



Trinity Presbyterian Church
Arlington, Virginia

Service for the Lord's Day
Sunday, December 1, 2024
Communion Sunday

First Sunday of Advent
Worshiping in Calvin Hall and the Sanctuary
9:00a.m. and 11:15 a.m.



Service for the Lord's Day

December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent

Welcome.

We are glad that you are here.

As an inclusive community of faith, we welcome you just as you are. We celebrate that God's love and grace extends to all, and affirm that each person has sacred worth.

So take a moment.

Breathe.

11:15 a.m. Traditional Order of Worship

*(For the lyrics and scripture text, click on the underlined text. This service is livestreamed and recorded.
People in the first 8 pews might be visible on camera.)*

Our Liturgist today is

Preparation for Worship

Prelude

Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness
(based on Hymn #514)
Wayne Wold

Carol Feather Martin

Welcome and Announcements

(Please take this opportunity to check in using the red friendship pad.)

Lighting of the Advent Candles and Call to Worship

Reader: In a weary and worn world,
how do we begin again?
Where do we start?

Reader: Let us begin with the good news!
Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing,
loved by a gracious God.

Reader: Let us begin with music and singing!
Let us begin with warmth and welcome.
Let us begin with hope.

Congregation: *Yes, let us begin with hope.*

(First purple candle is lit)

Reader: Today we light the candle of hope to
shine a light in a worn and weary world.
May this be our foundation.
May this be our fresh start.
May this be our new beginning.

Congregation: *May hope flow forth from here. Amen!*

Hymn #123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Affirming God,

Your first words to creation were words of love.

You looked at this earth and said, "It is good."

You spoke affirmations through the prophets.

You spoke blessings over Mary.

You spoke belonging through Christ.

*At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing,
made in your image, held in your love.*

Forgive us for forgetting this truth.

Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's measuring stick instead of yours.

We believe. Help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray, amen.

Words of Assurance and Faith

We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck.

Thanks be to God! May we believe it. Amen.

Passing of the Peace or Greeting Time

Children's Message Hymn #137 *He Came Down That We May Have Love*

**Children are invited to attend Godly Play after the Message.*

Blessing of the Children

You are God's beloved child; with you God is well pleased.

Solo

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Rebecca Belliston

Clare Rosenberger

Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

Luke 1:26-38

Sermon

Words for the Beginning: You Are a Blessing

Rev. Judith Fulp-Eickstaedt

Hymn #514

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Friends, Advent is a season of waiting.

We wait for Christ to be born.

We wait for the feeling that love is near.

We wait for God's promised day.
Advent is a season of waiting.
And while we humans are good at many things, waiting is not high on that list.
We are an impatient and anxious bunch, eager for the hope of what comes next.
Maybe that's why this Table is such a gift.
For when we come to this Table, for just a moment, the waiting stops.
When we come to this Table, for just a moment, we get a glimpse of God's promised day.
We get a glimpse of a world where all are fed and all are welcomed.
And for just a moment we can believe the angels when they say,
"Be not afraid."
For just a moment, Mary's words tumble through our minds—
words of justice and hope, words like, "the hungry have been filled" and "the humble have
been lifted."
So come to this Table.
Come catch a glimpse of what could be.
Come end your waiting, for love is hovering close.
This is what it's all about.
God is all around us.
So come. This good news is for you.
All are welcome here.

Joys and Concerns

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God,
We come to this Table today longing for a new beginning.
In a world that so often feels like it's ending,
we crave the hope of a new beginning.
We long to heal from the endings and crash landings of our hurting world and start again,
rooted in your good news.
So week by week, bit by bit, we return to your Word.
Week by week, bit by bit, we return to each other.
Week by week, and bit by bit, we repeat the truths that we so often need to hear,
trusting that by your grace, it is never too late to start again.
So in this spirit of beginnings, we come to your Table.
Once more we ask that you meet us here.
Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary meal, that in this bread and cup we may glimpse a new day.
May the sight of everyone being welcomed at this Table
remind us that all are loved by you.
May the evidence that there is food for all
remind us that no one is meant to go hungry.
May the fact that our own sin, shame, and doubt do not keep us from this Table remind us
that you welcome and love us as we are.
And may all of these Communion truths serve as building blocks for a new day,
for a new beginning.
With hope in our hearts, we pray.
With hope in our hearts, we gather.
With hope in our hearts, we begin again.
Meet us here.
Allow this joyful feast to be the start of something new.

With joy and hope, we weave our voices together
to pray the words your son taught us to pray, saying . . .

Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

The Kin-dom Feast is Shared

Prayer after the Supper

*God, Thank you for meeting us in ordinary bread and juice
to remind us that it's never too late to build your kingdom here.
We are grateful. We are so grateful. Amen.*

Invitation to Stewardship

www.trinityarlington.org/GIVE

Offertory

Meditation on CAROL
(based on Hymn #123)
Gerald Near

Carol Feather Martin

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

*Nourishing God,
Sometimes we tell ourselves that too much has taken place to begin again.
We think the world is too far gone.
We think we have made too many mistakes.
We tell ourselves that we couldn't possibly begin again.
But then we come to this Table and we get a glimpse of your kingdom.
We come to this Table and all are welcomed, all are seen, all are fed.
And just like that, we have hope.
Just like that, we begin again.
Thank you for the gift of this fresh start.
Thank you for planting hope deep in our bones. Amen.*

Hymn #99

My Soul Give Glory to My God

Benediction

Postlude

Chorale Prelude on "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" Carol Feather Martin
(Based on Hymn #123)
Albert Schmutz

We invite you to stay for the postlude. However, you are also welcome to leave quietly.

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Advent Pulpit Hangings

Each Sunday during this Advent season we will have a different pulpit hanging with a quilt square representing an important Advent theme. The pulpit hangings and quilt squares were made by volunteers from the congregation and will hang from the Narthex balcony throughout the season after they've hung from the pulpit on their featured Sunday.

First Sunday of Advent, You Are a Blessing: This quilt square is a simplified abstract image of the angel Gabriel who tells Mary she is "blessed among women." The square was pieced by Katherine Nichols and features fabrics hand dyed by her.

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, 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 flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Hymn #123

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven’s all-gracious King”:
the world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o’er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and we at war on earth hear not
the tidings that they bring;
O, hush the noise and cease the strife
to hear the angels sing!

4 And you, beneath life’s crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
O, rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing.

5 For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Hymn #137

He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

(Additional stanzas)

... that we may have light
... that we may have peace
... that we may have joy

Hymn #514

1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness;
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness.
Come into the daylight’s splendor;
there with joy your praises render.
Bless the one whose grace unbounded
this amazing banquet founded;
Christ, though heavenly, high, and holy,
deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

2 Sun, who all my life does brighten;
light, who does my soul enlighten;
joy, your wondrous gift bestowing;
fount, from which all good is flowing:
at your feet I cry, my Maker,
let me be a fit partaker
of this blessed food from heaven,
for our good, your glory given.

3 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
truest friend and dearest treasure,
peace beyond all understanding,
joy into all life expanding:
humbly now, I bow before you,
love incarnate, I adore you;
worthily let me receive you
and, so favored, never leave you.

Hymn #99

1 My soul gives glory to my God;
my heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness
in many marvelous ways.

2 My God has done great things for me:
yes, holy is God's name.
All people will declare me blessed,
and blessings they shall claim.

3 From age to age to all who fear, such mercy love
imparts, dispensing justice far and near, dismissing
selfish hearts.

4 Love casts the mighty from their thrones,
promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied;
the rich seem suddenly poor.

5 Praise God, whose loving covenant
supports those in distress,
remembering past promises
with present faithfulness.

Spiritual Formation Opportunities:

No Virtual Coffee Hour or Youth Group this week!

Meditation Group Please join us!

The meditation group will continue meeting in the Mediation Room on Sunday mornings. The meeting time is 10:10 am-11:00 am. We will be learning more about Meditation philosophy and practice. We will do meditation together for a total of 30 minutes, not all in one session, at each meeting. We will be in silence, listen to an audio guided meditation, or have quiet music for our meditation time. We will share together about what we are learning. Everyone is welcome for one meeting or all of them. If you are looking for a small group connection at Trinity but don't like to talk or listen to others talk all the time, this may be your group! For talkers and non-talkers, it is sometimes a surprise what the silence may bring, including a deepening spiritual connection with God and others in the group.

Just Coffee

Knox Room (Preschool Building)

A place to gather informally during the Sunday School hour to drink coffee, eat pastries, and get to know people.

Wednesday Evening Bible Chat Wednesday Evening Bible Chat will be taking a break until January 8th, 2025. If you would like to join in the New Year, contact ben@trinityarlington.org

Caregivers Support Group

Are you caring for someone with a long-term illness or declining health? Maybe you are in the sandwich generation, juggling the needs of your children with the needs of your aging parents. Come join a support group. This weekly Zoom call with other caregivers, Pastor Judith, and Katherine Nichols (Commissioned Ruling Elder), is a place to talk, get strength from each other, and pray. Weekly zoom call on Tuesdays noon -1 p.m. Contact Judith or Katherine to get on the email list or see the e-news or announcements in the church app for the zoom link.



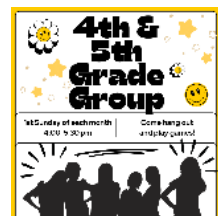
Youth 6-12th grade meets each Sunday at 10:10 am for Sunday School and from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. for weekly Youth Group activities.

Trinity adults: consider signing up to chaperone at Sunday evening Youth Group! Let Keeley know if you are interested or if you have any questions.

4th and 5th Grade Group

This group meets once a month and is a time for our fourth and fifth graders to get to know each other outside of Sunday school. We will play games and talk about life and faith.

Led by Ben and Keeley, the next gathering will be on Jan. 5th, 4-5:30 pm. For more information contact either Ben@trinityarlington.org or Keeley youth@trinityarlington.org



Gallery T Fall show!

Check out the Gallery T fall show, where the theme is "God's World." Includes painting, photography, creative cards, jewelry, and more. The display is on the second floor above the narthex.



Advent and Christmas at Trinity

Advent Sunday School Class begins on December 1st.

Inspired by the book "An Unlikely Advent," this class will look at the side characters in the Christmas Story and ask, "What can we learn from them?"

Led by Ben Stewart



We need your light and voice! Advent Candle Lighter/Reader (and ushers)

Please be a part of worship this Advent and Christmas. This is a wonderful way to give back and be part of the service in a hands-on way! We invite you, a group, or a family to light the Advent candles and do a short reading each Sunday at worship and on Christmas Eve.

[Please sign up here](#). We also invite you to be an usher or slide runner during these services. [Sign up here](#).

Advent Photo Challenge.

For each day of Advent, Ben invites you to take a photo or find a photo inspired by the word of the day. Ben would like to use your photos to create posters to hang around Trinity in the New Year. To receive the Word of the Day sheet, contact ben@trinityarlington.org or find the link in the weekly email.

Advent Resources

If you are looking for resources to help guide you through Advent this year, you can access a weekly devotional, a fun advent calendar, and a photo challenge through the weekly email. Ben can also send you the link. Email ben@trinityarlington.org

Gift Wrapping Dec. 1- 15

Help Arlington residents in need this holiday season by having your gifts wrapped and donating to Arlington Thrive. Nene and her team will be offering gift wrapping each Sunday in December (1st, 8th, & 15th) from 8:00am-1:00pm. You can drop off your gifts and pick them up the following Sunday or at the Chili Dinner on Dec. 15th. The gift wrapping is donation-based. Visit the table at the Alternative Christmas Market on Dec. 1st or stop by the preschool hallway (Rm. 11) on the other Sundays for more information.

Seasonal Music – December Sundays at 11:00 AM

On Sundays in December, come early for an extended prelude featuring Trinity musicians offering beautiful seasonal music. You can attend after Sunday School and leave before the 11:15 Traditional Worship Service begins or come beforehand to enjoy the music prior to the service.

Sunday, Dec. 1st First Sunday of Advent

- 8:30-12:30pm Alternative Christmas Market
- 3:00pm-5:00pm Advent Family Craft Workshop for all ages in the Narthex

Wednesday Dec. 4th

- 7:30pm Advent Workshop led by Carol Feather Martin

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship

- 5:00pm Family Worship Pageant (New time this year!)
- 7:30pm Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve Message
- 11:00pm Candle/Communion Service
- Worship and Caroling on Christmas Day

For more information about all that Trinity is doing during Advent, scan the QR code on the postcard or go to <https://trinityarlington.org/advent-2024/>

Trinity's Stewardship Campaign:

Stewardship Newsletter

Would you like to know more about how Trinity's budget supports the different ministries and activities of the church? Then check out the Stewardship Newsletter which includes a pie chart of the 2025 spending plan, some great information on the life of the church, and a FAQ page that addresses concerns about the budget and our needs going forward.

New Online Giving Portal!

As part of our move to Church Connect, we have switched online giving payment portals. As of early October, we have moved from Tithe.ly to Stripe for our online donations. This can be found through the Trinity website and Church Connect.

If you are a current or prior user of Tithe.ly and would like access to that account, you can log-in through this link: <https://app.tithely.com/login>. We are hoping to have all recurring donations transferred from Tithe.ly to Stripe by the beginning of 2025. If you currently have a recurring donation on Tithe.ly, you will need to either add an end date to that donation, or cancel it, and then set up a new recurring donation on Stripe.

Please contact Carol Hart, treasurer@trinityarlington.org with questions or for assistance in transferring your recurring donations.

Ways to Give to Trinity

We continue to be grateful for the generous financial support of the Trinity community. As we approach the 2025 Stewardship season, we want to remind you about some alternative ways you can contribute to Trinity, such as electronic checks, online donations and stock donations. [Click here for more details.](#)

Have you pledged?

Your pledges help us plan for the future, so if you intend to pledge but haven't gotten around to it, there's still time. We would love to have pledges in by December 15th. You can use this link: <https://tpcarlington.churchtrac.com/card/50> or email Carol Hart at treasurer@trinityarlington.org

Trinity Presbyterian Church	
FY25 Budget Summary	
Revenue	
Contributions	\$813,000
Building Users	\$117,000
Investment Income	\$46,000
Other Revenue	\$500
Total Revenue	\$976,500
Expenses	
Administration	\$755,700
Facilities Management	\$166,600
Mission & Service	\$81,000
Worship & Music	\$23,800
Education & Nurture	\$5,250
Fellowship	\$8,300
Outreach	\$4,700
Finance	\$3,700
Racial Justice Group	\$9,100
Pastoral Care	\$600
Session / NCP Per Capita	\$24,300
Total Expenses	\$1,083,050
Difference (Operations)	-\$106,550
Adjustment for B. Stewart Pension	-\$65,530
Total Shortfall	-\$172,080
Proposed Funding for Shortfall:	
Shift in pledges from BPF to Operating	\$25,000
Designated Gift Fund (~1/2 of balance)	\$53,000
Unrestricted Surplus (~1/4 of balance)	\$94,080
	\$172,080

Ways to Serve in the Community and in the Church:

Serving with S.O.M.E.

Trinity has been preparing breakfast for over 30+ years on the 3rd Monday of the month for SOME (So Others May Eat <https://some.org/get-involved/volunteer/>) in DC. They have recently completed a renovation of the kitchen, dining room and building at [71 O Street NW](#). TPC will resume this local mission support starting December 16! Breakfast preparation consists of 3-4 people arriving at 6 am (finishing by 7:30am) and cooking eggs, sausages, grits and other duties as needed. It's a great way to start the morning and support people in need. Visit sign up genius link to volunteer (calendar set up through Dec. 2025) - for more information contact Todd Parker (703-237-7699)! <https://signup.com/go/eahNdeL>

Sending Encouragement to Trinity College Students

As fall semesters approach finals weeks, we'd like to send encouragement to our college students. The Pastoral Care ministry is asking for volunteers to send personalized texts or emails to students you know, letting them know we are thinking about them and encouraging them during the last few weeks of their semesters. If you have time to send a personal note to one of our students during the week of December 1, please contact Ben Stewart, ben@trinityarlington.org for the list of current students and to volunteer.



SAVE THE DATE for Vacation Bible School at Trinity: **June 23-27, 2025!**

Shakti Shukla will be our VBS Director, and she will be looking for volunteers to help make this week fun for our kids while they learn that God loves them. To volunteer email trinityarlingtonvbs@gmail.com.

Trinity 2024 Angel Tree Program

We are once again urging our Trinity families to share in their holiday giving through Trinity's Angel Tree program. This year we are supporting kids who attend two Arlington Schools, Drew Elementary School and Hamm Middle School, and we are helping each of these schools in different ways:

- For Drew, we are doing something new -- we are inviting Trinity families to participate in Drew's standing program for their in-need students which includes a December drive for fun and educational books and games to send their students home for the holidays with. To support this effort, please visit Drew's Amazon wish lists below. Items will be delivered directly to Drew. When you proceed to order, select the address for Drew that will pop up: *Carol Burka C/O Drew Elementary School*. **Please complete the ordering of games and books by December 6th.** [Books and Games List](#)
- For Hamm, we are inviting Trinity families to donate through Trinity's online giving site ([Online Giving | Trinity Presbyterian Church](#)) and choose *Angel Tree* or by a check endorsed to *TPC Angel Tree*. The Mission & Service Ministry will purchase gift cards for the social worker at Hamm to distribute to students and families who can use a little extra help to celebrate this holiday season. **Please donate gift cards by Monday December 2nd.**



We greatly appreciate the past generosity of the families of TPC and Trinity Preschool and urge you to once again help make the holidays a happy time for these children. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Stephen Ward (swhwfam@hotmail.com) or Gail Klein (gsklein3@gmail.com).

Get Connected:

Social Media Photograph Release Form (please fill this out!)



The Outreach ministry would like to be able to use more photos of Trinity members in action on our website and social media platforms. We respect that some people would prefer to not have their images on public platforms, so we are asking for a simple photo release from each Trinity household. To sign the release, you can use the [Church Connect link](#) (or the QR code below) to the right and scroll until you see the Photograph Release Form.

Changes to Office Staff

We are hiring!

Based on the Task Force Study and Session review and approval we are currently advertising the "Operations Manager" (a step-up position that includes the Church Office responsibilities, procurement, facilities, HR/hiring process - a larger share of the administrative requirements for Trinity). This is a full time position (with benefits - health care, dental, vacation, retirement) the full advertisement/description is available in Idealist (<https://www.idealists.org/en/nonprofit-job/5de8df71dc514278b96a9228f266d4fd-operations-manager-trinity-presbyterian-church-arlington-va-arlington>). Please consider/pass on the opportunity to others!"

Reminder that if you have announcements, prayer requests, Moments for Mission, or anything else for the bulletin, please send an email to Officetemp@trinityarlington.org only. For announcements to be put in the bulletin for Sundays, please send them in no later than noon on Wednesdays. Thank you for your patience as people adjust to new roles and the staff collaborate to make Sunday worship happen.

Trinity Presbyterian Pastor and Staff

Minister	The People of the Church	
Pastor	Rev. Judith Fulp-Eickstaedt	pastorjudith@trinityarlington.org
Parish Associate	Rev. Bill Davnie	revbill@trinityarlington.org
Commissioned Ruling Elder	Katherine Nichols	Katherine@trinityarlington.org
Director of Music & Arts	Carol Feather Martin	music@trinityarlington.org
Contemporary Worship Leader	Alan MacEwen	cwl@trinityarlington.org
Director of Spiritual Formation	Ben Stewart	ben@trinityarlington.org
Youth Director	Keeley Harris	youth@trinityarlington.org
Clerk of Session	Jim Dykstra	jimdykstra@outlook.com
Treasurer	Carol Hart	treasurer@trinityarlington.org
Preschool Director	Sabrina Brassard	tpparlingtonva@gmail.com
Office Temp	Caitlin Naranja	officetemp@trinityarlington.org
Facility Manager	Marcos Vargas	facilities@trinityarlington.org
Nursery & Godly Play Coordinator	Nene Pisigan	enenpisigan@yahoo.com
Bookkeeper	Yolanda Darden	
Ministry Team	Chairs (click here the emails)	Elder (click here the emails)
Administration	Todd Parker	Clare Rosenberger, Jim Dykstra
Education & Nurture	Michelle Edwards	Merrit Gillard
Facilities	Jay Daughtery	Lynn Pollock
Fellowship	Ellen Greer & Kim Whittaker	Patrick Merkel
Finance	Lance Bultena	Allison Andrews
Mission & Service	Terry Cathopoulos	Steve Hufford
Outreach	Tim Foley	Tim Foley
Pastoral Care	Katherine Nichols	Beth Bailey, Jennifer McGrail
Worship & Music	Grace Montgomery	Pam Michell, Henry Stievater
Racial Justice	Dan Campbell	Julie Bradsher

Trinity Presbyterian Church
 5533 N. 16th St. Arlington VA 22205
www.trinityarlington.org
 Office hours M-F: 9:30a.m.-2:30p.m.
office@trinityarlington.org
 703 536 5600



Scan here for the bulletin and visitor check in!