

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

10:00 AM Online Worship Service • December 20, 2020

ELW Setting 3 • Facebook

Fourth Sunday of Advent



“God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David’s throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel’s greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, “Count me in.” We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, “Count us in.””

Thank you for joining us online as a new way of connecting to God's word as we transition during this time of social distancing to protect ourselves and others.

Please feel free to contact Pastor Tina if you need help in any way during this time. Her phone number is listed below. Just know that she is only a phone call away.



The Reverend Tina Melusky, Pastor

Pastor Melusky's office hours:

Monday: 9 - 2; Tuesday: 9 -10:30, 11:30 - 12:15

Wednesday 9:30 - 12; Thursday 9 - 12

(Times are sometimes flexible with monthly meetings,
but feel free to call for an appointment or drop in)

William C. Solomon, Interim Organist

Congregation of Trinity Lutheran, Ministers of the Word

6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607

Church office: (757) 245-7861; Pastor's cell: (734) 239-4013

www.trinitylutheran-nn.com

Trinity Lutheran is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center.

Cover image by Karina Stevens

Prelude

Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath *

Holy One, healer of the world,
shed your light upon this world.

Holy One, healer of brokenness,
make us bold to share your light with others.

Holy One, healer of the world, we offer our prayers:

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Lead us to wholeness
and make us shine with your light of healing love.

O Come, O Come Emanuel (stanza 7)

ELW 257

**O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
Refresh the hearts that long for you;
Restore the broken, make us new.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

Gathering

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the God, Father, + Son , and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,

**we confess that we are held captive by sin.
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.**

**We have not welcomed the stranger;
 we have not loved our neighbor;
 we have not been Christ to one another.
 Restore us, O God.
 Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
 Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:
 by God's endless grace
 your sins are forgiven, and you are free—
 free from all that holds you back
 and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
 May you be strengthened in God's love,
 + comforted by Christ's peace,
 and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

ELW 251



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.
 the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—
 The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55 (read responsively)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

**You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
**casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**
the promise made to our forbears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations. oy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

Children's Chat

Pastor Tina

Sermon

Pastor Tina





1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
 2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
 3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
 that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Thanksgiving for the Word

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

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 trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, + now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Joy to the World

ELW 267



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Portions of the Advent wreath liturgy taken from *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*, posted online at *The Deacon's Bench*. <http://deaconsbench.wordpress.com/files-and-forms/>



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR . . .

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: The next Bible Study will be on **Tuesday, December 22 at 10:30 a.m.** A Zoom invitation will be emailed. There will be **NO Bible Study** on the following **Tuesday, December 29.**

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: On Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve, there will be two services: **6:30 p.m. Facebook Live, Candlelight Family service** with Children's Chat from the Trinity sanctuary **and 10:30 p.m. Prayer Meditation Service Facebook Live** from Pastor Tina's home. If you have any questions about the service, please call the church office at 757-245-7869.

Update: Usher Training This training has been postponed until after the new year.

Theology on Tap: The next Theology on Tap discussion via Zoom will be on Thursday, **January 28 at 6:30 p.m.** Pastor Tina usually picks a topic and we think about and discuss our feelings about the topic. Please join us!

Worship and Music Committee Meeting: Next Worship and Music committee meeting is **January 5 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.** The date to remove Christmas decorations/degreen the church will be on **Saturday, January 9, time TBA.**

VANCO Online giving: An Important Note For Congregation Members and Friends -

For your convenience, the Church Council and Finance Committee have arranged to provide an optional online donation service for congregation members, friends and visitors with Vanco Payment Services, the ELCA-recommended electronic donation service. Through this service, you may donate from your checking or savings account or with a credit or debit card.

Of course, you may also continue to donate through whatever other methods work best for you.

The procedure is very user-friendly. Just go to Trinity's website, <http://www.trinitylutheran-nn.com> (see below), and click on the green "online giving" link on the homepage.

Being able to send your offering donations electronically is especially important during the current pandemic, and we hope that this will be an opportunity for members, friends and visitors to support the ongoing work of the church easily and from the comfort of home.

If you have questions about the donation site or how to make your donation, please don't hesitate to contact the church office, 245-7861.

Procedure for online giving:

Go to <http://trinitylutheran-nn.com/>

Press the green "online giving" link.

PRAYER LIST

ILLNESS, SURGERY, RECOVERY, SHUT-INS: **Recovery with family:** Anne Evans; **Nursing Homes:** Jeanette Cantrell (The Chesapeake, 955 Harpersville Road, AL302, Newport News, VA, 23601); Millie Christensen (Morningside: Rm. 131); Betty Hasel (The Newport, Rm 14); Charles Kessler (The Chesapeake - Assisted Living, Rm.207); Lucille Lebold (Williamsburg Landing, Memory Care Unit); Barbara Olson, (The Chesapeake, Rm. 3013); **Shut-in at Home:** Janet Edwards, Gerda Hudgens, Joan Johnston and Doris Moeser.

New Address for Pete Mizelle as of 12-11-2020: 690 Castle Rock Drive, Banner Elk, NC, 28604 and new cell phone number 828-783-9262 as of December 11.

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS: The Ahlen Family, Paige Ahlen and Maria Goldsby, requested by Kathy Stevens; **Bill Nuckols (father), Carolyn Patterson, Shirley Skinner, and Oxana Sidor (and the friends and family of Mr. Kim Lassiter (special friend),** requested by Patricia Fielding; **Hannelore Voss (Karoline's mother),** requested by the Ardis family; **Jack and Sharon (Sherry) Johnston and Pam Little (Donna's sisters),** requested by Grant and Donna Owens; **Bonnie Carlson,** requested by Dave Carlson; **Jacque and Harry Hartman,** requested by Nancy Lindfors; **Molly Chartrand (Jacob's co-worker),** requested by Patricia Wessler; **George Kingston,** requested by Sandy and John Lunsford; **Michael May,** requested by Jon May; **Jan Titus (sister-in-law),** requested by Glen and Betty Titus; **Jessica,** requested by Laura Davis; **Brian Moore,** requested by Karoline Ardis and Anne Obara; **Betty Hasel (COVID); Paul Sawarringim (COVID); Millie Christensen (COVID); Charles Kessler (COVID exposure); David Hampton (husband of Sandy Hampton, TLS Front Office); and the friends and family of Karen Dutton (mother of Kristen Turnage).**

Those Who Serve, Military and Civilian Duty: James Fielding, Marine Corps; Georgia; Bryan Hunt, State Dept., Washington, D. C.; Eric Lindfors, Deputy Commander US Naval Forces - Korea; Tyler Obara, Air Force National Guard, LAFB and Ashby Owens, Operation Smile.

CHRISTIAN HOPE AND SYMPATHY are extended to the family and friends of one of our long-time members, Betty Ruth Hasel, upon her peaceful passing on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at Newport Convalescent & Rehab Center. No memorial arrangements have been made at this point. The address to send cards: Kay Asher (Betty's daughter) is 244 James River Drive Newport News, VA 23601 and/or to her son, Karl Hasel (her son), is 201 Shallowbrook Lane, Manchester, CT 06040. Please keep Betty's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers. "Thanks be to God who gives us victory over death through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Things you and your family can do for The Fourth Sunday in Advent

1. **Fourth candle lighting on your Advent Wreath** - In preparation, light three candles on your wreath and when Pastor Tina lights the fourth candle on the church wreath, Sunday morning, you light a fourth candle on your wreath. The first candle symbolizes **hope**, the second candle, **peace**, the third candle, **joy** and the fourth candle, **love**.
2. **Read your devotion for the day** and perhaps discuss this devotion or maybe draw a picture to go with the devotion.
3. See the last page for **making *Favorite Christmas Memories templates***. Instructions are with the templates. *
4. **A Christmas Prayer **::**

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let Kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

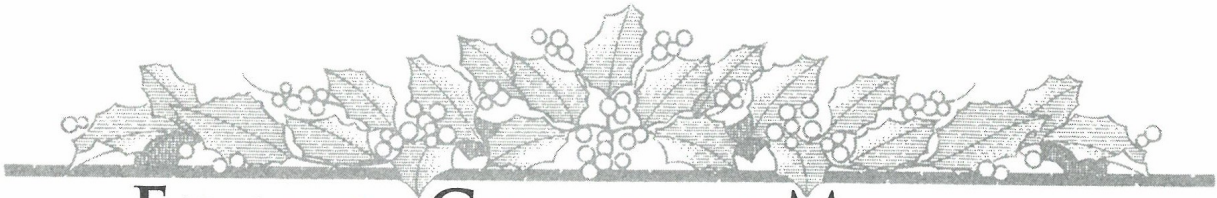
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen! —**Robert Louis Stevenson**

Sources for Things to Do for the Second Sunday in Advent:

**Make a Christmas Memory, Simple Things You Can Do to Celebrate the True Meaning of Christmas*, by Julaine Kammrath, Copyright 1996 Concordia Publishing House.

***The Greatest Christmas Ever: A Treasury of Inspirational Ideas and Insights for an Unforgettable Christmas*, Copyright 1995 by Honor Books, Inc., Tulsa, OK.

Continued



FAVORITE CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Describe favorite memories and events from this Christmas season in the Christmas shapes. Date each memory and have family members write their names.

Before writing in these shapes, make several photocopies of these pages. Then you can record years of Christmas memories!

