

TRINITY

PRESBYTERIAN (PCA) • MURFREESBORO



DECEMBER 17, 2023

Honor God.
Welcome All.
Embody Christ's Reign.

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come, this church opens wide her doors and offers a welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

*Call to Worship

Rev. Mitchell Carter

PASTOR: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE: **Amen!**

PASTOR: It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it.

PEOPLE: **And many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways that we may walk in his paths."**

PASTOR: For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples.

PEOPLE: **And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.**

PASTOR: O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD and worship him in truth.
From Isaiah 2:2-5

*Prayer of Adoration

*Hymn of Adoration

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

Confession of Sin

Rev. Weston Duke

PASTOR: Let us now confess our sins:

ALL: **Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the pattern of this world and the desires of our hearts. We have broken your holy laws. We have left undone those things we ought to have done, and we have done those things we ought not to have done. There is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Forgive our sins and restore to us the joy of your salvation; give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Song of Confession

"Lord Have Mercy"

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PASTOR: This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
1 John 1:5-7
ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is well-pleased.
Luke 2:14

*Extending God’s Welcome of Peace

PASTOR: The peace of Christ be with you!
PEOPLE: And also with you!

*Song of Renewal“In Christ Alone”

COMMITTING TO GOD’S KINGDOM

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Shepherds’ CandleThe Street Family
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
John 1:6-8, 19-28

READER: We light the third candle of Advent, the Shepherds’ Candle, to remind us that the announcement of Christ’s birth was made to humble ordinary men, for God came and called the meek of the earth.

Prayer of Intercession (followed by a season of silent prayer)Pleun Troost

Common Prayer

LEADER: Let us now join our voices together praying:
ALL: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy come to help and deliver us through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Kingdom Giving & Meditation“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

*Doxology

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

“Sowing in Tears ”
Psalm 126
Series: Advent 2023
Rev. Mitchell Carter

FEASTING AT GOD’S TABLE

Holy Communion (see insert)
Trinity Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who are willing to forsake their sins and trust in Christ for salvation, and who are members in good standing of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, to receive Holy Communion with us. Baptized covenant children who have not made profession of faith before the elders should abstain from communion until they are received as communing members by the session. TPC serves wine and grape juice for communion. The clear cups contain wine and the purple cups contain grape juice. The communion bread in the purple cups is gluten free.

Song of Communion“Is He Worthy?”

GOING OUT WITH GOD’S BLESSING

*Song of Sending“Joy to the World”

*The Sending
PASTOR: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, come quickly!
ALL: By God’s grace, may we learn to long for and love our Lord’s appearing!
Adapted from Revelation 22:20 and 1 Timothy 6:8

*Benediction
PASTOR: Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.
1 Thessalonians 5:23
ALL: Come quickly Lord Jesus! Come quickly! Amen.

*Postlude

Musicians: Debbie Dunn, Jackie Pasarilla, Anna Robertson, & Amanda Scott
Song Leaders: Debbie Dunn, Tim Dunn, Caitlyn Pasarilla, & Kimberly Robertson

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This Week at TPC

Sunday, December 17

Corporate Worship | 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Christian Education (CE) | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
School of Christian Theology | 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday, December 20

TYG Christmas Party | 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Coffee Service Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of more volunteers to set up coffee service on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in volunteering, email admin@trinitymboro.com

TYG Christmas Party | December 20 | 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Join us for our Trinity Youth Group Christmas Party at the church. Bring an appetizer and an inexpensive gift for “White Elephant” (under \$5). We'll enjoy food, games, and trim the TYG Christmas tree together! Don't miss it!

Christmas Eve Service | December 24 | 6:00 p.m.

In addition to our regular Sunday morning worship service, we will gather on Christmas Eve to worship and celebrate the ending of Advent with the birth of Christ. This service will include prayer, singing, Scripture readings, a homily, and the celebration of communion. There will not be childcare for this service.

Congregational Meeting | January 14 | Immediately following worship

Please be sure to join us for a congregational meeting to vote to elect Paul Vitolins to the Diaconate and Paul Shearer to the Session (which requires 30 days’ notice per our Book of Church Order). We expect this election to take approximately 20 minutes, and then we will continue with our regular Christian Education hour. Please contact any of the elders if you have questions regarding these men or their election.

Women’s Winter Retreat | February 16 - 17

Please join us for our Women’s Winter Retreat: Redeeming Friendship: How to Spot Cultural Lies and Embrace Biblical Understanding. We cannot wait to spend this time with you! You may register online using the QR code or the paper registration forms and payment envelopes, all of which can be found at the welcome center in the lobby. Cost is \$75 which includes overnight lodging at beautiful Deer Run Retreat Center near Thompson Station, three meals, snack and drink service, winter hiking and outdoor activities, cozy indoor activities, retreat booklet, and three teaching sessions utilizing TGC Retreat teaching videos and materials. Payment in cash or check is due by 1/21/24 and can be turned into the office or offering plate. Reduced registration fees are available; see registration form for details. Please email Laurie at women@trinitymboro.com with questions.

Upcoming Preaching Schedule

Next week we will hear from Psalm 132. Reading the sermon passage before coming to worship is a great way to prepare your heart and mind to receive God's word.

2023 Stewardship Giving	YTD	Budgeted YTD	2023 Budget	% of Budget
Tithes & Offerings	\$ 531,240	\$ 529,151	\$ 555,000	95.7%
Operating Expenses	\$ 521,130	\$ 498,446	\$ 522,795	99.6%

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1020 N. Rutherford Blvd, Murfreesboro TN 37130

Office (615) 895-2018 • Email: admin@trinitymboro.com

www.trinitymboro.com

Trinity Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) and a member of the Nashville Presbytery. For more information about Trinity Presbyterian, visit www.trinitymboro.com. For more information about the Presbyterian Church in America, visit www.pcanet.org.

Guests! We are especially glad that you have chosen to worship with us this morning. It is our hope that worship is an encouragement to you and that you will have opportunity to return soon. Please take time to fill out the Guest Info Slip on the insert and place it in the offering plate or in the box located in the foyer. If you have any questions about our church, feel free to email Pastor Mitchell at mitchell@trinitymboro.com

Located in the front foyer, our Welcome Center has resources available such as weekly sermon manuscripts, ministry brochures, sign-ups, and our most current church member directory. There are also Bibles for use on the side table including large print editions.

Hearing Assistive Devices are available at the sound booth.

Church Leadership

ELDERS

Mitchell Carter, Moderator
Jim Harris
Eric Klumpe†
Rick Malone, Clerk
Phil Newman
Paul Pasarilla
Ron Phillips
Peter Robertson
Paul Shearer, Treasurer†
Kim Sokoya†
Randy Thompson†
Pleun Troost

DEACONS

Charles McGaughy, Chair
Dean Cardel
Monty Lee
Chris Nowlin
Allen Pfingsten
Brent Pierce
John Pipes

†Not currently on the Session

TPC Family, please know that if you are in need of physical or financial help, let our deacons know by reaching out to them personally or by emailing the chair of the Diaconate, Charles McGaughy, at deacons@trinitymboro.com. And if you are in need of counsel or prayer, please let our elders know by reaching out personally or emailing Mitchell, who is the moderator of the Session, at mitchell@trinitymboro.com.

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mitchell Carter (mitchell@trinitymboro.com)

Assistant Pastor: Rev. Ryan Hudson (ryan@trinitymboro.com)

Director of Children's Christian Formation: Sherry Nowlin (children@trinitymboro.com)

Director of Music Ministries: Kimberly Robertson (music@trinitymboro.com)

A/V Coordinator: David White (tech@trinitymboro.com)

Administrative Assistant: Sabrina Vlahos (admin@trinitymboro.com)

SERMON NOTES

“SOWING IN TEARS”

PSALM 126

I. REMEMBERING THE JOY OF THE PAST

II. THE SORROW AND HOPE OF WAITING

MEMBER/GUEST INFO

Please fill in form and place in the offering plate or box in the foyer. Thank you!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- ☐ I would like more information about Trinity Presbyterian Church.
- ☐ *I want to receive the weekly E-news.

FEASTING AT GOD'S TABLE

The Great Thanksgiving

PASTOR: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: **And with your spirit.**

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

PASTOR: Let us give thanks to our Lord God.

PEOPLE: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

PASTOR: It is indeed good, right and our delight that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. And we praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior, by whom you have sent a new Light to shine upon this world, that we who rejoice in that light may be found cleansed from our sins and without fear when he shall come again to judge the world in righteousness. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising You and singing...

ALL: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Response of the People

PASTOR: Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us!

PEOPLE: **Hallelujah!**

PASTOR: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

ALL: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
Hallelujah!**

PASTOR: And now Our Holy Master, that with boldness and without condemnation, we dare to call upon You, the Heavenly God, as our Father, and to say:

ALL: **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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

PASTOR: The holy gifts of God for the holy people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving. Let us partake of the feast!

Prayer Request
