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# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024 + 11:00 am Worship

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*As we enter a holy space and time this morning, please silence all electronic devices. The opening voluntary is the call to silent meditation and preparation for worship.*

*+ Please rise in body or spirit when you see this symbol, and join in singing or reading aloud text in bold.*

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Richard Purvis

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lucy Strong

## CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from *Luke 1:46-50*)

One: Our souls magnify the Lord!

**All: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**

One: The mighty One has done great things for us!

**All: Holy is God's name!**

One: Let us worship the Lord our God with hope, peace, joy, and love.

## +OPENING HYMN

*#93 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

TRURO

## INTROIT

Mark Patterson

*A Child Will Come*

A child will come to lead us. The Savior will soon be here.

A child will come to lead us; keep watch for the time is near.

Keep watch in the night for the heavenly light that tells of the Savior's birth.

Angels will sing of the love that he brings when the Prince of Peace comes to earth.

(Cherub Choirs)

## +CALL TO CONFESSION

Emily Beaver

## +PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God our Savior, we ask for your mercy.**

**Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions.**

**Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you.**

**We pass by those considered lowly in this world.**

**We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.**

**Forgive us, O God, for the times when we have been happy to hear the gospel without truly living it.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Help us work for the justice you intend.**

**Make us messengers of the peace you bring.**

**As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service.**

*(silence for personal prayers of confession)*

## +ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God comes to us, bringing hope, bringing forgiveness, bringing grace as freely offered gifts to us.

**All: May we open our hearts to the God who is with us, and receive the gifts which have been offered to us. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## +CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

WAITING

**While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come; Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

*(may be found as stanza 1 of Hymn #92)*

## THE ADVENT WREATH: LIGHTING OF THE LOVE CANDLE

The Shepard & Slaughter Families

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 11:1-9

(pew Bible, OT p. 640-641)

## ANTHEM

Michael Praetorius

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung. It came, a flower bright, amid the cold of winter when half-spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind: with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior when half-spent was the night.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 1:39-55

(pew Bible, NT p. 57)

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Rev. Lucy Strong

*The Family of God: Mary*

## +AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from *A Declaration of Faith*)

Rebekah LeMon

**Jesus' involvement in the human condition is God's involvement.**

**His compassion for all kinds of people is God's compassion.**

**His demand for justice, truth, and faithfulness is God's demand.**

**His willingness to suffer rejection is God's willingness.**

**Jesus' love for the very people who reject him is God's love.**

**Jesus Christ stands at the center of the biblical record.**

**The Bible is the account of God's word and action in history, together with his people's response in faith.**

**It tells how the Lord has moved with Israel and the church towards the kingdom of God,**

**his just and loving rule over all.**

**It is the story of the one God,**

**who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

**That story is still unfolding and in faith we make it our own.**

**It forms our memory and our hope.**

**It tells us who we are and what we are to do.**

**To retell it is to declare what we believe.**

## +AFFIRMATION RESPONSE

BRING A TORCH

**Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it: hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you a Savior! Love, Love! Glory to God on high.**

*(may be found as stanza 1 of Hymn #110)*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## CALL TO GIVE

## OFFERTORY

Harold Darke

*In the Bleak Mid-Winter*

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone: snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign: in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Enough for him whom cherubim worship night and day, a breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay: enough for him whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb, if I were a wise man I would do my part, yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

## +DOXOLOGY #606

OLD HUNDREDTH

## +PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## +CLOSING HYMN

*#100 Canticle of the Turning*

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

## +CHARGE & BENEDICTION

## BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Rejoice, Rejoice!*

Veni Emmanuel

## CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY

*In dulci jubilo*

Johann Sebastian Bach

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## TODAY IN WORSHIP

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### LEADING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Lucy Strong  
*Associate Pastor for  
Mission & Engagement*

Rev. Emily Beaver  
*Associate Pastor for  
Family Ministries*

Rev. Rebekah Close LeMon  
*Senior Pastor*

Emma & Juliette Baker  
*Acolytes*

### FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Ginny and Mike Hobbs to the glory of God and in loving memory of Eve and Jim Dunaway, Hazel Rich Hobbs, Betty and Theodore Hobbs, and Geneva and James Rich. This morning's arrangement was created by the Trinity Presbyterian Flower Guild.

### MUSICIANS

The Chancel Choir of Trinity Church  
Norman Mackenzie, *Organist and  
Director of Music and Arts*

The Cherub Choirs of Trinity Church  
Phyllis Sommer, *Director*  
Scott Morris, *Accompanist*

### CHERUB I

Emily Ale  
Christian Belisle  
Palmer Carr  
Bell Chambers  
Eloise Lyddan  
Bailey Seiler  
Anna Frances Thompson

### CHERUB II

Rosie Ale  
Boyd Bernhardt  
Clemente Griffiths  
Soren Harris  
Hanle Kraft  
Elsie Lechleiter  
Mills Lyddan  
Gray Seiler  
Ward Strachan  
James Szyperski  
Frances Todd  
Austin Walls

### COMMUNION

11 PM | DOBBS CHAPEL

*This is a service of scripture, carols, homily, and Communion led by Trinity pastors with music by Norman Mackenzie and soloists.*

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## WELCOME

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### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

#### Youth & College Christmas Party

**6 – 7 pm | The Loft**

Students are invited to attend the Trinity Youth and College Christmas. Join us for pizza, snacks, hot chocolate, Christmas music, Christmas crafts, and other festive activities. Don't miss this chance to catch up with friends who are home for the holidays and spend some quality time with your church family! After the party, attend the Carol Sing in Williams Hall!

#### Congregational Carol Sing

**7 – 8:30 pm | Williams Hall**

Get into the spirit with an evening of holiday singing and merriment led by Norman Mackenzie, Director of Music and Fine Arts in Williams Hall. Folks of all ages are welcome to come and participate in some holiday cheer!

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## CHRISTMAS EVE AT TRINITY

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We will have four Christmas Eve candlelight services on the evening of Tuesday, December 24. Please see the schedule below for times, locations, and details. Childcare is available during the 4:00, 6:00, & 9:00 pm worship services.

### LESSONS & CAROLS

6 PM | SANCTUARY

*This is a service of Lessons and Carols led by our Youth (6th-12th Grade) and Trinity Youth & Alumni Choir with instrumental ensembles.*

### LESSONS & CAROLS

9 PM | SANCTUARY

*This is a service of Lessons and Carols led by Trinity pastors and the Chancel Choir with instrumental ensembles.*

We will have one worship service on Sunday, December 29 at 11 am in Dobbs Chapel.

*\*Reminder: Trinity Campus will be closed December 25 – 28 & December 30 – January 1.*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
Sunday, December 22, 2024 | 11:00 am Worship



# The Family of God

Advent 2024



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