

# Trinity Presbyterian Church

## January 4, 2026



### GATHERING

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

Prelude

“The First Noel”  
Arr. Laurie Line  
Brad Stipcak, piano

Welcome and Announcements

Pat Thomblison

Call to Worship

Calling all seekers, all dreamers, all believers...  
Calling all glass-half-full optimists and lighthouse keepers...  
Calling all star-chasers and bedtime prayer speakers...  
Bring your questions, your hope, your faith and your fear  
into this space.  
**God is here.**

Prayer of the Day

\*Hymn No. 145 (vv. 1-3)

“What Child is This”

Call to Confession

**God of starlight,  
we know that faith isn't a vending machine.  
Good news can't be bought or manufactured.  
It does not arrive with a push of a button.  
Instead, in this noisy world, we have to look for you in our midst.  
We have to walk toward you, just as the Magi did.  
We have to believe that love really can change the world.**

**We have to seek the stars beyond the city lights.  
Forgive us for forgetting that.  
Forgive us for seeking you with only part of our hearts.  
We long to be more like the Magi; may we walk your way every single day.  
Amen.**

*(Time for silent confession.)*

Assurance of Forgiveness

Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan

\*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

First Reading

Isaiah 60: 1-6  
NRSVUE

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth  
and thick darkness the peoples,  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together; they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon "Gifts that Keep on Giving"

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. 744

"Arise, Your Light is Come"

\*Affirmation of Faith

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

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

**"Of the Father's Love Begotten"**  
Arr. Charles Callahan  
Brad Stipcak, organ

\*Doxology Hymn No. 143 v. 4

**"Angels from the Realms of Glory"**

\*Prayer of Dedication

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*By sharing the cup and the loaf, we recall God's everlasting covenant with us.*

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion Music

**"Amazing Grace"**  
Arr. Michael Burkhardt  
Brad Stipcak, organ

## Communion of the People

*During communion, worshippers are invited to draw a Star Word from one of the baskets next to the communion servers.*

## Prayer After Communion

### SENDING FORTH

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

\*Hymn No. 150 (vv. 1-3)

“As With Gladness Men of Old”

\*Charge and Blessing

\*Sung Response (refrain only)

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

\*Postlude

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”

Philipp Nicolai

Brad Stipcak, organ

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

Participants in worship:

Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan, Preacher

Pat Thomblison, Liturgist

Brad Stipcak, organ & Dir. Of Music

Anton Ahrens, Audio/Visual

Peter Blum, Audio/Visual

Matt Blum, Audio/Visual

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