

The Third Sunday of Advent



December 14, 2025

10 a.m.

Trinity Episcopal Parish

317 Franklin Street

Clarksville, TN 37040

931-645-2458

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.

NURSERY: Kids of all ages are welcome to attend the service! However, parents may prefer to take infants and toddlers up to 3 years old to our staffed nursery, located downstairs in the Parish House next to the sanctuary. The ushers or greeters can accompany you to the nursery.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL: Children's Chapel is available for children ages 4-7 every Sunday (except the first Sunday Family Service). Participating families are asked to sign in using the check-in station as you enter. During the singing of the Gloria, children will gather and process to Children's Chapel. Children are escorted back to their families at the Peace.

Please note that the Parish House doors are locked during the service. Should you need access to the Nursery or Children's Chapel during the service, please see an usher, or go to the breezeway door and the gatekeeper will assist 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.

PRELUDE: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, Arr. Albert Travis

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 HYMN: Once he came in blessing..... Hymnal 53

Hymnals are found in the pew racks.

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, 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.**

KYRIE Hymnal S91

Hymn numbers with an S are at the beginning of the Hymnal.

The People sing:

Lord have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

SEQUENCE HYMN: Hark! the glad sound!..... Hymnal 72
All stand

Verses 1 & 2 before Gospel, verses 3 & 4 after

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 to you, Lord 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 (Form IV)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Remembering especially Sean, our presiding bishop, John, bishop of Tennessee, and John, our priest today, grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Remembering especially Donald, president of the United States, Bill, governor of Tennessee, and Wes and Joe, our mayors, guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless the men and women in the service of our nation, and their families, that they may live in safety, be filled with courage, and have a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All kneel. Silence may be kept.

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.

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 peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

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

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

MUSICAL OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

The People stand and sing while the offerings are brought forward.

To be sung to the tune of "O come, O come Emmanuel"

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer D)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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:

SANCTUS Hymnal S114

The People sing:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The People remain standing 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.

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.

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

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 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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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

FRACTION ANTHEM Hymnal S158

The People sing:

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.**

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Please join in the singing of the Communion hymns.

Of the Father's love begotten.....

Hymnal 82

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light..... Hymnal 91

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

The people stand or kneel.

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you**

**with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. 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.**

CLOSING HYMN: There's a voice in the wilderness crying..... Hymnal 75

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE

Please join us in the Parish Hall immediately following today's service for coffee and a light meal.

Those serving today

Wreath lighting: Civil-Smiths

1st reading: Jeff Morrow

Psalm: Shirley Hood

2nd reading: Ken Mory

Prayers: Malinda Mabry Scott

Verger: Chris Smith

LEM/Cross: Heather Fleming

Torch/server: Benjamin Morrow

Torch/cup,plates: Zeke Green

Ushers: Steven B. Stroman, Jerome Viltz

Greeters: Christie Crawford, Daisy Crowley

Livestream: Larry M Faust

Gatekeeper: Megan Williams

Children's Chapel: Allison Graham and Pluto,
Nicholette Cochran

Parish H. lockup: Steven B. Stroman

Organist: Mike Epley

Altar Guild: Luke

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.:** Holy Eucharist Rite I, spoken
- **10 a.m.:** 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.easytithes.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 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.



317 Franklin Street
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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.

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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