Amain, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,

Then let us all rejoice, Amain, on Christmas Day in the morning.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Special Thanks to Our “Sunday Saints”

Pastor: Rev. Diane Ford

Music Director: Nicki Kerns

Lector: Russ Hobbs

Greeters: Tim and Mayre Vincent

Usher: Pete Halper

Coffee Hour: Nancy Cobery

Lighting of the Candles: Ed, Paul, Erin, and Quinn Sams

Guest Musicians: Elizabeth Bunch, Piano; Mark Joiner, Trumpet; Charlie McDowell, Trombone; Leonard Moore, Trumpet; Scott Wilkinson, Tuba; Ken Weisner, French Horn

Audio/Video/Zoom Techs: Sejin Oh and Ellen Baurle

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!



Upcoming Events at Trinity

- **Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for cake and coffee after today's service** to honor Bob Scott as he retires from being Trinity's CFO for 30 years!
- **Advent Thursday Evening Dec. 18.** We gather at 5:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. A potluck dinner follows at 6:00 p.m. **Conversations follow dinner:** "Watching, Listening, Responding." Week 3 (12/18): Responding with Joy and Courage. Scripture: Matthew 2:1–12 (the Magi follow the star). Theme: Discerning how to act on what we've heard.
- **Christmas Joy Offering.** We are collecting Trinity's contributions to this special offering over the next two weeks. Please mail your check or use the envelopes provided at church to drop in the offering plates. **Thank you** for joining the thousands of congregations and special ministries of the PCUSA in this support of students of color, and church workers in need.
- **Trinity Staff Christmas Gifts.** Our tradition is to thank church staff with a monetary gift at Christmas. Deacons are accepting these donations today! Please take an envelope from the pews. Your generosity is appreciated!

- **December 21: Longest Night: Service of Hope 5:30 pm in the Fireside Room.** Struggling with the Holidays? Not everyone feels merry in December. Pastor Diane and Yoga Instructor Marcee Meinhardt lead this service designed especially for those carrying sadness, loss, or weariness during the holidays. The service will include candlelight, music, somatic breath work, readings, and prayer. We'll honor the darkness and remember that light still finds us. Come as you are; all are welcome.
- **December 24: Our Christmas Eve Service** will take place at 5:30 pm.

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

- Regina: patience and discernment as she continues in her job search.
- Sandy Thormann: thankful for opportunity to be with many members of her extended family.
- Peace: in so many areas of armed conflict.
- Fred Tomlinson: in declining health.
- Santa Cruz al Salvador delegation: gratitude for their recent visit with people in Guillermo Ungo and El Pilar; thankfulness for bringing fresh water directly into 100 homes.
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day: recognition of Richard Zakarian and others who served in the Pacific Theater during World War II.



The Christmas Poinsettias are Dedicated by...

Michael & Barbara Christie in memory of Betsy Williams & Bob Williams

Eschen-Pipes Family in Memory of Charles, Martha, & Bette Pipes, Cindy P. Arnst, and Jim and Mollie Eschen

Kim Johnston in memory of the Johnston Family

Jeff & Patti Lawton in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Earl Lawon, and Robert & Ann Ferguson

Dan & Vickie Rutan in memory of Bill & Joey Bear, and Mary Jane Rutan

Sandra Thormann in memory of Jerry & Martha Thormann, Irene & Peter Wilt, and Sharon Weld

Larry & Lorraine Vilardo in honor of Great Grandson, Wells Dawon

Karen Wichelmann in memory of Tom Wichelmann, and in honor of the Sebeldina Family

Richard & Roberta Zakarian in memory of Jerry Lambert



Trinity Presbyterian Church
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trinitypressc.org (831) 423-8995 Facebook Instagram
Office Hours: Tuesday -Thursday 10:00 - 2:00 ❖ Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.