

The Very Reverend Sarah Carper Morris, Rector The Reverend Bill Pendleton, Deacon Dr. Ryan Whittington, Organist/Choir Director

The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2023

If you are visiting, please fill out a Visitor Card and put it in the offering plate or hand it to a greeter. Restrooms are located downstairs.

Kid's bags are in the narthex. Please return the bags and they will be refilled for next Sunday.

Please remember that many are preparing for worship with prayer before the service.

Hymn in Procession # 56 (standing as you are able)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!* 2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.

Refrain

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Refrain

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for PurityBCP p. 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

(8:30 service only) Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.** Lord, have mercy.

Gloria Taize #10



In The Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

The Collect (kneel or stand as you are able) Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

Please be seated during the reading of the Lessons and the Psalm.

The First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

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.

The Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Misericordias Domini

- 1 Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; * from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *
 you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- 3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; * I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- 4 'I will establish your line for ever, * and preserve your throne for all generations.'"
- 19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *
 "I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
- 20 I have found David my servant; * with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- 21 My hand will hold him fast * and my arm will make him strong.
- 22 No enemy shall deceive him, * nor any wicked man bring him down.
- I will crush his foes before him *and strike down those who hate him.

- 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, * and he shall be victorious through my Name.
 25 I shall make his dominion extend * from the Great Sea to the River.
- 26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, * my God, and the rock of my salvation.'"

The Second Lesson: Romans 16:25-27

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.

The Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn # 662 (standing as you are able)

- 1 Abide with me: fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide: when other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.
- 2 I need thy presence every passing hour;what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

People	Glory to you, Lord Christ.
	according to Luke.
Celebrant	The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

The Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 (stand as you are able)

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.

CelebrantThe Gospel of the Lord.PeoplePraise to you, Lord Christ.

The Very Rev. Sarah Carper Morris

Sermon

The Nicene Creed (standing as you are able)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People Form II

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops Sam and Jennifer; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present

I ask your prayers for _____.

I ask your thanksgiving for _____.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen*.

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

PeopleThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

Announcements

(8:30 service only) Offertory

Celebrant	All things come of Thee, O Lord.
People	And of thine own have we given
-	Thee.

(10:30 service only)

Offertory and Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer D

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing (say),

Celebrant and People



The people stand or kneel.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures.

When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy.

To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated. When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with [the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, (with ______) and] all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. *AMEN*. And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.* A period of silence is kept.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine, please cross your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available. You may intinct from the small chalice or drink from the chalice. If you need communion brought to you, please let an usher know.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

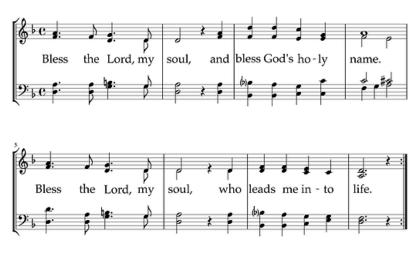
The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. (Amen.) The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. (Amen.)

Music at Communion Taize

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom. Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Communion Meditation Taize

Bless the Lord my Soul



After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen. Taize

Blessing

Celebrant May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.
 People Amen.

Hymn in Procession LEVAS # 9 (standing as you are able)

1 On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye to Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie.

Refrain:

I am bound for the promised land, I am bound for the promised land; oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land.

2 O'er all those wide extended plains shines one eternal day; there God the Son forever reigns, and scatters night away.

Refrain

3 No chilling winds or poisonous breath can reach that healthful shore; sickness and sorrow, pain and death, are felt and feared no more.

Refrain

4 When I shall reach that happy place, I'll be forever blest, for I shall see my Father's face, and in his bosom rest.

Refrain

Dismissal

	Go in peace,	
	to love and serve the Lord.	
People	Thanks be to God.	

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PRAYERS AND REMEMBRANCES OF THE WEEK

Immediate Needs: Emilv Mary Charlie Allen Martha Allen Erin Apperson Cindy Blackwell Bobbie Bledsoe Bert Bond, Jr. Tina Brown Marie Carl Mazie Chilton Ripley Cottrell Anne Cox Bishop Michael Curry Sarah Springthorpe-Denmark Liz Dillev Debbie Dockery Carmen Eldridge Carol Ford Marcus Ford Gus Galloway Angie Golding Polly Hall Steve Hines Melissa Hopkins Max Hunter Sandy Hutchens Adam Jennings Fred Johnson Joy King

Gus Lewis Judy Liner Kay MacAllen Kitty Martin Arba Montgomery Craig New Wade Nichols Bill R. Pendleton Clara Powell Lorene Ramsey Kerry Reagan Stephanie Serika Emily Jarvis Simmons Angela Shur Eva Smith Wade Smith Rose Mary Smoot Tammy Springthorpe Sharon Sutphin Arlis Thomas Celeste Tsaklis Carroll Vick Henrietta Williams Betty Wright Long Term Needs: Jean Amburn *Anonymous Beatrice Attuah & Lailaity Tina Brown Jane Carper Ann Cochrane

Kat Cook Mary Couture Melissa Roth Culver Roger Danley Paul Derrick Ron Doerschug Linda Doerschug Mark Donnell Barbara Embry Donna Fargo Johnnie Gunter Betty Hooven Kelly Jarvis Carrie Krahn David Kroupa Angelia Lawrence Rebecca McNabb John Moore Michael Morgan Angie Nolfo Bill Pendleton Beverly Putynkowski Victoria Rogelin Candace Sammons Evedene Schafer Susan Slate Sid Spencer, Jr. Betty Town Vicky Town John Townsend Stacey Turnmire Jack Woltz

TRINITY FAMILY IN THE ARMED SERVICES OF OUR COUNTRY

Amanda Eads, Wesley Frye, Corbin Humphrey, Matt Kroupa, Glenn Lynch, Gordon Lynch, Haley Muething, John Nichols, Christopher Noble, Robert Poole

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

Trinity Church, Statesville Calvary Church, Tarboro

BIRTHDAYS

December 25 Linda Light

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many thanks to Wyatt Fallin for playing his trumpet for us this morning.

Many thanks to Lee Wilsonwithers for leading our music this morning.

Our **Candlelight Christmas Eve services** will be tonight at 4:30 p.m. and at 11:00 p.m. Plan to join us and invite a friend!

Trinity's 2024 **Stewardship Campaign** is off to a great start. To date we have received 37 pledges for \$153,010. Our goal is \$195,000. If you have not pledged yet, please return your pledge card or call Tobi in the office and she will complete a card for you with your permission. **Thank you for continuing to support Trinity Church.**

There will be no Wednesday evening services on December 27th.

Next Sunday, December 31st we will have one service of Lessons and Carols at 10:30 a.m. We will need 9 lectors. If you are willing to read, please let Tobi know.

Caregiver/Grief Support Group will resume in January.

Trinity Book Group- is on break until January.

Today

MINISTERS FOR THE 8:30 SERVICE Ministry Next Sunday

Ministry LECTOR CHALICE BEARER GREETER ACOLYTE

MINISTERS FOR THE 10:30 SERVICE

This Sunday	Ministry	Next Sunday
Wendy Tatman	LECTOR	**Multiple***
Wendy Tatman	CHALICE BEARER	****
Pat Sanderson	GREETERS	Bill & Janet
Nancy & Jesse	ALTAR GUILD	Wendy Tatman
Jim Tatman	VESTRY	Jim Tatman
Aleigha Wilsonwithers	ACOLYTE	Aleigha & Janaiah

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS					
Today	10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist			
	4:30 p.m.	Candlelight Christmas Service			
	11:00 p.m.	Candlelight Christmas Service			
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Medical Loan Closet			
	1:00 p.m.	Caregiver Support Lunch			
Thursday	8:30 a.m.	Staples			
-	3:00 p.m.	Medical Loan Closet			
Saturday	5:00 p.m.	AA Meeting			
Next Sunday	10:30 a.m.	Lessons and Carols			

TRINITY VESTRY

Ross Borders, Margie Martin, Roxann Moore, James Tatman, Ann Vaughn, Mike Wilson, Lee Wilsonwithers No matter where you come from or where you're going No matter what you believe or what you doubt No matter what you feel or just don't feel today No matter whom you love You are welcome into this space to be met by a God Who knows you by name, who knows your heart, who knows your mind, and... Who wants to have a relationship with you