



# Trinity Church

P R E S B Y T E R I A N

building God's Church...blessing our community

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 23, 2018

## WELCOME

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING.....PETER & KATHY FORWOOD

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

**The shepherds were the first to hear the joyful announcement of Christ's birth—the good news of great joy for all the people.**

Upon seeing the baby Jesus, the shepherds spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed.

**We have also heard this wonderful news.  
We welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.**

Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him.

**And we are filled with an expressible and glorious joy.**

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP .....FROM ISAIAH 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

**You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy;  
For the yoke of his burden, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken.**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

**and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,

**(All:) The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.**

## \*DOXOLOGY

## \*INVOCATION

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE.....REJOICE

WORDS: CHARLES WESLEY MUSIC AND ADDITIONAL WORDS: BOB KAUFMAN

1. All the earth rejoice, your Creator reigns as the only awesome God,  
the Alpha and the Omega, who was, is, and is to come.  
Let the oceans roar and the mountains sing, he provides for all He has made.  
So be comforted as he rules with grace. Rejoice, all the earth, rejoice.
2. All the world rejoice, for the baby comes as a humble prince in the night,  
the Word made flesh, Emmanuel, the Everlasting Light.  
Let the warmth of heav'n reach the coldest heart with the gospel of His grace,  
for His heel will bruise the serpent's head. Rejoice, all the world rejoice.
3. All the church rejoice, for your King returns on a white horse wearing a crown.  
He will break the sky with the angel's shout, descending from the clouds.  
Then the dead will rise from the land and sea, all His people will ascend.  
We will reign with Him for eternity. Rejoice, all the church, rejoice.

## SCRIPTURE READING .....PSALM 116

**HYMN OF ADORATION**.....WHO WOULD HAVE DREAMED

WORDS AND MUSIC BY JASON HANSEN AND BOB KAUFLEN

On a starlit hillside, shepherds watched their sheep  
Slowly, David's city drifted off to sleep  
But to this little town of no great renown  
The Lord had a promise to keep

Prophets had foretold it, a mighty King would come  
Long awaited Ruler, God's Anointed One  
But the Sovereign of all looked helpless and small  
As God gave the world His own Son

***And who would have dreamed or ever foreseen  
That we could hold God in our hands?  
The Giver of Life is born in the night  
Revealing God's glorious plan  
To save the world***

Wondrous gift of heaven: the Father sends the Son  
Planned from time eternal, moved by holy love  
He will carry our curse and death He'll reverse  
So we can be daughters and sons

**CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN**

Even as we ask you, Lord, for a meaningful and blessed Advent season,  
we sadly confess having done so little with so much.  
Forgive us Lord,  
for not bending the knee,  
for not reading your Word,  
for not searching our hearts,  
for not facing our sins.  
Forgive us according to your tender mercies, O God!  
Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year,  
we may have a fresh sense of your presence  
and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of Christ's glory. Amen.

Please silently confess your sin before the LORD.

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**.....PSALM 103:10-12

“He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear  
him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.”

**\*HYMN OF ASSURANCE**.....O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

No. 141

**COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Please take a moment to record your attendance in the black folder as it is passed down the row.  
**Visiting?** Please fill out a **Connect Card** and bring it to the Welcome Table in the Narthex after the service.

**OFFERTORY** .....GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY ENGLISH CAROL

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,  
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;  
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:  
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “let nothing you affright;  
this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might.”

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,  
and left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind;  
and went to Bethlehem straight-way, the Son of God to find.

**SHEPHERDING PRAYER** .....RE STEVE HAWLEY

**SERMON**.....JOHN 3:9-15

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

# SERMON NOTES

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE** .....HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING  
No. 133

**\*BENEDICTION**

## REMEMBERING IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

**Ministry Partners:** Sean & Nikki Sawyers - MNA Church planting in Boston, pray for support raising, transitioning to the field, and the development of a core group in Boston

**Our Troops:** pray for our troops and their chaplains around the world

**Church of the week:** Metro North Church, Goose Creek; Howard Cole, pastor

## TRINITY FAMILY

**Linda Wactor:** in the loss of her sister

**Lucius Gray:** recovering from minor stroke, for proper diagnosis of cause

**Linda Wells:** complications from cancer treatment

**Deborah Finkelstein:** recovering from knee surgery

**Connie Porter:** recovering from ankle surgery

**Mark Cash:** recovering from back surgery

**Rebecca Sibley:** recovering from back surgery

**Willie Lou Jackson:** at home in Orangeburg battling multiple health issues

**Christie Churchwell:** relief from headaches

**Ann Betsill:** at Calhoun Convalescent Center

# BULLETIN BOARD

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting immediately following morning worship today. We will elect officers (elder candidates are Mark Ford, Dr. Sam Lambrecht, and Dan Steffen and deacon candidates are Les Carter and Bubba Morrell.) There will also be a presentation of the 2019 budget.

## CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Join us tomorrow at 6:00pm as we worship our Lord with Christmas carols and communion. We encourage you to bring family and friends to this special candlelight service.

## 2018 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

All gifts must be received by Sunday, December 30, to be credited toward 2018 giving.

We encourage our members to make use of the PCA Foundation to assist with processing non-cash gifts (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and real estate) to support the work of the church. Simply call (800-700-3221), email (pcaf@pcanet.org), or visit their website (pcafoundation.com). They've helped process more than \$150M in gifts to advance God's kingdom.

## TRINITY READING TOGETHER

Join us as we embark on year three of our three-year Bible reading plan and develop a new habit or reinforce an old one: read God's word every day! The plan is easy and simple - usually just one chapter a day. The Session is regularly praying for your growth in Christlikeness - God's Word is one of his primary means He uses to change our lives and make us more like Jesus. Reading His Word together will provide both accountability and deeper fellowship in our body. Laminated copies of the 2019 plan are available on the information counter. Reading assignments will be printed in Sunday's bulletin each week. Also, you can print a copy from our website.. The scripture reading in corporate worship each Sunday will be the day's assignment from the plan. Here is this week's plan:

TRINITY READING TOGETHER					
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
PSALM 117	PSALM 118	PSALM 119:1-48	PSALM 119:49-96	PSALM 119:97-144	PSALM 119:145-176

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# THIS WEEK @ TRINITY

SERVING	DECEMBER 23		DECEMBER 30	
	SUNDAY SCHOOL	WORSHIP	SUNDAY SCHOOL	WORSHIP
0-3	Susan Ulmer	D'Lynn Polson & David Myers	Sammie Edwards	Lee Ann & Jerry Smith
USHERS	Sam Lambrecht, Evan Lambrecht, Les Carter, Larry Adicks			

FINANCIAL UPDATE	
BUDGET RECEIPTS	\$7,581
BUDGET NEEDS WEEKLY	\$5,337
FAITH PROMISE	
\$1,025 GIVEN	\$1,137 BUDGETED WEEKLY
STAFF	
John Mark Patrick, Pastor Dr. Sam Lambrecht, Families w/ Students Mary Beth Myers, Middle School Ministry Susan Ulmer, Women's Ministry Deborah Finkelstein, Pianist Karen Ford, Administrative Assistant Ann Axson, Bookkeeper	
ELDERS	DEACONS
Steve Hawley Michael Salley Jeff Watford Alan Ulmer	Brian Henson Daniel Peeler Gregg Waters Daniel Pantaleon
Deacon Assistants: Larry Adicks, Linda Bonnette, Terri Morrell, Lyle Polson, Jerry & Lee Ann Smith, Alan Ulmer, Randy Zeigler	

CALENDAR		
SUN 12/23	8:30AM 9:15AM 10:30AM 12:00PM	PRAYER SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST MORNING WORSHIP CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
MON 12/24	6:00PM	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
SUN 12/30	8:30AM 9:15AM 10:30AM	PRAYER SUNDAY SCHOOL MORNING WORSHIP

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