

Trinity Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent - Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023

WELCOME AND LITURGY OF GATHERING

Leader: Reading of [Psalm 96](#). 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

What Child is This?

What child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap, is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and lamb are feeding?
Good Christian, fear for sinners here,
The silent Word is pleading.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come peasant king to own Him,
The King of kings, salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

COMMUNITY CONFESSION & ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Leader: Today, Christmas Eve, marks the fourth 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 - [Isaiah 9.2-7](#)

Prayer & Candle Lighting: The Love of God-With-Us does not come as mere feeling, or sentimental fluff. Love cannot be imposed from on high. Love is our greatest commandment— tending tenderly to God, to other, and to self. The Love of God-With-Us is love in action, radical love practices: redistribution of resources and risks, solidarity with those most exposed to threat, hospitality to caravans, refugees, migrants, and sojourners, caring for those we've been taught to despise, or fear. This love is fierce, and tender. It defies unjust rules and flattens hierarchies of value. The Love of God-With-Us is collective, liberating us from deadly alienation. Love is gestating in darkness; it comes unexpectedly. Love invites our expectation, and demands our participation. Prepare the way, for Love enfleshed. May Love be birthed among, within, and through us, this Advent.

ALL: Forgive us, Always Present God. In a season when your presence calls us to look outward, we too easily get self-absorbed. We're annoyed by our families, angered by those who think differently and pre-occupied by our own well-being. May the light of your presence illuminate our selfishness.

Leader: Hear the good news: the One who came so long ago continues to draw near to us, offering forgiveness and healing to all!

ALL: Thanks be to God! We will celebrate the coming Messiah by opening our arms to all of God's children!

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 Love that Beams forth Justice

Luke 2.1-20

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

LORD'S TABLE LITURGY & CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING

Leader: God takes on flesh
and joins life in the struggle –
this is what radical solidarity feels like.
Lives and souls and bodies entangled.
Risks and possibilities shared.
We're in this together.
The mess, the beauty, the work.
Don't be afraid to feel hopeful.
God's promises are kept.
God won't opt-out or turn away.
God won't give up when things get tough.
God won't defend power, or privilege, or institutions, or tradition
at the expense of freedom, or love, or liberation, or your worth.
God's with-ness is birthed at the margins.
God knows what's at stake.
Let all who are weary, rejoice!
All of evil's deceptions will be revealed
and fear of unjust powers will cease.
The Liberating One now dwells among us,
calling upon hearts from all walks of life
to open. to take courage. to soften. to release.
Behold, the Sacred enfleshed reveals the way of Love

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Leader: As we draw closer to Christmas, we rejoice over the good news:

ALL: Born in the shadows of night, Christ is our light;

Dying on a rough cross, Christ is our life;

Rising from a cold tomb, Christ is our hope;

Returning to us once more, Christ is our promise.

Leader: Pour out your Spirit upon us, Wonderful Counselor, and on the gifts you have given us.

ALL: We lift the broken bread, praying we would be made whole, at peace with one another, and reconciled to you. As we drink the juice, we believe that our salvation has come, and we are one with Christ. As your joy flows into us, may we become a river carrying your justice to the marginalized. As your hope sings in our hearts, may we carry your righteousness to all who suffer. And as we taste the promise of the feast you prepare for us in your kin(g)dom, may we live for you and serve your children, as we have been served by the Child of Christmas, Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior.

Leader: The Table of the Lord is open for all who seek the way of Love.

**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.

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon Virgin Mother and Child

Holy Infant so tender and mild

Sleep in heavenly peace

Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight

Glories stream from heaven afar

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!

Christ, the Savior is born

Christ, the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from thy holy face

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord at thy birth

Jesus, Lord at thy birth

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holiday Schedule:

-Christmas Eve Gathering @ 10am only - don't show up here tonight. ;)

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

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

Upcoming Sermon Series. The sermon series and resources for our new year series are posted online at www.indytrinity.org/sermon-series. In conjunction with the sermon series, Trinity Seasonal Small Groups in the winter of 2024 will form around *Sacred Self-Care: Daily Practices for Nurturing Our Whole Selves* by Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes. If you need assistance in acquiring a copy, please contact your group's host. Please contact the group host for more details and to generally RSVP.

***Fishers** - Monday lunch hour (12-1pm) Zoom, starting January 22*

***Queer Affinity** - Thursdays 7-8:30pm, starting January 25*

***Midtown/Downtown** - Wednesday evenings*

***Broad Ripple** - Thursday 6-7:30pm with pitch-in dinner, starting January 25*

2023 Missional Giving Update. We took the year to explore new mission partner possibilities in determining where to give the undesignated "missional giving" in our 2023 budget. Due to need and some upcoming opportunities for The Avenue Foundation (TAF), we have decided to allocate those funds there for this fiscal year and continue to explore ways Trinity can grow in partnership with TAF into the future. Questions about this missional giving designation may be directed to melissa@indytrinity.org or any of the parish point people. As with any mission partners, we encourage direct giving as well - donate [here](#).

Annual Giving Statements - Address Updates. We are in need of any address updates to be sent to 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.

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.

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. Please contact us at contact@indytrinity.org if you have any accessibility issues.

THE BENEDICTION

Leader: Go forth to share God's love with all.

ALL: We will become a river of love through the world.

Leader: Go forth to share Christ's grace.

ALL: We will be a fountain flowing in the barren places.

Leader: Go forth to share the community of the Spirit.

ALL: We will become a pool of peace where all may be refreshed.

Leader: Go with deep gladness, for Christ is born among us!

(Some liturgies adapted from lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com and enfleshed.com)

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) 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

24th: Broad Ripple

31st: No Gathering

January

7th: (Brunch) North/Carmel

14th: Fishers

21st: Midtown/Downtown

28th: Broad Ripple