

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2021



Trinity Presbyterian Church Palm Coast, Florida

156 Florida Park Drive N.
Palm Coast, Florida 32137
(386)445-4757

www.trinitypalmcoast.org

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Christmas Eve

An unmarried teenage girl was invited—to carry Christ into this world. An ordinary carpenter was invited—to be a father to a child unlike any other. The shepherds were invited—outcast and isolated, included at the manger. The Magi were invited—foreigners and seekers, included at the manger. And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—then we can trust that we too are invited. This story is for us. This love is for us. Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home. Amen.⁺

Prelude “Sing We Now of Christmas” arr. Phillips
Handbell choir with Jillian Koenig, Tambourine

Welcome and Announcements

* Hymn “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Candle Lighting⁺ *The Beebe Family*

In this sacred time and space, we are welcomed home.

Here in God’s house, there is hope (*the first candle is lit*)

For God loves us too much to leave us just as we are.

In God’s house, there is peace (*the second candle is lit*)

For all that separates us from God falls away.

In God’s house, there is joy (*the third candle is lit*)

Because God created music, and coffee, and dance floors, and laughter that is contagious, and peek-a-boos with babies; and if those things have God’s fingerprints, then God’s house surely exudes joy.

In God’s house, there is love (*the fourth candle is lit*)

Because God is love, from start to finish, and that love exists for us all.

And in the center of our hope, our peace, our joy and our love is God, Emmanuel—who entered our home to dwell among us. So tonight we light the Christ candle, for God’s love just could not stay away.

Family of faith, welcome home.

Let us worship God.

Call of Confession⁺

Prayer of Confession⁺

Holy God,

You throw open the door and invite us into relationship, day in and day out. However, instead of running toward you, we dip our toes in the water of this faith. We hold our breath. We play it safe. We struggle to believe that a love so unfettered, so unfiltered, could be for us. As a result, we often deny this worth for ourselves and others. Forgive us for ignoring your invitation to be the people you call us to be. Forgive us for the ways in which we hold back from deeper connection to you or withhold your radical love from others. Open our ears to not only hear your invitation, but to trust that this good news exists even for us. Gratefully we pray, amen. (Silence for Reflection)

Words of Forgiveness⁺

Family of faith,

Even when we fail to trust God’s love, and even when we fail to love others as we should, God still loves us. That door *never* closes.

So hear and believe this good news:

God invites us into a life of faith. God loves us through every season of life. God forgives us when we lose our way and invites us deeper every step of the way. We are loved, invited, claimed, celebrated, and forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Anthem “O Holy Night”
Madelyn May

The Way Home
Hymn “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Prayer for Illumination⁺

Holy God,

We’ve heard this story a million times—

Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds.

We’ve heard it a million times,

but we want to hear it like it’s the first.

So move among us. Circle back. Draw close.

Crack open our hearts and fill them with your goodness.

Help us to hear what it is you might be saying to us with curiosity, joy, and hope. This is an invitation.

Come be here with us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

* Hymn “Hark, The Herald Angels Sing”

* Gospel Lesson John 1:1-14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Meditation "On This Night" Dr. Jeff Beebe

Offering of our Gifts⁺

Jesus was not born in a real home. He was born into poverty.

He was born into simplicity. He was born into a manger in Bethlehem. And despite the little he might have had, Jesus still spent the rest of his days on earth giving to others. Generosity is in the DNA of our faith. We give what we can, not because we *should* or because scripture says to. We give because we're family. We give because we belong to one another. We give because all are invited into God's house. So might we share our gifts.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.

Sharing the Bread

This is the Body of Christ, the Bread of Life—given for you. Amen.

Sharing the Cup

This is the Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation—shed for you. Amen.

Lighting of Luminaries "Silent Night, Holy Night" Stille Nacht

Sending Prayer⁺

Gracious God,
Your story is one that forever invites us to be our full selves, to take up space, to go where we feel called, and to allow this community to feel like home. So use these gifts to keep building your home here. With gratitude as tall as the ceiling, we pray. Amen.

* Hymn "Joy to the World"

Postlude "Angels We Have Heard on High" Gloria

* Denotes please stand if able.

"Lord Jesus, master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, 'Come Lord Jesus!'"

-Henri Nouwen



*We at Trinity Presbyterian Church wish you a blessed and joyous Christmas!
The old life is gone, and the new life is begun. That has been, that is, and that will be forever the Good news of the Gospel. Merry Christmas.*



WORSHIP NOTES

Greeters: Susan Kopyar & Gene Johnson

Ushers: Ron & Penny Weidner, Joan Zicht,
Bill & Sandy Boland, Paul & Maudie Parker

Lay Reader: Kay James

Audio Tech: Chuck Radloff

Live-Stream Tech: Jeff Cooke and Ken Mettler



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



TRINITY EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

The Magi followed a star, which ultimately led them to Jesus. Therefore, we too use all the resources we have available to us to move closer to Jesus.

We invite you to be a part of our second Epiphany Celebration on Sunday, January 9, 2021 from 3pm-5pm.

A New Year's opportunity for you to be blessed and to be a blessing to others.



OFFERING

Please continue to give your offering. God calls us to give all of who we are, and all of what we have used in and thru the Church. So let us present our lives. Let us present our gifts unto God.

Contribution baskets are available after the service. Offerings can also be received by mail or you may utilize online banking options at www.trinitypalmcoast.org.

For year-end giving please be sure gifts are received in the Church office by 12/31/2020.

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The 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