



ORDER OF SERVICE

RITE I

The Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete
December 13, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, Trinity welcomes you.

WELCOME TO TRINITY

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church. We hope that you will feel the presence of God in this holy space. We believe that you will also find God in the community of people who worship here. Trinity is rich in the traditions of the Episcopal Church, and it is our prayer that you will feel warmly welcomed. May this place be to you a source of strength and spiritual renewal. May you also find it a place where all people are accepted. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, Trinity welcomes you!

THE WORD OF GOD

Organ Voluntary: Benedictus

Alec Rowley (1892-1958)

Hymn 616 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Es flog ein Kleins Waldvögelein

1 Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
2 He comes with suc - cor speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
3 He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth,
4 Kings shall bow down be - fore him, and gold and in - cense bring;
5 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest;

1 Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
2 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
3 and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth:
4 all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing;
5 from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest:

1 He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
2 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,
3 be - fore him on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;
4 to him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows a - scend;
5 the tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

1 to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
2 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.
3 and right - eous - ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.
4 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.
5 his Name shall stand for ev - er, his change - less Name of Love.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Psalm 72

Music: German folk song; adapt. and harm. *A Student's Hymnal*, 1923, after Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)

Lighting of Advent Candle

The Celebrant lights the first purple candle and says

Jesus Christ is our hope.

The Celebrant lights the second purple candle and says

Jesus Christ is our hope for peace.

The Celebrant lights the pink candle and says

This candle represents joy. Because of Christ we can have the joy that is promised in God's word.

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Kyrie eleison

Hymnal S91

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

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 speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126

In convertendo

1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

**2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."

**4 The LORD has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.**

5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

**6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.**

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Church at Thessalonica.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Sequence

Hymn 635 If thou but trust in God to guide thee

Wer nur den lieben Gott

Unison or harmony

1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, and hope in him through
2 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing; so do thine own part

all thy ways, he'll give thee strength what - e'er be - tide thee,
faith - ful - ly, and trust his word, though un - de - serv - ing;

and bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in God's un -
thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God nev - er yet for -

chang - ing love builds on a rock that nought can move.
sook in need the soul that trust - ed him in - deed.

Words: Georg Neumark (1621-1681); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.
Music: Georg Neumark

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend Linda Paul

Who *ARE* you? Really! Who *ARE* you?

How does one answer that? And yet John the Baptizer answers boldly, quoting Isaiah - I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord!'" If someone pushed you hard enough, if they insistently asked - Who *ARE* you - what could you say? What bold statement would come to mind?

Here in the Western World we equate work with our worth, we answer the question "what do you do" with a work classification, "oh, I'm an engineer" or "I'm a librarian" or "I am a teacher." It is WHO we are in our minds. In a Cartesian fashion: We Work, therefore, We ARE.

Our viability, our relevancy, comes from our training, our specialty, our hours of studies. We define ourselves by our paychecks. Outside of our work, who are we?

Depending on who asks you and where people ask you, your answer to this question can easily change. If you're at school talking to your children's teacher, you might say you are the parent to three children. If you're looking at paintings in a museum, you might say you are an art connoisseur. If you're at a ball game, you might say you're a Vikings fan! All of those things define a piece of you, but who *ARE* you?

If we're honest, we have to say we don't really know! We know what we do, how we do it,

where we go, and when, but all that we can say about ourselves is just that: facts about who we are as we do certain things. But none of those things define our inner being.

As I worked on this very question, through my years of Deacon formation, I always concluded, first and foremost, I am God's creation. That's where it starts and ends for me. From that creation God gave me many gifts, I developed some skills from those gifts, and I use all of that to serve the Christ I find in others. That's more than a paycheck, or what I "do." It's my full being as God's creation! That humbles me, excites me, propels me into tomorrow! That forms the framework of who I am!

In John's case his whole reason for existence comes in verse 29! "The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" This shocking announcement was God's creation in John. John was able to point to the one who would be something more than he would be. He was unfolding God's creation from within! He was pointing from himself to something greater!

So are we God's creation that points to something greater?

"The development of faith gives us the capacity to think outside of our immediate needs," according to The Rev Winnie Varghese, of Trinity Wall Street. Again, "The Development of Faith gives us the capacity to think outside of our immediate needs!" When we move beyond ourselves, beyond our doing, into being God's creation, this points us into the world as we develop our faith, as we develop our faith narrative. And that is greater than ourselves! We're a part of that, in the past, in the unfolding narrative, in the possibility of the future. We all point to that which is greater than us through our narrative of our own faith. This frames our understanding of who we *ARE* as God's creation!

Through this Advent season we are being asked "Who *ARE* you in this story?" Last week we were walking with John the Baptizer as he proclaimed the arrival of the Messiah. Today, we are the voice crying in the wilderness telling people it's time to prepare for the arrival of something greater than us. This something will not only change this world, but change every person for all time. For we are God's Creation, and we can boldly say, in faith...

... **We** are the voice crying in the wilderness, prepare a way for the Lord!

We are the Baptizer proclaiming, Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

We are God's Creation always pointing to that which is greater than ourselves!

Amen!

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

BCP 328

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our presiding Bishop, and Poulson, our own Bishop, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, for Donald our President, Joe, our President-elect, Kevin our Governor, and G.T. our Mayor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor **Barbara Sue; Odell; Nancy; Paulette; Alicia; Jeremy; Marjoree; Danny; Teresa;**

Shirley; Philippe; Marie; Taylor; Jim and Mary; Elaine and Danny; Cameron; Alia;

Kennetha; Finley; Susan, Diane, David and Katie; Lee B; Jo; Mary; Camdon;

Claudia; Bruce; and All Medical And Cleaning Staffs; _____] and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear [especially _____,] beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of [_____ and of] all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.
Amen.

The Deacon says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

The Priest stands and says.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace

*Celebrant
People*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with thy spirit.

Announcements

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2

Offertory Anthem: Rejoice in the Lord, alway

Anonymous

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, rejoice. Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand. Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication, let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu.
Amen.

Text: Philippians 4:4-7

Blessing

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 66 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Stuttgart

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715;
adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Voluntary: Wer nur den lieben Gott

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Clergy: The Reverend Dr. W. Lee Domenick, *Rector*; The Reverend Cheryl Harder, *Associate Rector*; The Reverend Chris Cole, *Curate*; The Reverend Deborah Underwood, *Deacon*; The Reverend Bert Bibens, *Deacon*; The Reverend Linda Paul, *Deacon*; The Reverend Noel Doherty, *Assisting Clergy*

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Technical Team: Jennifer Ratliff-Towner, *Lead*; Michael Towner, Philippe Beaudette, Lizze Radford, Joshua Miller, Jeff Luke.

Vestry: Pat Woodrum, *Senior Warden*; Joe Wilkinson, *Junior Warden*; Harry Dandelles, *Treasurer*; Joe Woltz, *Clerk*; Bill Nay, *Chancellor*; Emily Bibens; Dale Billam; Caroline Crain; Jennifer Grassmeyer; Brad Morgan; Rusty Renfrow; Jessica Smith; Patti Smith; and George Walls.

Trinity Episcopal Church: 501 S. Cincinnati Ave.; Tulsa, OK 74103; 918-582-4128; www.trinitytulsa.org

We those who have made their financial commitment to Trinity for 2021:

Linda Acton-Smith
Kathy & Joe Adwon
Tom & Keith Allen
Sara Arnold
Ann Audley
Larry & Jacque Bailey
Julia A. Baker
Pamela Baker
Richard L. Barr
Mary & Mark Benes
Emily Bibens
Bert & Susan Bibens
Barbara Bilderback
Dale & Melinda Billam
Susan Brown & Jake Mitchell
Michael Broyles
Christine Buzzard
Carolyn Cahill
Casey Cantwell
Carolyn Carle
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Linda Chambers
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