



IMMANUEL,

God with Us



ADVENT

Matthew 1:18-25



TRINITY

Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP | December 24, 2023

Listening devices are available for the hearing impaired.

Please speak with a greeter or visit the sound booth upstairs for a listening device.

CELEBRATING THE SEASON - 2023

The earth holds its breath, waiting. Advent is a season of longing. It is a yearly representation in our church calendar of the eons spanning from the moment Eve took the first bite of the fruit until that starry night when Heaven touched earth and Christ incarnated, becoming God-man. Fully human. Fully God. Advent culminates in the arrival of Jesus—Messiah, born in the flesh to the last people on earth who anyone would have chosen to parent a king!

SONG OF GATHERING & PREPARATION

The people of God always sang as they ascended the hill in Jerusalem up to the temple to worship (see Psalms 120-134). We, as well, prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for worship by singing about the God we serve.

Joy To The World

EXPLANATION OF ADVENT THEME | KINGDOM

CALL TO WORSHIP | Revelation 19:11-16 (ESV)

We read God's Word, the Bible, together. It reveals to us who God is and what He expects of us.

PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

We pray together praising God for who He really is (Adoration) and admitting our inability to live up to what He expects of us (Confession).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON | Isaiah 43:1, 3, & 49:15-16 (ESV)

We read God's Word together and are reminded that mercy and grace are freely given to all who have faith in Jesus Christ.

... thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ... I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. ... "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands."

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace for us in Jesus by giving generously to the work of His church and the kingdom of God.

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

PRAISE & CELEBRATION

Our response to God's free grace is celebratory worship. We express our praise to God for who He is and what He has done for us.

Come Thou Fount

Gratitude

CONFESSION OF FAITH

As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ in solidarity with his people, we declare the substance of what we believe.

From the New City Catechism:

Q. 52. [What hope does everlasting life hold for us?](#)

A. It reminds us that this present fallen world is not all there is; soon we will live with and enjoy God forever in the new city, in the new heaven and the new earth, where we will be fully and forever freed from all sin and will inhabit renewed, resurrection bodies in a renewed, restored creation.

KIDS' WORSHIP & COMMUNITY KIDS' DISMISSAL (Infants - Kindergarten)

Please see your child's check-in name tag for class assignment.

GREETING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

We express in prayer our gratitude to God for what He has done and ask Him to continue to act for our good and the good of others in our community and world.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD | *Tim Rice, Lead Pastor and Director of Church Planting*

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our lives and circumstances.

SONG OF RESPONSE

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace by singing again of His goodness and greatness.

God With Us

BENEDICTION

Because the hand of God's wrath was raised against Jesus, we now receive the hand of God's blessing as we are sent out to live our lives to the glory of God.

May the LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn His face toward you and give you His peace,
both now and forevermore. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE & SERMON OUTLINE

Proclamation of God's Word

Text: Matthew 1:18-25 (ESV)

Title: Immanuel, God with Us

Teacher: Tim Rice

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

INTRO: *What if you're offered a solution to a problem you don't think you have?*

WHAT WE CANNOT CONCEIVE

What complicates our fallen condition?

WHAT ONLY THE LORD CAN DO

How is the Christmas story unique?

WHAT REPENTANCE & FAITH DOES

How does Joseph demonstrate a faithful response?

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD for His love, power and wisdom. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for how He has worked even through shame, loss, suffering and death in order to redeem sinners like us.
2. How have you lived denying either that you are a scandal (*in sin*) or that there are miracles (*because you can solve your own problems*)? Confess your pride and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and heal you.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for how He has worked to save us. Thank Him for becoming a scandal in our place, which IS a miracle – that God would work so uniquely to save us when He could justly destroy us.
4. Who do you know that struggles with minimizing their sin or need for a Savior? Ask the Lord to help them, to open their eyes to their true peril without Jesus and to use you to help them to find hope in Christ.
5. *Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love, joy and patience.* Pray for wisdom to think well about Jesus' promise to return in light of His promises kept at His first coming, and that the Spirit would sustain you in hope.

Welcome to Trinity!
We would love to connect with you.
Please scan on the QR code to get connected
and let us know of any prayer requests
you may have.



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Communication

Visit trinitylakeland.org/events to register.



The Weekender - New Member Class

January 19, 6-8:30p & January 20, 9a-12p.

Contact [Ashley Coleman](#) for information.



Women's Bible Study - Spring Semester

Starting February 6 & 7

Registration Opens on January 7.



High School Winter Retreat

February 9-11

Contact [Brown Peterson](#) for information.

Community Bible Reading

communitybiblereading.org

December 25-30, 2023

(3-year plan: read [blue](#) passages | 1-year plan: read [all](#))

Monday	Matthew 24 Ecclesiastes 7	1 Samuel 20 Malachi 1
Tuesday	Matthew 25 Ecclesiastes 8	1 Samuel 21 Malachi 2
Wednesday	Matthew 26 Ecclesiastes 9	1 Samuel 22 Malachi 3
Thursday	Matthew 27 Ecclesiastes 10	1 Samuel 23 Malachi 4
Friday	Matthew 28 Ecclesiastes 11	1 Samuel 24 Psalm 150
Saturday	Ecclesiastes 12	

Scripture Memory for the Week:

Matthew 1:21-23 (ESV)

21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:
23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Office Hours:

Mon - Fri | 8:30a - 5:00p

Sunday Worship | 10:30a

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Mission

A city transformed: Loved by God the Father, saved by Jesus His Son,
empowered by His Spirit, called by God to reach our city with His love.