

December 16, 2018

THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS



TRINITY
Presbyterian Church

Order of Worship — Sunday, December 16, 2018

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 of Advent - 2018

The earth holds its breath, waiting. Advent is a season of longing, 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 in the flesh, born as a human child to the last people on earth who anyone would have chosen to parent a king!

Song of Gathering and 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.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

by Charles Wesley, arrangement by Chris Tomlin and Christy Nockels | © Public Domain, CCLI Song # 2276425, CCLI# 1693489

Come Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

Explanation of Advent Theme: Law — John Tucker

The kingdom of God is in the midst of you. Those in Bethlehem and beyond failed to note the significance of His arrival - His advent, of the star in the east or the strange clamor of the shepherds that night - wandering and rejoicing through the streets. One who did take note wanted to kill him. Even so, God has given us clear instruction on how we ought to live and wait for His great day. On this third Sunday of Advent, we light a candle to honor the law of God. In the law, the Father shows us the beauty of His Kingdom in our midst - His heart of righteousness and His holy authority to rule. The Word made flesh, God's law wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, comes that we too might live and pray "Thy Kingdom come; thy will be done."

Call to Worship/Lighting of Advent Candle

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

The Gaynair Family – Isaiah 65:17-19 & 25 (ESV)

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. ... The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,”

Prayer of Adoration and Confession – John Tucker

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

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

Romans 8:31-35 & 37-39 (ESV)

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 this church and the kingdom of God.

Behold The Lamb of God

Words by Andrew Peterson. Music by Andrew Peterson and Laura Story

2004 New Spring Publishing, Inc., Gleaning Publishing

CCLI Song # 4618782, CCLI# 1693489

*Behold the Lamb of God who takes away our sin
Behold the Lamb of God the life and light of men
Behold the Lamb of God who died and rose again
Behold the Lamb of God who comes to take away our sin*

Broken hearts (Behold our broken hearts)

Fallen far (We need you)

Behold the sin of man

Behold the Lamb of God ...

Son of God (Emmanuel)
Son of Man (We praise you)
Behold the Lamb
The hope of man
Behold the Lamb of God
Behold, the Lamb of God ...

Praise and 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.

Angels We Have Heard On High

Traditional French Carol, arrangement by Future of Forestry
© Public Domain, CCLI Song # 277271, CCLI License# 1693489

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.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

Gloria in excelsis Deo ...

Hark

By Ben Tan, Charles Wesley, Dylan Thomas, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Melodie Wagner and Michael Guy Chislett
© 2017 Hillsong Music Publishing, CCLI Song # 7095546, CCLI License # 1693489

Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem

Hark the angels sing
Hark the angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Christ by highest heaven adored Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come offspring of a virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell Jesus our Emmanuel

Hark the angels sing ...

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace hail the Son of righteousness
Light and life to all He brings risen with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth born to give them second birth

Hark the angels sing

Hark the angels sing

Glory to the newborn King

(repeat)

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. 50. What does Christ's resurrection mean for us?

A. Christ triumphed over sin and death by being physically resurrected, so that all who trust in him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come. Just as we will one day be resurrected, so this world will one day be restored. But those who do not trust in Christ will be raised to everlasting death.

Receiving New Members

As was the case for believers in the Old and New Testaments, we are called to publicly confess our faith in the grace of God, to participate in the rituals of entrance into the people of God (circumcision in the Old and baptism in the New), and to acknowledge our membership with His people.

Aaron Mayfield (Communing)

Andrea O'Brien (Communing)

Tucker O'Brien (Communing)

JB Tucker (Communing)

Kids' Worship & Community Kids Dismissal

Infants - Fifth Grade are dismissed. Please see your child's check-in name tag for class assignment.

Greeting

Just as the Apostle Paul urged fellow believers to be hospitable, in the Gospel, Jesus has welcomed us - the worst of sinners - into His home and family. In the same spirit we greet each other to show the hospitality of Jesus.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession — John Tucker

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

*By Jason Ingram and Leslie Jordan | © 2012 Integrity's Praise! Music, Open Hands Music, So Essential Tunes
CCLI Song # 6016351, CCLI License # 1693489*

Oh You've come to bring peace to be Love

To be nearer to us

You've come to bring life to be Light

To shine brighter in us

Oh Emmanuel God with us

Our Deliverer You are Savior

In Your presence we find our strength

Over everything our Redemption

God with us

You are God with us

Oh You've come to be Hope to this world

For Your honor and name

And You've come to take sin to bear shame

And to conquer the grave

Oh Emmanuel God with us

Our Deliverer You are Savior ...

*You are here You are holy
We are standing in Your glory (Lord)
(repeat 3x)*

Our Deliverer You are Savior ...

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.*

Seasons of the Cross

Midnight blue for Advent: Blue has historically been associated with this season, a picture of the darkness before the dawn. In Romans, Paul writes, "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God ... in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God." Freedom begins with the birth of the Christ. (ref. Rom 8:19, 20b, 21)

Scripture Passage and Sermon Outline

Proclamation of God's Word

Text: Mark 8:31-33, 9:31-32 & 10:32-34 (ESV)

Title: The Purpose of Christmas

Teacher: Tim Rice

8:31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." ... 9:31 for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise." 32 But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him. ... 10:32 And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, 33 saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. 34 And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise."

Intro: When are predictions keenly helpful?

HOW DO YOU EXPECT GOD TO COME?

God's way of Atonement could not be imagined – it is *revealed!*

THE NEEDS AND COSTS

Why can we not fathom God's willingness to suffer to save His people?

AND THE PREVAILING HOPE

Throughout all of Jesus' predictions of anguish, how is there still *hope*?

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD for His trustworthiness, *especially in the face of all the world's promises that are never kept*. Praise God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that He can be trusted to keep His Word even to His own hurt.
2. How have you sought to live without ever having to suffer? Confess your cowardice and folly to Jesus, asking Him to not only forgive you but also to secure you, eternally changing your heart by His love.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for His resolve to satisfy justice for sinners like us who have rebelled. Thank Him for His work through suffering and death to *conquer* death by first dying and then being raised to life.
4. Who do you know that is baffled by God's plan to work through death and resurrection? Pray for them, asking the Lord to open their eyes to Jesus' power to save them from their sin and unbelief.
5. *Ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight and confidence in Jesus' promises to raise you to new life with Him*. Pray for joy and hope in Jesus' guarantee that He must be raised – and that He will resurrect us as He was resurrected.

Communication

2019 CBR Journals – Community Bible Reading (CBR) journals will be available Sunday, December 23. We will have them at both entrances for members and regular attenders of Trinity. If you would like to give a journal to a friend or family member or would like to sponsor the giving of journals they can be purchased for \$10. Questions? Contact the church office at trinity@trinitylakeland.org or 863-603-7777.

Christmas Eve Service – Monday, December 24, we will gather at 5p for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior! Nursery available for babies 0-23 months with RSVP to Callie Sandman at callie@trinitylakeland.org by December 20.

Year End Giving – All gifts must be received in the church office, made online or postmarked by Monday, December 31 (the church office will be open regular hours on this day) to be included on your 2018 Giving Statement. Please contact Frank McCaulley, 863-286-5007, to donate stock or arrange for gift pick up or drop off.

New Member Class – Friday, January 25, 6-9p and Saturday, January 26, 8:30-11:30a. This class is for anyone interested in becoming a member or learning more about Trinity. Dinner and breakfast will be provided. Please RSVP so materials may be prepared. Contact Molly Murphy at molly@trinitylakeland.org for questions or to reserve your spot!



PROGRESS REPORT

GOAL:	\$957,000
COMMITTED:	\$1,013,200.56
GIVEN:	\$968,565.56

PROJECTS

COMPLETED: Roof & Continued Church Planting Support

IN DESIGN: Accessible Restroom, Railing & Sanctuary Renovation

Ushers

Matt Tucker, HEAD

Mike Wells, HEAD

Debbie Blankenship

Ken Breathitt

Gary Blankenship

JR Pierce

Bill Bracken

Greg Valentine

CALENDAR

For more information and additional calendar items,
visit our website at trinitylakeland.org.

* Childcare provided

SUNDAY (December 16)

8:00 am Prayer

8:45 am Churchwide Christmas
Breakfast

* 10:15 am Worship Service

6:00 pm College-ish (offsite)

WEDNESDAY (December 19)

6:00 pm Middle & High School Worship

FRIDAY (December 21)

Church Office Closed

SUNDAY (December 23)

8:00 am Prayer

* 10:15 am Worship Service

WELCOME TO TRINITY!

We're so glad you are here.

Name (Please Print)

Gender: Male Female

Spouse

Children (Include DOB for Children's Ministry)

Address: Street

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:

Joining a Community Group

Upcoming New Member Class

Women's Bible Study

Student Ministry

Children's Ministry

Volunteering with children

Community Bible Reading

joincbr.com

December 17 - 22, 2018

Monday	Matthew 20 1 Samuel 15	Zechariah 10 Ecclesiastes 2
Tuesday	Matthew 21 1 Samuel 16	Zechariah 11 Ecclesiastes 3
Wednesday	Matthew 22 1 Samuel 17	Zechariah 12 Ecclesiastes 4
Thursday	Matthew 23 1 Samuel 18	Zechariah 13 Ecclesiastes 5
Friday	Matthew 24 1 Samuel 19	Zechariah 14 Ecclesiastes 6
Saturday	Psalms 51	Psalms 148 Psalms 103

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

Scripture Memory for the Week:

Mark 9:30-32 (ESV)

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise." ³² But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

Prayer

How can our staff pray for you?
Please use the space below to tell us.

Ministry Leaders

Tim Rice, Lead Pastor & Director of Church Planting
 Tim Strawbridge, Director of Spiritual Life
 Luke Wolfe, Associate Pastor & Director of Community Groups
 David Springer, Director of Campus Outreach
 Shayne Bass, Director of Student & College Ministries
 Brown Peterson, Assistant Director of Student Ministry
 Callie Sandman, Director of Children's Ministry
 Krissa Valentine, Children's Ministry Administrative Assistant
 Jason Jacobs, Director of Worship
 Rachel Plating, Worship Creative Lead
 Jarrod Hurd, Worship Administrative Lead
 JoAnn Johnson, Director of Women's Ministry
 Dwight Smith, Director of Missions Team
 Frank McCaulley, Director of Operations
 Molly Murphy, Ministry Resource Coordinator
 Ashley Moats, Communications Assistant
 Sasha Jacobs, Bookkeeper

Ruling Elders

Clark Buurma
 Jerri Gable
 Dick Greene, Clerk
 Holland Henderson
 Jason Jacobs
 Shawn Jones
 Scott McBride
 Frank McCaulley
 Jack Plating
 Jim Prevatt
 Dwight Smith
 Tim Strawbridge
 John Tucker
 Justin Wilson

Teaching Elders

Josh Floyd
 Stan McMahan
 Tim Rice
 Ben Turner
 Luke Wolfe

Deacons

Braxton Bone
 David Boulware
 Robbie Davis
 Andrew Eisner
 Bruce Gaynair
 Jeff Sandman
 Adam Spafford, Chair
 James Spence

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday from 8:30a - 5:00p
 301 N Florida Ave, Lakeland, FL 33801
 863-603-7777 | trinitylakeland.org

