









Trinity Presbyterian Church Arlington, Virginia

Service for the Lord's Day Sunday, December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent Worshipping in Calvin Hall and the Sanctuary 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM



Service for the Lord's Day

December 14, 2025 Third 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 AM 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.)

Prelude

In the Bleak Midwinter Shepherds and Angels arr. Larry Shackley

Alice Yates, flute Carol Feather Martin, piano

See Amid the Winter's Snow Infant Holy, Infant Lowly O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arr. Evelyn Larter

Welcome

Announcements

(Please take this opportunity to check in using the red Friendship Pad.)

Advent Candle Liturgy

Worship Leader: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, "What brings you joy?" From the voices of different generations, hear their answers:

(Answers to the question are given by Advent readers)

Reader: Today we light the candle of joy. May its light remind us of all the good news this season brings.

(Two purple candles, then one pink candle, are lit)

Congregation: May this light remind us of the many sources of joy in our lives, and may that joy not only draw us closer to one another, but closer to God.

Hymn #105

People, Look East

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy,

a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious,

to assume the best in others,

to give the benefit of the doubt.

A million times a day we could choose the better way,

but so often we don't.

Fear and greed kick in.

Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel.

Comparison and critique lead the charge.

Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph.

Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood.

Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you.

Give us the courage to love even bigger than before,

and the wisdom to choose a better way. Amen.

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance and Faith

From generation to generation, this is the good news of the gospel.

No matter how many times we choose wrong or lose our way,

God continues to be a God of second chances, community, and love.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn #112, Verse 3

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;

When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;

heaven and earth with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

Passing of the Peace or Greeting

Children's Message

*Children are invited to attend Godly Play after the Message or to remain in worship.

Blessing of the Children

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

Handbell Anthem

Rise Up Shepherd and Follow setting by Hart Morris

Trinity Ringers

Readings

Matthew 1:18-25 Isaiah 35:1-10

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

From Generation to Generation: We Can Choose a Better Way

Rev. Judith Fulp-Eickstaedt

Hymn #123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Joys and Concerns Prayers of the People

Invitation to Stewardship

www.trinityarlington.org/GIVE

(Please take this opportunity to check in using the red Friendship Pad if you have not already done so.)

Offertory and Reflection

Lo, How a Rose setting by Cathy Moklebust

Trinity Ringers Willa Lutz, organ

Trinity Ringers

Prayer Setting of Intentions

(Please take this moment of silence to set an intention for the week ahead. Your intention might be a response to today's worship, or it may be something that has been on your heart – a desire for change, an inner nudging, a move toward deeper discipleship. Write your intention down or note it on your phone and take it with you as you go.)

Prayer for the Coming Week

God, we long to hear your voice—loud and clear, impossible to miss. We long for invitations to something more, something deeper. And we long to be like Joseph and find the courage to follow. May we find that courage in the coming week. Amen.

Hymn #116 The Snow Lay on the Ground

Benediction

Postlude On This Day Earth Shall Ring

setting by Cathy Moklebust

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

Hymn #105

1 People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Bird, is on the way.

4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

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 #116

1 The snow lay on the ground; the stars shone bright, when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.

2 'Twas gentle Mary maid, so young and strong, who welcomed here the Christ-child with a song.
She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem; the ass and oxen shared the roof with them. Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.

3 Saint Joseph too was by to tend the child, to guard him, and protect his mother mild. The angels hovered round and sang this song: Venite adoremus Dominum.

Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.

4 And thus that manger poor became a throne; for he whom Mary bore was God the Son. O come, then, let us join the heavenly host to praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness. and streams in the desert: the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Intentional Through the Week at Home and in Small Groups What choices are you facing right now? How are you listening for God's help in making difficult choices?

My intention for this week is:

Morning Prayer for the Week

Holy God, at the dawning of this day new life blossoms like the crocus, and fresh promise wells up like a spring. As I go forth in your presence this day, strengthen my hands to serve your people, and keep me always in your holy way. Amen.

Evening Prayer for the Week

God, when I cannot see the light of Christ, open my eyes to see Your presence. Show me hope where fear has taken hold. Strengthen m faith until every step I take follows in Christ's light-filled footsteps. Amen.

Readings for the Week

Matthew 1:18-25 Isaiah 35:1-10

(Read daily, and look for opportunities to discuss or contemplate these words)

Questions for Reflection

- 1. Reflect on a time when you made a difficult decision. How did you find your way to the choice you made? How was God at work in that experience?
- 2. Have you ever had a dream that informed a decision you faced in your waking hours?
- 3. How does Isaiah's dream of a desert in bloom

Intentionally Christian as a Congregation

- Record your intentions and experiences in a journal or on your phone.
- Consider sharing your intention or experience with Trinity friends in a small group setting, or with a prayer partner.
- Use this devotional guide with a small group or prayer partner.

Our Thoughts and Prayers Please pray for the following friends and families of Trinity

Joys:

- + We celebrate *Carol Feather Martin* for her 35 years of music ministry and leadership across the Trinity community and beyond. With gratitude and love for the countless lives she has influenced through her service.
- + We celebrate the wonderful work and tireless commitment of *Jocelyn Hunn* who has organized the Alternative Gift Mart for the past 24 years. We are thankful for all the blessings this event provides.

Concerns:

- + Prayers for **Anna Nichols**, daughter of *Katherine Nichols*, recovering from a difficult surgery.
- + Prayers for Russ Messa, friend of Russ and Marilyn Scholl with the recurrence of prostate cancer.
- + Prayers for **Theresa Dike**, Attorney-Advisor for **Clay Guthridge** at the Federal Maritime Commission, who is recovering from a cerebral event that occurred November 30.
- + Prayers for the family and friends of **Doug Hardt**, husband of **Kathleen Hardt**, who passed away on November 27.
- + Prayers for the family and friends of **Dr. Maribeth Kasik**, sister of Sandy Montgomery, who died on Nov. 19.
- + Prayers for **Fred Hicks**, father of *Haley Anderson*, was diagnosed with throat cancer, and is now undergoing chemoradiation treatment.
- + Prayers for Larry Merkel, father of Patrick Merkel, with a recurrence of cancer.
- + Prayers for *Paul Sullivan* who is recovering at home.
- + Prayers for those who are managing the needs of both children and aging parents.
- **+ Marilyn Brookens**, has recently been moved into a memory care facility. Please send all correspondence to: Marilyn Brookens, c/o Alan Ostergren, 2506 7th Ave. Ct. SW, Altoona, IA 50009.
- + Prayers for love, stamina, and moments of joy for all who are caregivers and for those they care for.
- + Prayers for those in difficult family relationships: for mutual love, compassion, and understanding.
- + Bill Plitt, in treatment for multiple myeloma.
- + Rowan Smith, three-year old great nephew of Laurie Setzer, with cancer.
- + Brian Tuskey, brother-in-law of *Jennie Gwin*, who is in hospice care. Please pray for Brian, his wife (Jennie's sister), and their young children.
- + Alec Gibson, at Braddock Glen. 4027 Olley Lane, Fairfax, VA 22032
- + Jason Ferguson, Janae Ferguson's brother, recurrence of cancer. Pray for another remission.
- + Barry Schneider, Troy Schneider's uncle, with ALS.
- + Jackie Alling, living at Vitality assisted living.
- + Lani, Nene Pisigan's cousin, and mom of two young children, recurrence of cancer.
- + Nene Pisigan's parents in the Philippines, with long term illness and financial hardship.
- + Graham Bardsley's sister, Kyila Sninsky, in California, with ongoing lung and heart issues.
- + Ron Shimabukuro, friend of Yvonne McIntire, recovering at home.
- + Brooks Bare, for strength, comfort, healing, and patience during his incarceration.
- + Immigrants and refugees all over the world, displaced by war, violence, poverty, and natural disasters.
- + We pray for a lasting peace in Israel and Palestine and for the day when the people living in Israel and Palestine can live together without hostility, without oppression, and without fear.
- **+ Fakhira Haloun,** a Palestinian Israeli and friend of Priscilla Hoffman-Stowe, and for all living through the trauma of the on-going violence in Gaza and the wider region.
- + Daoud and Jihan Nassar, for safety and to retain ownership of their land in the West Bank.
- + For peace in Ukraine and an end to the Russian invasion into Ukrainian regions.
- + Genocide of Sudan and the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.
- + Those affected by Hurricane Melissa and those who are assisting on the ground in the aftermath.

Trinity Presbyterian Church helps sponsor the missionary work of those who serve in the international field. We are currently supporting *Mark Adams* and *Miriam Maldonado* (husband and wife) on the US/Mexico border, and we continue to seek new ecumenical global partners to support as the PCUSA shifts its model for international engagement.

Life of the Church and Announcements December 2025

Upcoming Events and Happenings

'Intentionally Christian' Devotional

The daily prayers and questions for the week are available now on Church Connect or through the following link:

https://tpcarlington.churchtrac.com/intentional

The Sunday evening's Intentional Christian Conversations are stopping until the New Year.

You can find the weekly devotional in the Bulletin and in the Church App.



Poinsettia Delivery Today: Help Needed

Please help deliver poinsettias today to our at-home members. Poinsettias with addressed cards are in the library waiting to be delivered.

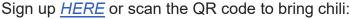
Thank you! from the Pastoral Care Ministry Team

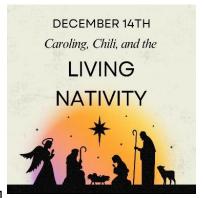
Advent Fellowship Evening: December 14

Celebrate the season with Caroling, Chili, and the Story of Christmas.

HELP: WE NEED MORE CHILI

Meet in the Narthex at 5 pm for Caroling in the neighborhood (with lyric sheets). Then warm up with a Chili Dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 6 pm. The evening culminates with the youth production of the Not Your Typical Nativity, a unique and sometimes irreverent interpretation of the Christmas story, best for kids late elementary aged and up, in the Sanctuary at 7 pm. Thank you to Abigail Circle for organizing the chili dinner.





Annual Cookie Exchange and Christmas Carols!

This year's **Annual Cookie Exchange** will take place on **Monday, December 15 at 7:00 pm** beginning with Christmas carols in the sanctuary. Please join us for carols and then those interested will exchange cookies at 7:30 pm! All bakers and singers are welcome. If you want to just come and sing carols,

snacks will be provided afterward. For those interested in exchanging cookies, please bring 4 dozen cookies (48!) and pack them in 16 Ziploc bags with three cookies per bag. You will go home with 16 bags of three cookies and enjoy a variety while only having to bake one batch!

For any questions, please contact Jocelyn Hunn at jocelyn.hunn@verizon.net

Blue Christmas Service on December 21 at 5:00 p.m.

A Blue Christmas service is a worship service that names and holds space for the sadness that can accompany the holidays and is typically held around Dec 21, the shortest day of the year, the day with the most darkness. This Advent season, we will be having a *Blue Christmas Service on December 21st at 5:00 p.m.* in the sanctuary.

Christmas marketing and the church's sometimes solitary focus on joy can make the holidays an isolating time for anyone who is grieving, facing

challenges, or unable to muster happiness during the season. This service is for anyone who wants to come and set their burdens down, and for us to hold pain collectively. It is a time when we can recognize that joy and sorrow can intertwine, and that God is with us during our darkest days.

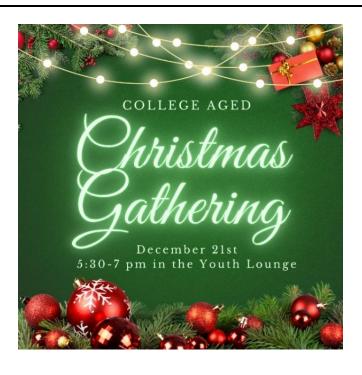




New Christmas Edition of Trinity's Tiny Desk Report

(Out Now)

https://www.facebook.com/reel/1511792913421680



Classes and Spiritual Formation Opportunities

Advent Wednesday Worship This Week

One of our nicest seasonal traditions at Trinity is Wednesday Worship during Advent. Each of this year's three services is designed to help you find the peace and joy of the season. These casual services begin at **7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary**. Stop in, and breathe deeply, as you step away from the bustle and quiet your spirit in a time of rest and reflection.

Wednesday, December 3 Taizé with Keeley and Ken; music by Alan

Wednesday, December 10 with Judith and Katherine

Wednesday, December 17 with Ben; music by Soul Fire

Titles We Hear for Jesus: New Adult Sunday School Class (Continues)

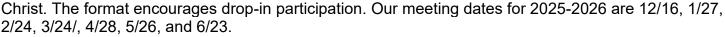
Join Ben Stewart in the <u>Lewis Room at 10:10 a.m.</u> to think and talk about the titles we hear for Jesus at this time of year. Do the titles really fit Jesus?

Meditation Group

Meets each **Sunday, from 10:10 am to 11:00 am in the Meditation Room**. We welcome new participants as we learn together the basic principles of meditation, with the intention of deepening our connection with God and with each other. Each week, we share readings on meditation from various authors and faith traditions and spend 20-30 minutes meditating in silence. Please join us! For more info contact Sue Bodner at <u>Suelwbod2@aol.com</u> or 571-435-0417 (texting welcome).

Horizons

Meets **December 16 at 7:00 pm** (meeting early this month) in the Meditation Room. Horizons is an open, multigenerational women's Bible study. We use the Horizons curriculum for Presbyterian women. The curriculum includes a short video with a written lesson, and this year the study is Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ. The format encourages drop-in participation. Our meeting dates for 2025-2026 are



Contact Beth Bailey (epbailey@comcast.net) or Gail Klein (gsklein3@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining or have any questions.

No Story without the Foreigners

Priscilla Hoffman-Stowe shares her thoughts from the Thursday morning book group's discussion of Richard Rohr's "The Tears of Things".

You can read it here https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/cu/dT3sf0y

Caregivers 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 calls happen on Tuesdays, noon -1:00 p.m. Contact Pastor Judith to get on the email list or see the E-news or announcements in the church app for the Zoom link.

Advent and Christmas Readers

Please come and be a part of worship this Advent and Christmas. Sign up to be a reader for the Advent Candle Lightings and for Christmas Eve Services. We will need readers each Sunday during Advent (November 30 – December 21) for both services. This year, we are looking for several individuals of

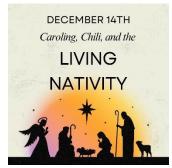
SMALL GROUP

various ages to participate each Sunday. We will also need young readers for Christmas Eve Services that will be at 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, and 11:00 pm on December 24th.

Signup links are available in the weekly Trinity Three and E-news to register at selected services.

Youth and Children's Corner











Ways to Serve in the Community and in the Church

Extra Help Needed Around Christmas

Christmas Eve Needs

- Slide Runners: 5 pm Service needs 1
- Greeters/Ushers: 11 pm service needs 1 more (currently 2 signed up)
- Hot chocolate makers & cleanup: 5 pm service (arrive 4 pm; clean up after service or after 11:15 service)
- If someone wants to have coffee on Christmas Eve for the 7:30 pm & 11 pm services, then we will need people to make it & also clean up

December 21 Needs

- Make coffee before 9 am service
- Clean up coffee stuff after 11:15 service

December 28 Needs (one service at 10 am)

- Make coffee before
- Clean up coffee stuff after
- Slide Runner for service (at 10 am)

To <u>volunteer</u>, please call the church office at 703-536-5600 and leave a message about what you would like to help with and the date you are available.

Ushers sign up here: https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/306998159291576015/false#/invitation

Serving with S.O.M.E.

Trinity has been preparing breakfast for over 30+ years on the 3rd Monday of the month for SOME (<u>So Others May Eat</u>) in DC. They have recently completed a renovation of the kitchen, dining room, and building at 71 O Street NW and TPC is thrilled to resume this local mission support.

Breakfast preparation consists of 3-4 people arriving at 6:00 a.m. (finishing by 7:30 a.m.) 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 the Sign Up Genius link to volunteer – for more information, contact Todd Parker (703-237-7699).

Sign up here!



Alternative Christmas Market (continues)

.....a wonderful way to help others.....

There is still time to participate <u>online</u> in the Alternative Christmas Market.

Opportunities can be found at this link: <u>Click Here</u> to give online or learn more about the opportunities!

2026 Trinity Stewardship Season

Thank you for your amazing generosity at this past Sunday's Commitment Services!

We know that some of you are still prayerfully considering your Trinity pledge for 2026, and we ask that you complete and return your Pledge Card by Monday, December 15, 2025 In this Stewardship season, the links below will provide you with a copy of Pastor Judith's Stewardship Letter, Trinity's online Pledge Card 2026, and our Stewardship Report.

As for your Giving Options, please know that you may complete and return your pledge by mail to Carol Hart at the Church Office, drop it into the Sunday collection plate, submit it online through the Trinity website, or use the Church Connect app.

Access Pastor Judith's letter at: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/cu/cJ7Xv3J
Access Trinity's online Pledge Card 2026 at https://tpcarlington.churchtrac.com/card/50
Access Trinity's Stewardship Report at https://tpcarlington.churchtrac.com/stewardship

Thank you for helping to keep our community informed



Trinity Presbyterian Pastor and Staff

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Administration	Todd Parker / Lisa Toews-	Beth Bailey
	Daugherty	
Education & Nurture	Michelle Edwards	Lynn Pollock
Facilities	Jay Daugherty	Julie Bradscher
Fellowship	Ellen Greer / Kim Whittaker	Patrick Merkel / Zara Johnson
Finance	Greg Wallig	Matt Jackson
Mission & Service	Terry Cathopoulis	Pam Michell
Outreach	Tim Foley	Will Senkus
Pastoral Care	Katherine Nichols	Clare Rosenberger
Worship & Music	Grace Montgomery	Luann Moy / Jim St. Pierre
Racial Justice	Dan Campbell	Merrit Gilliard

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www.trinityarlington.org

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office@trinityarlington.org

703-536-5600



Scan here for the bulletin and visitors check in!