

# The Third Sunday of Advent



**December 14, 2025**

7:30 a.m.

## **Trinity Episcopal Parish**

317 Franklin Street  
Clarksville, TN 37040  
931-645-2458

[www.trinityparish.com](http://www.trinityparish.com)

### **WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!**

We are delighted that you have joined us for worship this morning. You will find that our worship blends the ancient mysteries of the church with a modern and vibrant faith. Everything you need to worship with us is in this bulletin. Located in the pew rack are Welcome, Small Group, Volunteer, and Giving connection cards. Please complete a Welcome Card so we can learn a little more about you.

**RESTROOM:** A restroom is located to the right as you enter the church, to the left as you exit.

**LIGHTING A VOTIVE:** The Little Side Chapel (located in the alcove to the left as you enter the church) is available to anyone wishing to light a candle and have a few moments of reflection and prayer.

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*Today is the Third Sunday of Advent and we light the Candle of Mary, the candle of Joy. Mary carried the Christ which is the joy of the world. Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.*

#### SILENT MEDITATION AND RINGING OF THE BELL

### The Word of God

#### OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

#### COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, Have mercy upon us.

#### COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

#### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!"

Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 146:4-9

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;  
**5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \***  
**who keeps his promise for ever;**  
6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
and food to those who hunger.  
**7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;**  
**the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; \***  
**the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;**  
8 The Lord loves the righteous;  
the Lord cares for the stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way of the wicked.  
**9 The Lord shall reign for ever, \***  
**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.**  
**Hallelujah!**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

SERMON

NICENE CREED

**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 (BCP, p.328)

CONFESSION OF SIN

*The people kneel.*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

**Most merciful God,**  
**we confess that we have sinned against thee**  
**in thought, word, and deed,**  
**by what we have done,**  
**and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved thee with our whole heart;**  
**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,**  
**have mercy on us and forgive us;**  
**that we may delight in thy will,**  
**and walk in thy ways,**  
**to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The Holy Communion

#### OFFERTORY

*You may leave your offering in the plates as they are passed, or visit <https://trinityparish.com/giving/> or scan the QR code using your phone's camera to give online.*



*You may also mail your offering or pledge to: 317 Franklin Street, Clarksville, TN 37040*

All things come of Thee O Lord.

**And of Thine own have we given thee.**

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer I)

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:**

**Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.**

**Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.**

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION (see BCP p. 334)

*The People kneel or stand.*

... By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.

#### BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

#### PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

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.

#### DISTRIBUTION

*All baptized persons are welcome to receive Communion. Here are the options:*

**Bread intincted by the priest:** *Proceed to the right (pulpit) side, standing or kneeling. The priest will carefully intinct (dip) the bread in the wine and place it in your open hand.*

**Bread and wine (common cup):** *Proceed to the left (eagle lectern) side, standing or kneeling. You will receive bread in your hand, which you should immediately consume, and then you will drink from the chalice. Touching only the base of the chalice, you may assist in directing the wine to your lips. Please do not touch the upper part of the chalice or intinct the bread.*

**Bread only:** *Left side. After receiving bread, cross both arms over your chest to indicate no wine.*

**Blessing only:** *Either side: If you or your child wish to receive a priest's blessing instead of bread and wine, please cross your arms over your chest.*

#### POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

*The people kneel or stand.*

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

#### ADVENT BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

#### DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia**

*Please join us in the Parish Hall immediately following today's service for coffee and breakfast.*

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#### Those serving today

Lector: Phil Harpel

LEM: Kathy McBeth Murray

Acolyte: Blake Yravedra

Usher/Greeter: Charlene Beard Lollar

#### Celebrant

We are joined today by the Rev. John Smith of Madison.

#### Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

ST. DAVID'S CHURCH, NASHVILLE

#### Parish Cycle of Prayer

Tim and Nicholette and Owen and Silas Kimbro

Ben and Beverly and Reagan Kimbrough

Bill and Betsy and Bill Josslyn and James Kimbrough

#### Parish Prayer List

Michael Brunet

## Calendar

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP:

- **7:30 a.m. Sunday:** Holy Eucharist Rite I, spoken
- **10 a.m. Sunday:** Holy Eucharist Rite II, with music, nursery available

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL:

**9 a.m.**

- **Children:** Godly Play for students pre-school through 5th grade.
- **Youth:** Students 6th through 12th grade.
- **Adults:** Walk in Love: "Episcopal Beliefs and Practices" by Scott Gunn

**11:30 a.m.** (following 10 a.m. service)



- **Adults:** Luke's Gospel and Acts of the Apostles

*Nursery is available starting at 9 a.m. through the 10 a.m. service for infants up to 3 years old.*

#### FELLOWSHIP:

- **Small Groups** meet weekly or bi-weekly. To sign up, go to <https://trinityparish.com/engage/small-group-connections/> or call the church office, 931-645-2458.
- **Women's Study**, "The Gift of Years," second Saturdays at 9 a.m., Parish Hall Library.
- **Loaves & Fishes** Trinity volunteer Day, third Wednesdays at noon, 325 Crossland Ave.
- **Circuit Workit** low-impact exercise, Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., Parish Hall.
- **Chair Yoga**, Saturdays, 10:30 a.m., Parish Hall.

## Announcements



We are off to a great start with our Stewardship drive, but we have a long way to go. Please submit your intention for 2026 as soon as possible, so our Vestry can confirm our budget for the coming year. You can turn in your pledge card by mailing it, drop it by the church office, or place it in the plate this Sunday. You also can submit your intention online by going to:

[app.easytithe.com/App/Form/7acc8200-0dfd-45c2-93b8-2f12a738c03e](http://app.easytithe.com/App/Form/7acc8200-0dfd-45c2-93b8-2f12a738c03e)



**CHRISTMAS DINNER BASKET COLLECTION:** Please help us provide Christmas dinners to Byrns-Darden Elementary School families in need by contributing to the Christmas Dinner Basket Collection on Dec. 7 and 14! \$50 provides the basics for a Christmas dinner which will be provided on a Kroger gift card which we will enclose in a personalized card to be handed out at Byrns-Darden by their school counselor. Our goal is to provide Christmas dinner for 30 families! You can provide a check marked "Christmas dinner baskets" or speak to Kate Smith for more information - [norakatemom@gmail.com](mailto:norakatemom@gmail.com) or (931) 551-7412.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:** Please join us on Wednesday, Dec. 24, as we celebrate Christ's entry into our world. Both services will be Rite II with music.

**Family Service, 4 p.m.:** Featuring our all-welcome, no-rehearsal Children's pageant!

**Midnight Mass, 10:30 p.m.:** Holy Eucharist with incense, candle-lighting liturgy.

**GAME NIGHT:** Join fellow parishioners for dinner and fun the first Wednesday of each month beginning January 7. We will gather in the parish hall for a delicious meal (suggested donation of \$10 per person, kids 15 and under are free) at 5:30 pm, then start playing games at 6 pm until 8 pm. Children are welcome too! We will have board games, card games, video games - something for all ages. Want more information? Contact Kate Smith at (931) 551-7412 or [norakatemom@gmail.com](mailto:norakatemom@gmail.com).

**Save the date!**

Empty Bowls Lunch February 11th, 2026. Tickets will be available in the coming days. Please be on the lookout for information as it will start coming out soon!



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[www.trinityparish.com](http://www.trinityparish.com)

Follow us on **Facebook**, **Instagram** and **YouTube** at TrinityParishTN

To view our **full calendar**, visit <https://trinityparish.com/events/>.

To receive our weekly **Talk of Trinity emailed newsletter**, email [administrator@trinityparish.com](mailto:administrator@trinityparish.com).

To access **Trinity Guest WiFi** the password is: trinityparish

## Our Team

Office Administrator: Kelsey Deboard

Nursery: Kelly Loy and Lisa Mejeun

Treasurer: Beverly Kimbrough

Lead Verger: Chris Smith

## Our Vestry

Howell Foust, Senior Warden  
Steven Stroman, Junior Warden  
Maryalice Telford  
Heather Fleming  
Will Green  
Frank Lott

Bob Houston  
Bill Kimbrough  
Cornelia Mitchell  
Chris Nolder  
Amy Truesdale

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Worship materials come from the Book of Common Prayer unless otherwise noted. The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA and used by permission. The Collects, Psalms and Canticles are from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Sourced from The Lectionary Page: <http://lectionarypage.net>. Other sources: Oremus.org, Book of Alternate Services, and Alternative Service

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