

Trinity Church
First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023

WELCOME AND LITURGY OF GATHERING

Leader: Reading of [Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19](#). This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Trinity is fostering a haven of belonging where wanderers and wonderers gather to discover and embody the love of Jesus in the world.

COMMUNAL SINGING

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Come, Thou Fount

Come Thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing
Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest
praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues
above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy
redeeming love

Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I come
And I hope by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold
of God
He to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious
blood

Oh, to grace how great a debtor, Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to
Thee
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart Lord, take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts
above
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart Lord, take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts
above
Here's my heart Lord, take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts
above

COMMUNITY CONFESSION & ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Leader: Today marks the first Sunday of Advent, the season in which we anticipate celebrating the birth of Jesus. For unto us, a child is born - the presence of God With Us - will show us the way.

Reading - [Mark 13.24-37](#)

Prayer & Candle Lighting: We come to know you, Holy One, as Wisdom Incarnate, as Flickering Flame, as Spirit of Life, as Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, Enfleshed. You come to us as the Stranger, and the Strange. Often we do not recognize you. Often we turn away from your gifts and your demands. Yet you come to us in Wilderness, in the Impossible Made Possible, in Silence and Singing and Sighs Too Deep for Words. You abhor dominance, mastery, fear, and control. You are made known to us in Vulnerability, and Courage, and Divesting from the Powers of Empire.

ALL: God of Hope, forgive us when we're too distracted or stubborn to hear your voice. We come to you this Advent in need, with longing, in pain, captive to fear, desiring a more just world, a more livable life for all of us, for the earth, for every living thing caught and held in this inescapable network of mutual interdependence we call this one wild and precious Life. We long for you. We long for healing. We long for liberation. We long for different systems and patterns of relating. May we hear your prophets' call and respond.

Leader: Friends, this is the good news: God loves us deeply and never gives up on us. And so, this Advent, we pause. We breathe. We pray. We dig deep. We reach out. We rise up. We remember. We vision. We sit with the pain. We stay with the trouble. We wait, expectant. We light candles. We labor. We open to You, and to one another, and to the Sacred Mystery that is Emmanuel, God-With-Us, Love Incarnate, Divinity Enfleshed.

ALL: Praise God! We will continue listening for God's voice and respond faithfully!

Leader: The Hope of God-With-Us does not come as guaranteed outcome, or predetermined plan, or promise of a happy ending. Hope cannot be imposed from on high. Hope cannot be commanded. The Hope of God-With-Us is courageous, risky, unfolding, indeterminate. The Hope of God-With-Us is collective, liberating us from deadly complacency. Hope is gestating in darkness; it comes unexpectedly. Hope invites our expectation, and demands our participation. Prepare the way, for hope with courage. May Hope be birthed among, within, and through us, this Advent.

ALL: Amen.

BLESSING AND PASSING THE PEACE

Adults: The Lord be with you!

Children and Kids Ministry Leader: And also with you!

During this time we greet one another, recognizing that we are all a part of the body, as PreK-5th grade children are led to their ministry space. Younger children and youth remain, and are welcome, in the Gathering. Materials for toddlers are available and we understand that their presence means they will be heard, no need to worry about their vocal contributions.

ADVENT REFLECTION

Frankly Advent: Prayer of Hope that Burns

Isaiah 64:1-9

*[*For discussion prompts visit the series page here.](#)*

LORD'S TABLE LITURGY

Leader: As we begin once more an Advent season, we wait and watch for the small glimpses of God-glory breaking in, breaking out, sprouting, shooting, bearing fruit, making a Kingdom, remaking the world.

ALL: We tell the story that God invites each of us into: Christ came to dwell among us; Christ lived to show us the way; Christ died to set us free from sin; Christ was raised to break the power of death and will come again to bring us the wholeness for which we long.

Leader: The table of the Lord is open for all who seek to follow Christ.

**communion elements are gluten free, not allergen free*

RESPONSE & OFFERING OF WORSHIP

The [Offering Basket](#)

Prayer requests may be posted in the Zoom chat (Zoom participants) or written and placed in the offering basket.

O Come O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy of night

And death's dark shadow put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind
bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease
fill all the world with heaven's peace
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent begins today, oh my! The sermon series and resources for observing Advent are posted online at www.indytrinity.org/advent.

Holiday Schedule:

Christmas Eve Gathering @ 10am only

NO Gathering Sunday, December 31st - enjoy gathering with friends and family

January 7th - Special Brunch Gathering

Our next **Community Conversation** will take place on Sunday, December 10th after the Gathering. The conversation will provide an opportunity to share reflections on our year of renewal. More details will be shared via email the week prior.

2024 Trinity Church Budget has been approved. Please check your email. Budget and other financial documents may be found online at www.indytrinity.org/church-documents. Please contact us at contact@indytrinity.org if you have any accessibility issues.

Elder Recognition. Please join in thanking Mike Yordy for his three years of service to our church family on the Leadership Team. He will be rolling off this month as new elders are brought on.

THE BENEDICTION

Leader: God sends us from this experience of worship to serve all those around us.

ALL: We will go to take the light of hope into the shadowed corners in our midst.

Leader: Jesus, the Beloved, invites us to join him in everyday life, in everyday service.

ALL: We will go to be blessed by all those overlooked by the world.

Leader: Glory's Spirit takes us by the hand to lead us down paths of humility.

ALL: We will enter into the mists of mistrust, so we can offer hope to many.

(Some liturgies adapted from lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com, enfleshed.com)

COMMUNAL CONNECTION

Updated: Guide and Service Dog Training. As we welcome Guide/Service Dogs at Gatherings, please familiarize yourself with resources under on these two websites <https://www.guidedogs.com/resources/blindness-and-guide-dog-etiquette> and <https://www.guidedogsofamerica.org/best-practices-when-around-a-service-dog/> and discuss main points with those in your household. If you or anyone in your household has severe allergies or any fear of dogs, etc. please contact us (contact@indytrinity.org) so we can do our best to keep Gathering spaces welcoming for all.

New Covid Guidelines: We are in a season of preparing for possible gathering changes due to the resurgence of Covid. Gatherings may look a little different according to the needs of our leaders if Covid affects them or their teams. We ask that everyone remain flexible if and/or when this is the case. **If a gathering is going to be virtual, we will send an email by 8am on Sunday**, or earlier. We are also asking that those who have tested positive or develop symptoms not attend the gathering in person, but join online via Zoom. If you have been exposed, you can follow the guidelines from the CDC by using this [calculator](#) to determine what are your best precautions to take.

Land Acknowledgement. We acknowledge that the land on which we gather for worship was stolen from Native peoples, who were driven out of the area and of their native lands by genocide, force (through broken treaties and laws imposed upon their nation), and systematic dispossession. The Myaamiaki, Kaskaskia, and Kickapoo peoples* and their sovereign Nations have

cared for, and are deeply a part of, this land - past, present, and future. (ref: [Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, Trinity Church](#))

Gathering Hosting Schedule. As an act of service and care, please join staff, leaders, and others from your parish in hosting Sunday Gatherings. These are great times to connect and welcome others to converse while serving as well. Arrival at 9:45am is great, 9:30am is super helpful for assisting with audio equipment and/or indoor set up. Cleaning up on the back end should only take 10-15 minutes. The hosting checklist is in the Trinity office. Thank you!

December

3rd: North/Carmel

10th: Fishers

17th: Midtown/Downtown

24th: Broad Ripple

31st: *No Gathering*

January

7th: (Brunch) North/Carmel

14th: Fishers

21st: Midtown/Downtown

28th: Broad Ripple