

ETERNAL HOPE IN THE MIDST OF WAR

ISRAEL'S TRUE PROBLEM

MATTHEW 2:12-21



TRINITY
Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP | Sunday, December 20, 2020

Listening devices are available for the hearing impaired.

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

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.

How Great Is Your Love

EXPLANATION OF ADVENT THEME

CALL TO WORSHIP | Psalm 37:1-9 (ESV)

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

Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers! For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

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 | 2 Corinthians 5:11, 14-15 (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.

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ... For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

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.

Abide With Me

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.

Rescue

Overcome

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM | 10:45a Service

The ritual of baptism is a sign and seal of the grace we have in Jesus. It symbolizes the cleansing all people need before they are acceptable to God (sign), and it makes how real God's promise is for who will trust in Him (seal).

Vera Katherine Miller

Hayes Wilder Parker

KIDS' WORSHIP & COMMUNITY KIDS DISMISSAL (Infants - 5th Grade) | 9a Service

KIDS' WORSHIP DISMISSAL (Infants - 4 Years) | 10:45a Service

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

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 & 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.

King of Kings

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 2:12-21 (ESV)

Title: Eternal Hope In The Midst of War: Israel's True Problem

Teacher: Tim Rice

¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. ¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." ¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more." ¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

Intro: What is the bloodiest book you've ever read?

CLEAR PROBLEM, HIDDEN CAUSE

If the problem of evil is vivid, how is its source veiled or obscured?

MYSTERIOUS INTERVENTION

How is God's involvement surprising?

PAINFUL FAITH

What are we to do with the death of martyrs?

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD for His conquering power and the security that comes with His reign. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that rather than destroy us in His justice, that He offers to save us instead.
2. How have you lived defiant toward, or covetous of, God's power? Confess your proud rebellion to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and change your state of mind to be humble, loyal, and truly loving.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for His willingness to go into suffering and obscurity to save us (Egypt, Nazareth, death and hell). Thank Him for *entering suffering we caused to actually accomplish our salvation and Satan's undoing*.
4. Who do you know that is defenseless? Or who do you know that is lustful for power? Pray for them, calling upon the Lord who defends the helpless and overthrows the arrogant.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear His fruit of faithfulness in you. Ask that you would grow in what it means to hold to His will and priorities even in the face of opposition (even suffering) from the powers of this world.

WELCOME TO TRINITY!

We're so glad you are here.

Please place completed tear-off in offering plate.

Name (Please Print) Gender Male Female

Spouse

Children (Include DOB for Children's Ministry)

Address

City/State Country/Zip

Phone

E-mail Address

- First-Time Visitor Regular Attendee
 Member College Student
 Update my contact information

I would like to receive:

- Worship Folder & Announcement Emails

I would like information about:

- Children's Ministry Student Ministry
 College Ministry Volunteering
 Community Group Women's Ministry
 Men's Ministry Worship
 New Member Class

Prayer

How can our staff pray for you?

Community Bible Reading

communitybiblereading.org

December 21 - 26, 2020

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

Monday	Matthew 23 Ecclesiastes 5	1 Samuel 18 Zechariah 13
Tuesday	Matthew 24 Ecclesiastes 6	1 Samuel 19 Malachi 1
Wednesday	Matthew 25 Ecclesiastes 7	1 Samuel 20 Malachi 2
Thursday	Matthew 26 Ecclesiastes 8	1 Samuel 21 Malachi 3
Friday	Matthew 27 Ecclesiastes 9	1 Samuel 22 Malachi 4
Saturday		Psalms 52 Psalms 150

Scripture Memory for the Week: Matthew 2:13 (ESV)

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

Communication

Register for events at trinitylakeland.org/events



Christmas Eve Services

December 24, [5:00p](#) & [6:30p](#)
Live Stream, 6:30p



New Member Class

January [24](#) & [31](#) following worship.
Contact [Ashley Moats](#) for information.



Southland High School Retreat

January 29-31
Contact [Brown Peterson](#) for information.

Office Hours:

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

301 N Florida Ave, Lakeland, FL 33801

863-603-7777 | trinitylakeland.org

