

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22nd, 2024 ~ 10:30 a.m.



Trinity Presbyterian Church
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Gathering Music and Processional

Nicki Kerns

Prelude

O Little Town of Bethlehem

The Presbyterians

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation for Worship

The fourth Sunday of Advent has arrived. We have listened for the deep message behind the angel's short phrase, "Fear not." What would you do, and who would you be, if you were not afraid? Courage is not up by the will: it comes from the practice of being still in the presence of God. Friends, receive the good news: the Kingdom of God is within us, and we are invited without condition to live and participate in it. Like the shepherds visited by a host of angels, we are invited, no matter our status or strength, to come to behold what God has done at the birth of Christ Jesus. Come and worship the newborn king!

Introit

Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh

Nicki Kerns

Call to Worship (responsive)

Lord, we are ready and waiting!

The tree might not be perfect, the gifts may not be wrapped,

The house is still a mess, but Lord, we are ready!

The earth cries out for a savior, and we are waiting for love to be born.

All is not calm, all is not bright...

We are so ready for love to live among us in the flesh.

***Hymn of Praise: PH #22 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* vs. 1, 2, 4**

Children's Message

Children are invited to remain with us for the Lighting of the Advent Candles, and then go to Sunday School.

Lighting the Advent Candles

Isaiah 63:7-9, NIV

Readers TBA

Calling All Angels, p. 131

I will tell of the kindness of the Lord, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us — yes, the many good things he has done for Israel, according to his compassion and

kindness. He said, “Surely they are my people, children who will be true to me”; and so he became their Savior. In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Today we light the candle of love. God created the world, and God so loved the world that he didn’t want to love it from far off anymore. It was love that made us and love that brought God to live with us, live and in person. Love still lights the way.

Let us pray: Dear God, are we doing this right? Sometimes we aren’t sure. We think that we are ready for the baby to be born who will lead us in love. Show us how to love our neighbors while we wait. As we welcome the baby Jesus to the world, teach us how to also be like him. Let the light of your love live in us for all to see. Amen.

***Hymn:** *Light an Advent Candle*, Becki Slagle Mayo Nicki Kerns

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.

Advent is a time of love, as we await Christ’s birth,

The Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, will bring God’s love to earth.

Light a candle, light a candle of hope.

Light a candle, light a candle of peace.

*Light a candle, light a candle of joy.
Light a candle, light a candle of love.
Light a candle, our Messiah will come!*

Call to Confession

Hear these words from the prophet Isaiah: But now thus says the Lord who created you, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the water, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flames shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”

Confession (unison)

Prepare us to receive your grace and strength, Holy One. Even amidst the cards, decorations and carols, we search and wait for you. We need your invitation, we need your forgiveness, healing, and leading. You offer us all of this and more. Forgive us for relying on the cheaper versions of hope, peace, joy, and love. Assist us in walking the road with Jesus, as challenging as it is, so we might be what you have called us to be: transformed and transforming, blessed and blessing, born and born again.

Take time to offer silent prayers.

Assurance of Forgiveness

***Gloria #23 (refrain only)** *Angels We Have Heard on High*
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Greet one another with the Peace of Christ
“The Peace of Christ be with you.”
“And also with you.”

Prayers of the People

Before each prayer request, please give your first name. After each, please say, **“God of Life and Hope,”** and all respond, **“Hear our Prayer.”**

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.

Minute for Mission Christmas Joy Offering Lee Duffus

***Hymn of Praise: PH #38** *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* vs. 1,2,3

Anthem Nickie Kerns

Marie Walks Amid the Thorns, by Fred Gramann

Maria walks amid the thorns, Kyrie eleison, Maria walks amid thorns, which seven years no leaf hath borne, Jesus and Maria.

What ‘neath her heart doth Mary bear? Kyrie eleison, A little child doth Mary bear, beneath her heart he nestles there, Jesus and Maria.

And as the two are passing near, Kyrie eleison, Lo!

Roses on the thorns appear. Jesus and Maria, Kyrie eleison, Jesus and Maria, Kyrie eleison.

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

How can we know you, unless you reveal yourself to us? How can we see your path unless we seek it fearlessly? We enter the place of stillness. Come, Lord Jesus, come, your servants are listening.

Scripture Luke 2:8-20

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were

terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Diane Ford

Call to Offering

Offertory

Poème de Noël by Beethoven

Nicki Kerns

***Doxology #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)**

As Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds understood their small part in your great work, Lord, we too say, “Here we are, Lord, lead us.” We offer our lives and resources, praising you for turning over the tables and powers, and raising the lowly and the dead! Amen.

***Closing Hymn, PH #31 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* vs. 1 and 3**

***Blessing and Charge**

***Amen**

***Postlude**

Nicki Kerns

On This Day Earth Shall Ring, arr. Larry Shackley

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

PH - Presbyterian Hymnal; GH - Gather Hymnal;

GTG - Glory to God Hymnal

THANK YOU

Pastor: Diane Ford

Music Director: Nicki Kerns

Lector: TBA

Head Usher: Pete Halper

Greeters: Richard and Roberta Zakarian

Coffee: Barbara and Michael Christie

Presbytones

Debbie Bates

Gigi Giannini

Jeff Juliano

Jerry Thormann

Announcements

Welcome to Trinity Presbyterian Church

We look forward to getting to know you better. Please fill out a visitor welcome card found in the pew pockets in front of you. After worship, please join us for coffee, tea, and juice in the Magnolia Courtyard. We are glad you are here!

Online Church Services

Experience our live services or explore past ones on YouTube. If you want edited sermons complete with dates, sermon titles, bulletin covers, & volume enhancements, check out our Vimeo website. Both platforms can be accessed through our website: <https://www.trinitypressc.org>

Christmas Staff Gifts

Every year at Christmas, we thank Trinity's staff members for all they do with a monetary gift. The Deacons are accepting donations for these gifts. Place your check or cash in the envelope found in the pews and place in the offering plate. Be sure to write "Staff Gift" in the memo line.

Big Basin Hike, December 28th

Join a guided walk in Big Basin on December 28, 10:00 AM, starting at the Visitor Center. This hike will focus on plants and fire recovery, offering a chance to unwind after Christmas. Be sure to bring food and water and consider making parking reservations in advance. For more information, see Kathy Willott or visit the Big Basin Redwoods State Parks website at <https://www.parks.ca.gov/bigbasin>. Rain or high winds will cancel this event.

Christmas Time at Trinity

Join us for the remaining holiday services and events in December.

December 22: Caroling After Church, 12:30pm

December 24: Christmas Eve Service, 6pm

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

- People of Scotts Valley: concerns for those affected with loss of property or home damage from the tornado.
- Victims of a fire in Boulder Creek: grateful to Brookdale Lodge management for providing temporary housing for those who lost their homes.
- Santa Cruz Symphony: grateful for the joyous gift of music.
- Grandchildren: pure joy!
- Chad Bell's uncle Bob: medical issues requiring emergency room treatment.
- Trinity Congregation: gratitude from Bob Scott for support and prayers during his recent health "surprises."
- Partner Presbyterian Churches in Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq: thankful for their ministries of peace and compassion.
- Jean Jackson: thankful that her cancer diagnosis can be treated with minimum procedures.
- Friends of Diane Ford: grateful for the substantial progress of healing of a brain trauma resulting from an auto accident.



Poinsettias

In Memory of

With Love From

Vance Voyles
 Jerry Lambert
 Pamela Sue Halper
 Mary Jane Rutan
 Bill and Joey Bear
 Bob and Ann Ferguson
 Earl and Jane Lawton
 Betsy Williams
 Bob Williams
 Sharen Weld, Peter & Irene Wilt
 Martha and Jerry Thormann
 Birgitta Ekstrom and Mary Lou Lamb
 Tom Wichelmann
 Mary Ann Hobbs

Kim Johnston
 Richard & Roberta Zakarian
 Pete Halper
 Dan & Vickie Rutan
 Dan & Vickie Rutan
 Jeff and Patti Lawton
 Jeff and Patti Lawton
 Michael Christie
 Michael Christie
 Sandra & Jerry Thormann
 Sandra & Jerry Thormann
 Marta Narus
 Karen Wichelmann
 Karen Wichelmann

In Honor of

With Love From

Martha Pilgram and Peggy Winkler
 Caroline Chambers
 Cait Woods
 Bridger Woods

Sandra & Jerry Thormann
 Marta Narus
 Larry and Lorraine Vilardo
 Larry and Lorraine Vilardo

You may pick up your poinsettias on/after Christmas Eve