

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

810 FAIRFAX STREET
STEPHENS CITY, VA

[540] 869-4019
9:30AM

OFFICE@TRINITYCHURCHVIRGINIA.ORG
DECEMBER 20, 2020 ADVENT 4

PRELUDE *Savior of the Nations, Come* George Kauffman (1679-1735)

GATHERING SONG *v. 1,2, 3 Savior of the Nations, Come*



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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

Let us pray.

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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jim Hall

Reader: During these Sundays in Advent, we have lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, the candle of Peace, remembering God's dream of a peaceful world, and the candle of Joy, remembering the Spirit within us who brings joy. (Light Candles). Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love.

Scripture tells us "There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear." (1 John 4:18). God created this world in love and this world will end in the love of God. God's love pervades all aspects of this life. From birth to death, pain to delight, strangers to lovers, God's love is there.

We light this candle in Love. (Light Candle)

Congregation: On this day, we remember God is Love.



FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Sue Scheulen

A reading from 2 Samuel.

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the 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.” ³Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I 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. ⁷Wherever 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?” ⁸Now 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; ⁹and 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. ¹⁰And 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, ¹¹from 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. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Luke 1:46-55

Christine Cornwell

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then 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.

SERMON

Pastor JMe Lowden

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

God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence especially Terry, Grant, Pauline, Charlotte, Louise, Rodney, Yvonne, Carroll, Edwin, Juanita. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.

VIRTUAL OFFERING *In the Bleak Midwinter* Holst/Rossetti

Bob Lowden, guitar

If you have not already prepared your offering to mail to the church, please take a moment now to do so. Please keep in mind the last day to make a donation to the church for 2020 is Sunday, December 27th. If you mail your donations, please mail in time for them to be received by Wednesday, December 23.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG V. 4,5, 6 *Savior of the Nations, Come*



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
- 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
- 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
- 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Magnificat Plain Jen, Duo

Charpentier (1734-1794)

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TRENDING @ TRINITY

The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by the Landes family in loving memory of Carlton and Virginia Snapp who would have celebrated their 74th wedding anniversary on December 25.

The congregational Council met on December 1st. Mark Greene presented the suggestion that Trinity apply for the Federal Employee Retention Credit. This is money that does not have to be repaid and may not be used if the requestor applied/used the Payroll Protection funds. In the Spring, Trinity did not apply for any Federal assistance as the council felt the church was doing well enough and that the monies could be better used by others. At the December meeting, Trinity's bookkeeper, Bill Edmonson, reported that **offerings are down \$11,649.09 year to date** compared to 2019. The council voted to apply for the Employee Retention Credit. It will take some time to apply and then receive the check. These monies will only go toward staff salaries, wages and healthcare expenses.

Special \$300 Deduction for Donations in 2020. Ordinarily, you can only deduct charitable contributions on your tax return if you itemize your deductions, but under the CARES Act, **individuals can deduct \$300** in cash donations to a qualifying organization. This special deduction is an "above-the-line" deduction, which means that it reduces your taxable income, even before you apply the standard or itemized deduction. Cash donations of up to \$300 made before December 31, 2020, are now deductible when people file their taxes in 2021.

So a reminder, to those who are able, to give any additional year end gift to the church: it is most needed. Because of federal reporting requirements, church office and bank closures, all offerings to be credited to 2020 need to be into the church office by Wednesday, December 23.

Plan your holiday:

4:00PM Christmas Eve Worship with Trinity:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86048031374?pwd=WUUxN1hTNIRBeGJGeHUzRWp3TFRiQT09>

Dial +1 646 876 9923 US (New York) **or** +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 860 4803 1374

Passcode: 444384



The Northern Valley Conference will offer a virtual **Blue Christmas** service which was filmed here at Trinity. This service is for everyone, but those who feel this time of year difficult because of grief, depression, anxiety or for any reason may find this service particularly helpful. The link is: https://youtu.be/_NOLorxZc5M. The bulletin can be found on Trinity's website.

Worship on December 27th will be a special virtual presentation of Lessons and Carols from the Winchester Area Guild of Organists. Those who have no access to the internet may come at 9:30AM to the Parish Hall and enjoy the service on the monitors with Pastor JMe. Those with internet access visit <http://winchesterago.com> **There will be no live worship that Sunday.**

The church office will be closed December 25th-January 3. Pastor JMe will be available for pastoral emergencies (via cell phone 717-621-9600) and worship.

Zoom to Worship, 9:30AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86180657165?pwd=RHBQNVJSR2daamVDWVDV1bm1vNXRqQT09>

Meeting ID number 861 8065 7165 **Password** 964979. You may, also, join by telephone (mobile or landline). To do this, dial the long-distance number 1-646-876-9923 and, at the prompt, enter the Meeting ID number 861 8065 7165 and password 964979

Facebook page for Facebook Live (you must have internet, but you do not need to have a Facebook account) <https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheran.church.96/>

Call to Worship, Every Sunday 11AM Phone # 1-712-832-8330 (Not toll-free) Participant PIN 3504615

Videos of the service are uploaded each week to Trinity's YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIYPLbYZ1RE_IZGJ9GDakIw