



December 7, 2020

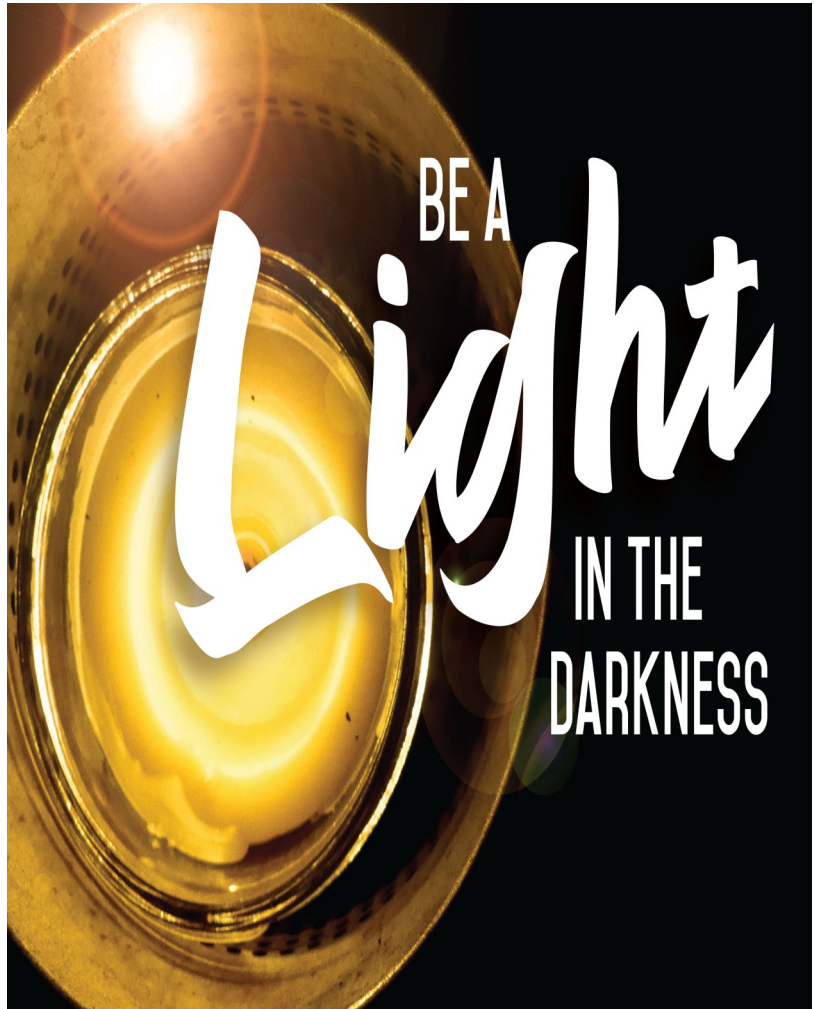
The Good News from Trinity PC

Onsite Trinity Worship Services

Trinity is now worshipping on Sundays in the sanctuary.

Session understands that not everyone will be comfortable returning to the building for worship. Therefore, we continue to offer recordings of the worship services.

We also have the capability to provide a video recording of the worship service, that will be live streamed at 10:15 AM or played later at your convenience. (see page 3 for details)



In Case of a Pastoral Emergency

Please Call: Deacons-on-Call:

Joleen Goens 513-858-9815
or Ginny Kramer 513-829-4658

Office Open

9:00-2:00 Monday-Thursday

Prayer Requests can be emailed to:
office@trinitypresbyfairfield.org



Trinity Presbyterian Church

Rev. Tom Dunlap Pastor

6081 Ross Road
Corner of Ross and Mack Roads
Fairfield, Ohio 45014

Phone: 513-860-4114
www.trinitypresbyfairfield.org E-mail:
office@trinitypresbyfairfield.org

Prepare for Worship Third Sunday in Advent

John 1:6-8, 19-28

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ He said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, ‘Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’ John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.”

Reflection

John 1:6-8, 19-28 reminds us that we are not the light, but with John we are called to testify as witnesses to the light, who is Jesus Christ. The verb “to bear witness” occurs thirty-three times in the Fourth Gospel! How can you bear witness, in this season of lights, to the true Light who has come into the world?

Morning Prayer

Light of the world, you greet me this morning with new possibilities. Shine brightly, I pray, until I see into the dark places of this world, and into the dark places of my own life. I want to follow you in paths of justice, speak up with you for liberty, and bend with you toward the brokenhearted, even the broken places within myself. I trade in my faint spirit for your mantle of praise—and with my whole being I will rejoice in you. Amen.

—adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1* © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press



True Light in Darkness

Just when everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all.

God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment. No evil can befall us; whatever men may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God Is in the Manger*

“The birth of Jesus is the sunrise in the Bible.”

—Henry van Dyke

Sermons Online and on YouTube

For those that do not attend in person, Trinity is offering on-line services live streaming at 10:15 on YouTube. To watch the video live, click on the link below which will direct you to the Trinity YouTube channel, and then click on the video in the displayed list with the LIVE box illuminated. We strongly encourage you to click the "subscribe" link on that page.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn4Bfx9UtjiaWsrxObnly6g>

On Sunday afternoon, the recorded live service is also available via link through the Trinity website at the link below:

<https://www.trinitypresbyfairfield.org/sermons/>

Shut In Gift Assembly—Tomorrow

The gifts for our Shut In's will be assembled on Tuesday, December 8 at 11:00 AM. If you would like to come and add a hand to this Christmas project, please join us. Don't forget your mask.

Adopt a Family

If you purchased gifts for the families we adopted for Christmas and were unable to deliver them to the church by December 6, please contact Ginny Kramer (513-829-4658) to make other arrangements.



Thank You for Another Successful Sandwich Making Day

Trinity sincerely thanks you for your faithful preparing of sandwiches for *Our Daily Bread Pantry*. Last Thursday, over 270 sandwiches were loaded for delivery to the pantry. With the growing need we appreciate your generous help with this Mission Outreach Project.

Thank You for the Gifts

Trinity also thanks everyone who supported the families in the Adopt-a-Family who were from Butler County Developmental Disabilities' list. We appreciate your help making Christmas a little brighter for them. Thank You!

Christmas Joy—Joy Offering Received December 20

A LOVE STORY— Rev. Ken Tracy has spent much of his more than 30 years with the PC(USA) helping congregations work through conflict and revitalize their membership – a mission grounded in love. Along the way, he's built a legacy of love and faith with a focus on ministry and service within the church. His wife Carol has been by his side throughout all these years. His first call was at the Pleasantville, Pennsylvania, Presbyterian Church. He then went on to work within Boulder Presbytery, and serve for seven years as the executive of Utah Presbytery and then as the pastor at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tarzana, California, following the Northridge earthquake in 1994 that damaged the St. James sanctuary. He went on to lead a congregation in the Alaskan village of Hydaburg, taking him and Carol to the smaller churches he loved to serve. It was in Alaska that Carol got very sick. "We made three trips to Seattle to see doctors, and the shared grants handled by the Board of Pensions picked up 100 percent of our expenses," he says. The doctors discovered that Carol had significant damage to her lungs due to an exposure to black mold; so they turned again for help to the Board of Pensions, which is funded in part by the Christmas Joy Offering. Now they live in Monte Vista Grove Homes in Pasadena, a retirement community for retired pastors, church workers and missionaries. "Carol now lives in skilled nursing, and I live in independent living. Her room is about 30 feet from me," Rev. Tracy explains. "I'd never heard of a shared grant until I was the executive at the Utah Presbytery and a member needed some support. I didn't realize then that years later it would also help my family." This is a love story. Not just about Ken and Carol's love for each other and love for the mission they have served side by side for so many years, but also about God's love and the love we show with our gifts. Half of the Christmas Joy Offering goes to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions to help current and past church workers and their families in their time of need critical financial need. The other half supports education and leadership development at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



Please give generously, for when we all do a little – it adds up to a lot. The offering will be received on Sunday, December 20.

THE GOOD NEWS

As of December 6

Keep in your Prayers

Ginny Kramer's neighbors' family
Tausha, B. Pratt's daughter
Connie Williams
Lisa, relative of Jeanie Wolfe
Family of Bob Mantel, Harring's son-in-law's dad
Robert and his mother, Linda Mae, K. Evert req.
Judy Miller, Donna Schuler's sister
Ellen Lewis, Diane Rayer's sister
Sandra Edmunds, Nadine Jones' Neighbor
Pam Harring
Bob Miller, D. Schuler's brother
Nancy Miracle, D. Schuler's sister
*Kathy Kessler
*Family & Friends of Dan Birch, Harring request
*Rev. Trevor Phillips, Harring request
Joe Schrufer, Debbie Johnson's father
Bill Tope
Diane Rayer
George Liles
Dee Burkhardt
Gerald Reese, M. Reese's father
Margie, Fran Thomas' sister
All peoples in the Middle East
All Elected Government leaders
Support for all our military
For all missionaries (Especially for S. and B.)

Bereavement/loss of family member to a fire
God's intervention/drug problems
Healing/recovery/surgery kidney stones, infection
Healing/facing multiple cancer tests
Bereavement/loss of Bob to COVID
Healing/dealing with addiction and depression
Healing/on ventilator in COVID ICU
Continued healing/home recovering/COVID
God's Peace and Comfort/latter stages of lung cancer
Healing/strength and courage/new treatment plan
Healing/foot infection/uncontrolled heart rate
God's Comfort/latter stages of ASL
Thanksgiving/birth of granddaughter, Katie Kessler
Bereavement/loss of Dan
Bereavement/loss of his brother
Healing/patience/fractured femur
Continued healing
Healing/back problems
Continued healing/home recovering
Continued healing/Chesterwood Village
Continued healing/swallowing problems
God's peace and comfort
Peace and reconciliation
Wisdom/support/enlightenment
Strength/discernment/God's protection
Protection/blessings/fruitful mission work

Names that have been on the Prayer List for more than 4 weeks are marked with an asterisk ().
If you would like them to remain on the list,
please contact the office by Tuesday.*

Financial Information

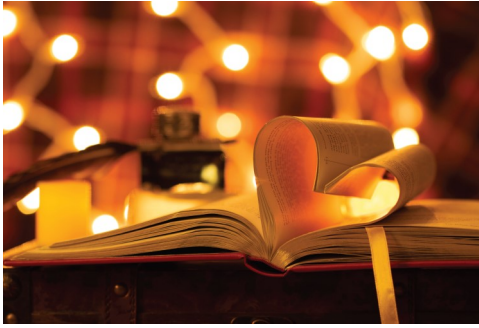
Donations Received as of 12/6 \$2,205
Per Capita 2020 Donations \$858
Property Fund Giving 2020 \$4,400
Property Fund Goal 2020 \$5,000

Per Capita for 2020 is \$33

Worship Schedule

Dec. 13	Rev. Tom Dunlap
Dec. 20	Rev. Tom Dunlap
Dec. 24	Rev. Tom Dunlap
Dec. 27	Elder Cindie Postell

The Presbytery of Cincinnati publishes a weekly newsletter called "The Cincinnati Sampler." To subscribe to The Sampler go to: <https://www.presbteryofcincinnati.org> and click on "Sign Up For The Sampler" at the bottom right corner of the page.



God 's Word is Light

Arise, O Sleepers

The good God permits such small evils to befall us merely in order to arouse us snorers from our deep sleep and to make us recognize, on the other hand, the incomparable and innumerable benefits we still have. ...

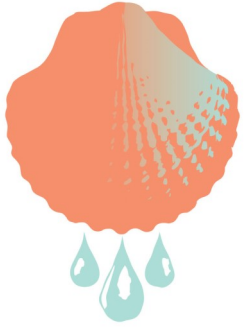
With [our misfortunes], God gives us a light by which we may see and understand his goodness and kindness in countless other ways. Then we conclude that such small misfortunes are barely a drop of water on a big fire or a little spark in the ocean. Then we understand and love the words: "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!"

—Martin Luther

Bible Quiz

According to the fourth Gospel, "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the _____."

- A. love
- B. life
- C. light
- D. Lord



Answer: C (See John 1:6-7, NRSV.)



Visit our web page:

www.trinitypresbyfairfield.org

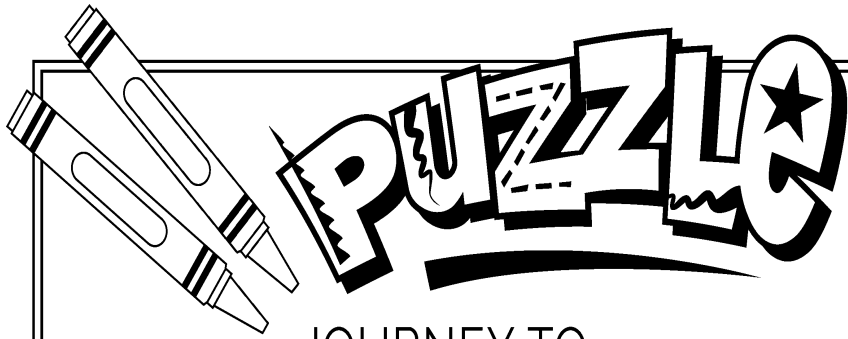
Check out our Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/trinitypcfairfield>

Worship with us:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn4Bfx9UtjiaWsrxObnly6g>

<https://www.trinitypresbyfairfield.org/sermons/>



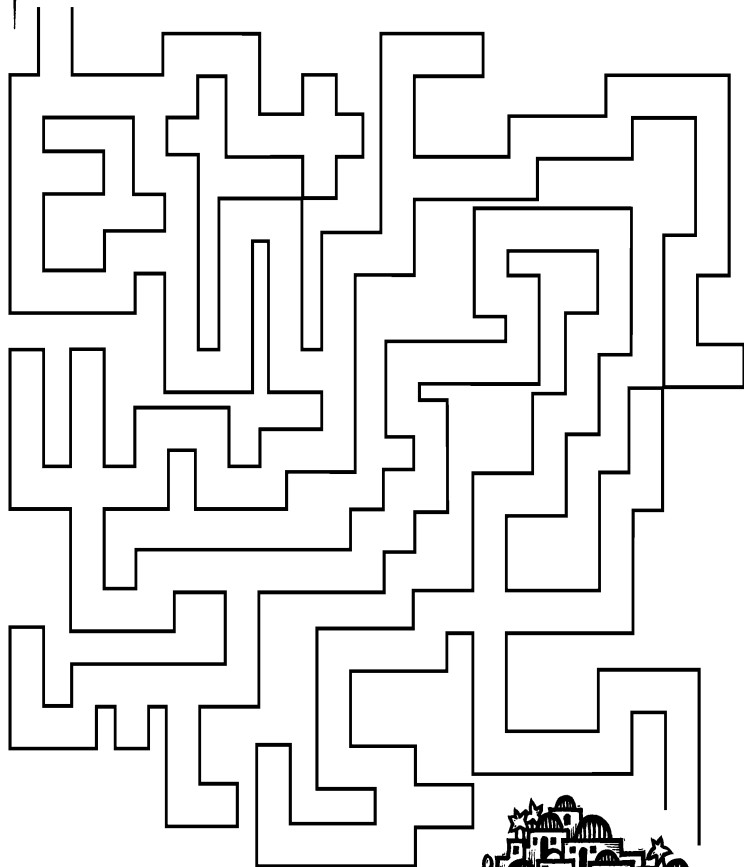
JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

In the Christmas story in Luke 2, an angel tells some shepherds to go see baby Jesus in Bethlehem.



START

Directions: Follow the maze to arrive in Bethlehem.



BETHLEHEM

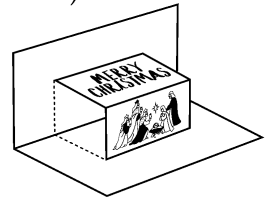


POP-UP CARD

Share the good news of Jesus' birth with this creative Christmas card.

What you need:

- Construction paper (two pieces, including one white)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Pens
- Glue stick



What you do:

1. Neatly fold the white paper in half, short side to short side.
2. Draw two parallel lines (at least 2 inches apart) from the fold to about halfway to the edge. Cut along the lines.
3. Fold the cut section back and forth so it pops up.
4. Push the section up so it pops up inside the folded paper. Draw a nativity scene on the pop-up box.
5. Fold the colored paper in half, short side to short side. Place the white paper inside it and glue the white paper down, being careful not to glue the pop-up box.
6. Write a Christmas message and give or send the card to someone.

Onsite Worship Protocols

Trinity has begun Onsite Worship. Below are the preparations and changes to the worship service that have been made:

Preparations for the Trinity building include:

- Thoroughly cleaning on a regular basis, with frequently touched surfaces being sanitized.
- Church front entry doors, as well as the middle and side entry doors to the sanctuary, are propped open and will remain open for the entire worship service. (minimizes contact with the door handles and increases ventilation within the church building.
- Bottles of liquid hand sanitizer will be available for use in the narthex, and you are encouraged as well to bring your own personal hand sanitizer. The water fountains outside the restrooms will be unplugged and covered on Sunday morning. Please bring your own personal water containers or bottles. No food or beverages will be offered. The sacristy room will be closed.
- When utilizing the restroom on Sunday morning, note whether another person is already using the room, and wait outside until that person exits the restroom before entering. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water prior to exiting the restroom.
- While inside the church building, **we are strongly encouraging that each person wear a face covering or mask.** A limited number of surgical masks will be available if you forget your own personal face covering.
- If on Sunday morning you are experiencing a fever (in excess of 100.4° F), coughing, shortness of breath or other symptoms potentially indicating COVID-19 infection, please refrain from attending worship on that morning and seek medical assistance.

The worship service itself will, not surprisingly, be a little different than what we are accustomed to. Some of the worship service modifications will be:

- We anticipate that attendance at the initial services will be quite modest, so the ushers should easily be able to assist individuals and family groups to find seating in the pews with appropriate social distancing.
- No printed bulletins will be distributed by the ushers. Everyone will receive an electronic version of each week's bulletin by email, and you are encouraged to print out the bulletin at home and bring it with you on Sunday morning. A limited number of printed bulletins will be available in the narthex. The bulletin will include the hymn lyrics.
- Hymnbooks, Bibles, pencils and attendance pads will be removed. Prayer request forms will be displayed on a table in the narthex, that can be filled out prior to the service, which can then be deposited in offering baskets located at the sanctuary entry doors.
- There will be no choir performances, and congregational singing of the hymns will be discouraged. Singing of the hymns in our minds, or possibly light humming, will be our means of expressing our musical worship.
- There will be no children's sermon or children's Sunday school classes, so children will remain with their families during worship. **No nursery attendants will be provided**, so use of the nursery room will be limited to parents and their children, if necessary.
- There will be no collection of offering during the service. Offerings will be deposited in the offering baskets located at the sanctuary entry doors when departing the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.
- On Communion Sundays (first Sunday of the month) servers will not be distributing the communion elements. Trinity has purchased a supply of prepackaged communion "sets", each with a wafer and sealed juice cup, which will be placed on a table at the front of the sanctuary, to be picked up by individual worshippers at the appointed time during the communion service.
- Following Rev. Dunlap's benediction, he, or the preacher of the day, will immediately proceed outside the church building, to greet and chat with the worshippers in the safer, fresher outdoor environ (no rain please!). All of the attendees will be encouraged to proceed to the outside as quickly as possible. It's outside, in the fresh air, that we can really practice being the Trinity community of faith - socially distanced hugs, catching up on all our quarantine stories, etc.!