



# PARADISE *Lost*



ADVENT

*Genesis 2:7-9,  
15-17; 3:1-13, 21-24*



TRINITY  
Presbyterian Church

## ORDER OF WORSHIP | December 10, 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.

Prepare Him Room

### EXPLANATION OF ADVENT THEME | Promise

#### CALL TO WORSHIP | John 1:1-5 (ESV)

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

#### 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 41:10, 13 (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.

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. ... For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you."

#### 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.

What Child Is This

#### 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.

My Worth Is Not In What I Own

Holy Holy Holy

## 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.

## KIDS' WORSHIP & COMMUNITY KIDS' DISMISSAL (Infants - 5th Graders)

*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.

Your Glory

### 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:** Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17; 3:1-13, 21-24 (ESV)

**Title:** Paradise Lost

**Teacher:** Tim Rice

2:7 Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. 8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ... 15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." ... 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. 8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ... 21 And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. 22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

**INTRO:** *What is the biggest loss you've ever suffered?*

## THE HOLIEST GIFT

How is God's Presence an incomparable gift?

## THE WORST MOVE EVER

How have we squandered love, and given birth to shame and destruction?

## A VIOLENT RECOVERY

How has the LORD taken action to heal our alienation? And how is it shockingly violent?

## YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD, the Omnipresent God, for creating us for relationship with Himself. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that He is gracious to take sinners like us to be with Him in His own family!
2. How have you lived alienated from your Maker and sensible of losing His Presence? Confess your selfish living to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to restore you by His mercy.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for His work to *redeem us*. Thank Him that while we were rebellious He let go of what was rightfully His and took what He did not deserve (*by His death*) to guarantee us what we could never earn.
4. Who do you know that is closest to you that does not know Jesus? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help you reach them for Him. Ask Him to give you words and courage, and to give them a soft, humble heart.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a greater and greater sense of security in Jesus' promises, to strengthen you while you live in exile on this earth. Pray for His fruit of faithfulness as you trust the gift of His Presence to sustain you.

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](http://trinitylakeland.org/events) to register.



#### Congregational Budget Meeting

December 10, following the service.  
Contact the church office for information.



#### Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

December 24, 4p & 5:30p.  
Contact the church office for information.



#### The Weekender - New Member Class

January 19, 6-8:30p & January 20, 9a-12p.  
Contact [Ashley Coleman](#) for information.

### Community Bible Reading

[communitybiblereading.org](http://communitybiblereading.org)

**December 11-16, 2023**

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

Monday	Matthew 14 Proverbs 28	1 Samuel 10 Zechariah 5
Tuesday	Matthew 15 Proverbs 29	1 Samuel 11 Zechariah 6
Wednesday	Matthew 16 Proverbs 30	1 Samuel 12 Zechariah 7
Thursday	Matthew 17 Proverbs 31	1 Samuel 13 Zechariah 8
Friday	Matthew 18 Ecclesiastes 1	1 Samuel 14 Zechariah 9
Saturday	Psalm 103	Psalm 51 Psalm 148

### Scripture Memory for the Week:

**Genesis 3:8-9 (ESV)**

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

### 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.