

Trinity Church  
Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2023

### **WELCOME AND LITURGY OF GATHERING**

Leader: Reading of [Psalm 126](#). 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**

#### **Holy Forever**

A thousand generations falling down in worship  
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb  
And all who've gone before us and all who will believe  
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

Your name is the highest  
Your name is the greatest  
Your name stands above them all  
All thrones and dominions  
All powers and positions  
Your name stands above them all

And the angels cry, holy  
All creation cries, holy  
You are lifted high, holy  
Holy forever  
Hear your people sing, holy  
To the King of Kings, holy  
You will always be holy  
Holy forever

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed  
Sing the song forever to the Lamb  
If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name  
Sing the song forever to the Lamb  
Sing the song forever and amen

You will always be holy  
Holy forever

### **COMMUNITY CONFESSION & ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

Leader: Today marks the third 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. 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.

Reading - [John 1:6-8, 19-28](#)

Prayer & Candle Lighting: The Joy of God-With-Us does not come as naïve optimism, or surface level feel-good-ness. Joy cannot be imposed from on high. Joy cannot be commanded. The Joy of God-With-Us is mingled with grief, exists side by side with

#### **Joy to the World**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

mourning, knows that pain and death are all too real, but do not have the final word. This joy tends tenderly to beauty, and softness, and the gladness that comes from paying attention to what matters. The Joy of God- With-Us is collective, liberating us from deadly despair. Joy is gestating in darkness; it comes unexpectedly. Joy invites our expectation, and demands our participation. Prepare the way, for joy with sorrow. May Joy be birthed among, within, and through us, this Advent.

**ALL: Forgive us, Emmanuel. Called to lives of gentleness, too often we are filled with anger and hurt. Invited to be generous, we tighten our grips on our clothes, our food, and even our love. Called to be just with everyone, it is all too easy to turn away from those who are different from us.**

Leader: Friends, hear the good news: despite our failures, God rejoices over us, calming our fears with love.

**ALL: Thanks be to God! Freed from fear, we will embrace everyone with the love of God and proclaim the good news with joy for all people!**

### **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 Joy that proclaims Liberty**

*Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

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

### **LORD'S TABLE LITURGY**

Leader: During this season of waiting, at the Table, we remember the mystery of the One who died that we might live forever.

**ALL: As your Spirit moves upon the gifts of the bread and the cup, may she touch us with unexpected hope and the power of patience, that we might fully rejoice in your coming to dwell among us. As we wait for Christ's return, we would fill the empty dreams of the world with your vision for peace and wholeness; we would feed the lost with the bread of hope; we would gently lead the exiled back to your Kingdom.**

Leader: The Table of the Lord is open for all who seek the presence of 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 Holy Night**

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
'Til He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! O, hear the angels' voices!  
O ni--ght divine,  
O night when Christ was born;  
O ni--ght divine, O night,  
O night Divine.  
Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.

Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother;  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,  
His po-wer and glo-ry e-vermore proclaim.  
His po-wer and glo-ry e-vermore proclaim.  
Fall on your knees! O, hear the angels' voices!  
O ni-ght divine,  
O night when Christ was born;  
O ni-ght divine, O night,  
O night Divine.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Advent.** The sermon series and resources for observing Advent are posted online at [www.indytrinity.org/advent](http://www.indytrinity.org/advent).

**Advent Morning Divine Hours.** Over the years we have made our way through the Advent season together by gathering virtually on weekdays to center ourselves around the anticipation of the incarnation of the Christ as well as support one another during this joyous, contemplative, and sometimes difficult time. Each morning we will be participating in the morning prayers of the Divine Hours by Phylis Tickle, reflecting on poems and writings of familiar and new authors, and listening to music that Trinity Church is sharing throughout this season. Join us weekday mornings at 7am on [Zoom](#) or catch up throughout the day on [FB](#) or [YouTube](#). Questions? email [joel@indytrinity.org](mailto:joel@indytrinity.org)

**New Elders.** Please join in welcoming our newest elders who will serve three year terms on the Leadership Team. Anna Billingsley (Parish Elder), Emily Yarman (Administrative Elder), and Laura Samide (Parish Elder). More information may be found at [www.indytrinity.org/leadership](http://www.indytrinity.org/leadership).

### **Holiday Schedule:**

*-Dec. 17th/Joy Sunday: Roll out of bed and come to the Gathering in your ugly Christmas sweater and/or pajamas. We're starting a new advent tradition!*

*-Christmas Eve Gathering @ 10am only*

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

*-January 7th - Special Brunch Gathering - please bring a dish or two to share*

**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](http://www.indytrinity.org/church-documents). Please contact us at [contact@indytrinity.org](mailto:contact@indytrinity.org) if you have any accessibility issues.

**Annual Giving Statements - Address Updates.** We are in need of any address updates to be sent to [finance@indytrinity.org](mailto:finance@indytrinity.org) by January 15th in order to send out annual giving statements. Additionally, the last date for giving to apply to the 2023 tax year is December 31st. All checks dated in December will apply to the 2023 tax year.

## **THE BENEDICTION**

Leader: God sends us forth with songs of joy in our hearts.

**ALL: We will go to sing of wonder to all who are empty of life even as we gather them close to our hearts.**

Leader: Jesus calls us to step out of our fears into lives of witness.

**ALL: We will go to breathe peace into all the broken places around us.**

Leader: The Spirit teaches us new dance steps of grace.

**ALL: We will go to take our siblings by the hand to dance in the streets of the kingdom.**

*(Some liturgies adapted from [lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com) and [enfleshed.com](http://enfleshed.com))*

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## **COMMUNAL CONNECTION**

**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](mailto:contact@indytrinity.org)) so we can do our best to keep Gathering spaces welcoming for all.

**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