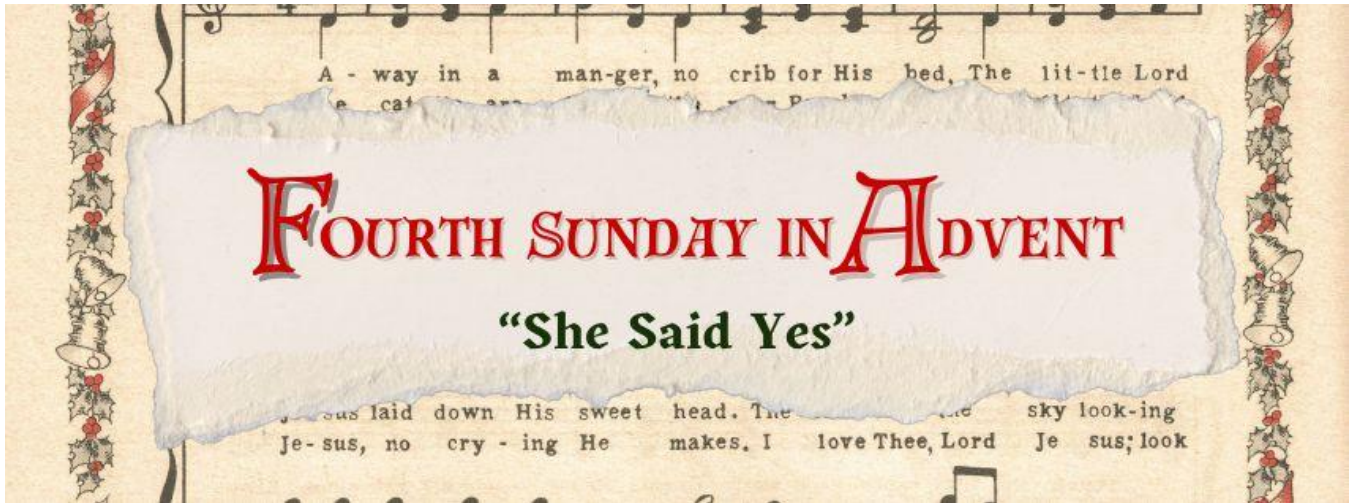


# Trinity Presbyterian Church December 21, 2025



## GATHERING

*We gather as the body of Christ to encounter God in worship.*

### Gathering Music

Carol Thomas and Anton Ahrens

Jaron Marcus, piano & Brad Stipcak, organ

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” # 133

“While Shepherds Watched their Flocks” #118 vv 1,6

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” #119

“Born in the Night” #158 vv 1,2

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” #123

“We Three Kings” #151

### Welcome and Announcements

Jenny Lee

### Call to Worship

Behold! a teenage girl is pregnant with the God who knit her in her own mother’s womb,

**strange signs from a strange God who upturns expectations.**

She said yes to divine revolution even though it meant social condemnation,

**strange signs from a strange God who upturns expectations.**

God’s Spirit stokes subversive dreams in us to help us defy the status quo,

**strange signs from a strange God who upturns expectations.**

## Lighting the Candle of Love

During this season of giving, we pause to open our hearts, our minds, our spirits to receive God's blessings. We proclaim with Mary, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior".

### **Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,**

We have witnessed God's restoration in the midst of brokenness. We have prepared ourselves for Christ's coming. We have proclaimed with faith the promise of God's generous righteousness.

### **Remembering past promises with present faithfulness.**

Please join me in prayer: Now we stand with welcome hearts, O God, waiting to receive. Our spirits hunger for the coming of hope. Fill us with restoring love. Prepare us for the coming of your Holy Child. Encourage us to proclaim the good news to all people. Like Mary, we are your lowly servants. As we light this fourth candle of Advent, may we receive with Mary's openness and trust. Prepare us to receive your gift of hope. Amen.

\*Hymn No. 99

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

## Call to Confession

**Magnificent God, it is easy to rejoice at the wilderness bursting into bloom and the hungry being filled with good things. We may not want the powerful to be brought down or the rich to be sent away empty. We know that sometimes, we are the powerful. Sometimes, we are the rich. Sometimes we are the ones with privilege, ignoring and harming those you would lift up. Forgive us, humble us, and refocus us, that we may follow your way of life and truth.**

*(Time for silent confession.)*

Sung Response GTG 90

"Wait for the Lord"

Assurance of Forgiveness

Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan

Beloved, we are forgiven!

**Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

\*Sung Response GTG 134, verse 3 only

"Joy to the World"

### THE WORD

*The Word of God in scripture and interpreted in proclamation is the center of worship.*

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 35: 1-10  
NRSVUE

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

The Holy One will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

The Lord will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

“Hallelu, Hallelu!”  
Jay Althouse  
Trinity Heritage Choir

Second Reading

Luke 1: 46-55b  
NRSVUE

And Mary said,  
“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.  
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name;  
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

“She Said Yes”

Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan

RESPONSE TO THE WORD  
*We respond to the Word of God in prayer and by offering ourselves and our  
substance.*

\*Hymn No 107 (vv. 1, 2, 4)

“Awake! Awake”, and “Greet the New Morn”

\*Affirmation of Faith

(Adapted from A Brief Statement of Faith)

**In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth,  
praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”**

Prayers of the People

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.**

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

“We Three Kings”  
Gordon Young  
Brad Stipcak, organ

\*Doxology Hymn No. 143 v. 4

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

\*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING FORTH

*Worship equips us to go forth to serve God in the world.*

\*Hymn No. 105

“Love Has Come”

\*Charge and Blessing

\*Sung Response (screens)

“Go With God in the Spirit of Love”

\*Postlude

“Joy to the World”  
Arr. Austin C. Lovelace  
Brad Stipcak, organ

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

Participants in worship:

Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan, Preacher  
Jenny Lee, Liturgist & Sermon on the Steps  
Brad Stipcak, organ & Dir. Of Music  
Jaron Marcus, piano  
Anton Ahrens, Audio/Visual  
Peter Blum, Audio/Visual  
Matt Blum, Audio/Visual

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