

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 21, 2025

7:30 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.

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 we light the Fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the love we have in 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.

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.*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

**18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

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

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

TODAY'S OFFERING: *Today is the third Sunday: All undesignated offerings will go to the Discretionary Fund for the poor and needy.*

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.

Those serving today

Lector: Kathy McBeth Murray

LEM: Blake Yrabedra (L)

Acolyte: Blake Yrabedra

Usher/Greeter: Tom, Cindy Fanning

Celebrant

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

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

ST. MARK'S CHURCH, ANTIOCH

Parish Cycle of Prayer

Lou and Becky Kiser

Jerry and Gayle Knickerbocker

Merrilee Laugeness

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



Hanging of the greens:

This Sunday, December 21 at 3:00 PM, we invite you to stay and help hang the greens in the chapel.

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.

Please join us for refreshments in the Parish Hall immediately following the **Christmas Eve 4pm service**.
In courtesy of the Lazar Family.

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.

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!

<https://emptybowlsclarksville.com/>



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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

Hymns are from The Hymnal 1982 unless noted. Music reprinted and broadcasted with permission ONE LICENSE, License #400500-M. All rights reserved. Church Publishing Incorporated grants permission for performances of these hymns as found in Hymnal 82, Wonder, Love and Praise, and Lift Every Voice and Sing II to be streamed for virtual corporate worship.

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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