

# Trinity Presbyterian Church

December 12, 2021



A HOME  
FOR all  
Third Sunday of Advent



Rev. Dr. Jeffrey W. Beebe, Pastor  
Heasuk Che, Director of Music/Organist  
Brooke Tucker, Director of Faith Formation  
Lillian Warner, Director of Handbell Choir  
Thomas Buonocore, Sexton  
Judy Grady, Financial and Administrative Assistant

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Facebook: Trinity Presbyterian Church USA

Live-Stream our Worship at [www.trinitypalmcoast.org](http://www.trinitypalmcoast.org)

Third Sunday of Advent "Joy" • December 12, 2021 • 10:00a.m.

Prelude "Still, Still, Still" arr. Che  
Welcome and Announcements  
Musical Interlude #116 "The Snow Lay on the Ground"  
+Advent Candle Lighting: Eric Munzberg, Lisa Hammond,  
Sierra Holt, & Gavin Munzberg

A voice calls out in the wilderness.  
It sings of a home for all, a home of justice and peace,  
a home bursting with joy.

**We could choose to ignore it.**

**Instead, we come into this sacred space.**

**We let the world grow quiet and we hear:**

Joy in the giggles and stretches of a newborn child.

**Joy in a tail-wagging dog sliding to meet you at the door.**

Joy in unabashed laughter freely shared at tables of hospitality and warmth.

**Joy in making it home after a long journey, discovering that you are found when you thought you were lost.**

Today we light the candle of joy, because the welcome God has for us is nothing short of good news of great...*seriously* great joy!

**Family of faith, we are close to home. Let us worship God**

Hymn #113 "Angels We Have Heard on High"/Gloria

1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!	3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
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2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

+Call to Confession

It takes courage to tell the truth. John the Baptist knew it.  
His job as a prophet certainly could not have been easy.  
And you and I know it. Our job as people of faith—to create a home for all—has never been easy.  
In our prayer of confession, may we channel some of John the Baptist's courage to tell the truth about ourselves and our world. We do not do this to shame ourselves or guilt ourselves for being imperfect. We speak the truth out loud because we know that we cannot grow and change without first being honest.  
So let us be brave. Let us be bold. Let us be truth-tellers as we confess together now to a God who couldn't love us any more than God already does. Let us pray. . .

+Prayer of Confession

**Expansive God,  
We know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own**

**standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope we pray, amen. (Silence for Reflection)**

+Declaration of Forgiveness

Family of faith, God sent prophets like John the Baptist to us because this work is not easy. Helping create a world where all might have a home, and all might be loved, and all might know peace, is an audacious goal. Fortunately for us, when we mess up—when we lose our way or forget our call—we are met with grace. God could not love us any more or any less than God already does. So rest in this good news:

**We are at home with God—forgiven, claimed, and loved. The door is always open for us. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Anthem

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Adeste Fideles

Small Choir

The Way Home

Poem

*This Year Will be Different*

by Ann Weems

Who among us does not have dreams that this year will be different?  
among us does not intend to go peacefully, leisurely, carefully toward Bethlehem, or who among us likes to cope with the commercialism of Christmas which lures us to tinsel not only the tree but also our hearts?  
Who among us intends to get caught up in tearing around and wearing down?  
Who among us does not long for: gifts that give love?  
shopping in serenity? cards and presents sent off early?  
long evenings by the fireside with those we love?  
(the trimming devoid of any arguing about who's going to hang what where, the aroma of cinnamon and nutmeg mingling with the pine scent of the tree, and carols gently playing over our idyllic scene)  
and the children! The children cheerfully talking about giving instead of getting?

Who among us does not yearn for  
time for our hearts to ponder the Word of God?  
moments of kneeling and bursts of song?  
the peace of quiet calm for our spirit's journey?  
This year we intend to follow the Star instead of the crowd.  
But of course, we always do intend the best.  
(And sometimes best intentions tend to get the best of us!)  
This year, when we find ourselves off the path again (and we invariably will!), let's not add yet another stress to our Advent days, that of "trying to do Christmas correctly"!

Instead, let's approach the birth of our Lord with *joyful* abandon!

And this year

let's do what Mary did and rejoice in God, let's do what Joseph did and listen to our dreams, let's do what the Wise Men did and go to worship, let's do what the shepherds did and praise and glorify God for all we've seen and heard!

As for the Advent frantic pace, we don't have time for that.

We'll be too busy singing! This year will be different!

+Prayer for Illumination

God, whose love is like the sun warming me from the inside,  
if you are my home, then your word is the street light guiding me there.

So I want you to know—

I am walking your way, we are walking your way,  
and we are looking for a light.

And our feet are dirty—

we've lost our way a time or two.

And our bags are heavy—

we're carrying an array of grief and fear on our backs.

But we're on our way. We're looking for your light.

We're listening for your word.

When you see us coming, when you feel our hearts move,

we hope you'll run down the driveway and catch us.

Leave the light on. We are on our way home.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

Scripture Lesson Zephaniah 3:14-20

**3** <sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD,  
is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home,

at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes, says the LORD.

Gospel Lesson Luke 3:1-18

Meditation "Gather Us In"

Rev. Jeff Beebe

Affirmation of Faith (by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing)

**We believe that God has come to us;**

**that God brought us into being,**

**that this God gave us breath and purpose,**

**that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,**

**that we have fallen short of this commandment**

**but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.**

**We believe that God is coming to us;**

**that God is not happy to leave us alone,**

**that this God will come to us as a particular human being,**

**that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours,**

**that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy,**

**that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.**

**We believe that God will come to us;**

**that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,**

**that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our**

**work, that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth,  
that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more,  
and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect "Alleluia!"**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Hymn #115 "Away in a Manger" Mueller

**1** Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

**2** The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

**3** Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

+Benediction - As you leave *this* service, *your* service begins:

**Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary.**

**Be brave enough to go home by another way. And remember that here in  
God's house, all are welcomed—so come back soon.**

**In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son—go in peace.**

Postlude "And The Glory of The Lord" Handel, Messiah

\* Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org."

WORSHIP NOTES

**Greeters:** Susan Kopyar & Gene Johnson

**Ushers:** Marti Benz, Ron & Penny Weidner,  
Bill & Sandy Boland, David & Lori Davenport

**Lay Reader:** Jason Wheeler **Audio Tech:** Chuck Radloff

**Live-Stream Tech:** Jeff Cooke and Ken Mettler

Join us in prayer for our members and loved ones

**Jean & Roger Ailshie, Bob Aitken,** Gail Alvaro, **Mary Batailo,** Andrew Billings, Bret Bosier, Jason Bradley\*, **Doris Boone, Al Burgess,** Jasper Casey, John Decina, Maverick Dennis\*, Rev. Dr. Jeff DeYoe, Dickiesons Family, **Joe Digby\***, Ada Earl, Patrick Floyd\*, Clarisa Gibson, Sandy Glasner, Stanley Hannum\*, **Pat Head,** Clark Hessen, A.J. Jebbia, Vicki Jebbia, **Bob Johnson, Javan N. Jones\*, Jennifer Kaczmarek, Susan Kopyar,** Bruce Lee, **Florence Lyman,** Marissa Mallicote, **Ed Manen, Jan Markiewicz, Lynn Martin,** Sue McCarthy, **Walt McRae, Marie McCray,** Declan Mitchell\*, Pam Mitchell-Hess, Pastor Mark Odle, Rev. David Oertel, Joseph C. Orr\*, **Howard Parker,** William Patterson, **Janet Pegg, Bea Pison, Helene Read, Ginny Reisinger,** Bradford Robinson, Jennifer Sheringham\*, **Lois Settles, Joe Shull, Diane Simmons, Bonnie Slager, Gene Thrower, Brooke Tucker, Ryan Tugas\*,** Ben Whitenack, **Matthew Winterheimer\*, Kenny Wittmer,** Norma Warwell

We are happy to pray for you and your loved ones. If someone is in need of prayer, please let the church office know: trinityoffice@cfl.rr.com. Those listed in bold are members of the church and the asterisk indicates active military service.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:



Margaret Best 12/12  
Cooper Collier 12/14  
Sabrina Rampersad 12/15  
Leslie Russo 12/15  
Doris Valenti 12/17  
Rebecca Bower 12/18

CLOSE TO HOME

The icon in our *Close to Home* logo conveys a theological concept of home. The hands express our deep longing for connection, intimacy, and for God to come close. As the hands—representing both God's hands and the hands of humanity—draw closer to one another, they form a structure of home. The home structure is not one dimensional; it expands outward, with a doorway offering an open invitation to us all. The hands break through the house structure, centering human connection and mirroring the inbreaking of God in our lives. The logo is both structural and personal, comforting and nostalgic—reminding us of the ways God's home is close but not yet complete."

ADVENT SPIRAL WALK AND PRAYER ROOM

This Advent Season, we are pleased to once again offer an Advent Spiral Walk. The spiral is set up in the Chapel and will remain there throughout December. You are invited to the Chapel either before Worship, after Worship or during the week to take time to ponder, pray and prepare for Advent. Each week, a different prayer station will invite you to prepare for Advent. You are then encouraged to walk the spiral, taking time to ponder and pray.

This Week in our Church

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00am-12:00 noon

Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary) In-person and Live-Stream

5:15 PM Youth Group-Middle School

6:00 PM Youth Group-High School

Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

9:30 AM Handbell Choir (Sanctuary)

10:00 AM Service & Outreach Committee (Kepler)

3:00 PM Champlain Baptism (Sanctuary)

5:00 PM Trinity Troopers (Youth Room)

6:00 PM Session Meeting

6:15 PM Cub Scout Pack 281 (Mehaffey/Youth Room)

Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

6:30 PM Scout Troops 281 and 4281 (Mehaffey)

Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

8:15 PM AA (Mehaffey)

Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

9:15 AM Advent Study with Dr. Beebe

Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

6:30 PM NA (Mehaffey)

Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

11AM-5PM Family Day at Montgomery Center

Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary) In-person and Live-Stream

3:00 PM Christmas Caroling

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here:



Trinity Presbyterian Church is called by God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to be a **worshipping, nurturing and serving** community.