

**First Sunday after Christmas Day
December 28, 2025 - 8:30 & 11:00 AM**

“Now after the [wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”—Matthew 2:13

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Sussex Carol

arr. Kenneth Kosche

Choral Introit 116

The Snow Lay On The Ground, v. 1

Call to Worship

Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”

On this first Sunday of Christmas, we, too, have come to worship Jesus the Messiah: the son of David, the son of Abraham.

When the wise men saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt down, paid him homage, and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

On this first Sunday of Christmas, we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you, O God.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Glory to God in the highest heaven!

***Hymn 134**

“Joy to the World”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of Christmas, we would never have thought to find your Savior in an innocent baby. We confess we would have expected a warrior with a great army. We would not have thought to find your kingdom to be one of service, obedience and humility. We confess we would have expected, maybe even wanted, a kingdom that reflected our own values and self-interests. Lord, forgive us when we quickly leave Christmas behind and neglect to live lives worthy of our calling as followers of our Lord, the Prince of

Peace. By your Holy Spirit, help us turn to you and live according to the values of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Silent Meditation and Assurance of Pardon

***Congregation Response 127** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, v. 1

Passing of the Peace

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 63:7-9

Anthem Coventry Carol

New Testament Reading Matthew 2:13-23

Sermon "God and Empire" *David Garnett*

***Hymn 154** "Jesus Entered Egypt"

***Affirmation of Faith** (*from the Confession of 1967*)

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Invitation to Giving & Five Cents A Meal

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

***Hymn 136** "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

***Charge and Blessing**

Postlude In Dulci Jubilo *JS Bach*

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Worship Notes: *Our liturgy today appeared in Presbyterian Outlook and was written by Philip K. Gladden, who gives us permission to use it in today's worship service.*

LITURGIST(S): Mel Bringle
SCREENS: Russ Russell, Bud Weeks,
Catherine Langsdorf

FLOWERS: Given by Diocles Wells and Eric McAnallen in honor of Captain Alfred D. Wells, Sr.

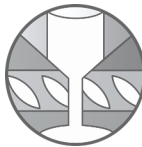
This congregation welcomes you without regard to race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, education, economic circumstance, your place of origin or any other issue that divides God's family. We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors wide open. If you are passing through, Godspeed. If you are looking for a worship home, stay with us. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.



PC(USA)
June 10, 1983 -
our denomination



Presbytery of Western
North Carolina -
our regional leadership



More Light
Presbyterians -
LGBTQ+ affirming



an Earth Care
Congregation -
eco-stewardship



Fuente de Vida
Guatemala - global
partnership



a Matthew 25
Church - social
justice advocacy

**SUNDAY - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
& FIVE CENTS A MEAL**

8:30 SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:45 Learning Hour

10:30 Choir Rehearsal

10:55 Congregational Meeting

11:00 SUNDAY WORSHIP

5:00 ManKind Project Open Men's Circle

MONDAY

9:00 Finance Team

2:00 Personnel Ministry Mtg.

TUESDAY

9:30 Staff Meeting

10:00 Coffee Group

5:30 Circles Board Meeting

WEDNESDAY - NEW YEAR'S EVE

10:00 Friends in Christ

6:00 PFLAG Board Mtg.

THURSDAY - NEW YEAR'S DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)

FRIDAY

8:00 Toastmasters

SATURDAY

9:30 Swing Band Rehearsal

**SUNDAY - COMMUNION, ORDINATION & INSTALLATION
OF OFFICERS (SINGLE WORSHIP SERVICE)**

9:30 Choir Rehearsal

10:00 SUNDAY WORSHIP

5:00 ManKind Project Open Men's Circle

Dec 28 - Jan 4

Contacts (office/pastoral business) during the week

David Garnett: 828-489-1791, david@trinitypresnc.org

Dwight Christenbury: 828-545-2590, dwight@trinitypresnc.org

Sally Beghtol: 828-280-2045, rsbeghtol@bellsouth.net

Katie Cilluffo: 828-692-6114, office@trinitypresnc.org

PRAYERS, JOYS & CONCERNS: In Sympathy:

The friends and family of Bella Ward; Harry Petersen upon the loss of his husband **Rehab/Nursing:** Alice McCullough, Neena Haskins (Sunnybrook); Nugent Sharp (The Lodge); David Smith, Jack Caylor (HHR); Don Widmayer (Florida); Kay Vickery; Ruth Mills (CV Care Center); Art Wayboer (High Point); Nell Payne (Brooks-Howell); Jane Sugawara (Ohio) **Home:** Alice Malone (Pennsylvania); Marty Zigovsky; Keira Hunt (Carol Danilin's great-granddaughter); Evelyn Christensen (Mary Louise & Betty's sister); Alice Malone (Emma Persigehl's mother); Irene Lunsford (Dolly & Nancy's sister); Peggy King (Kathy Madigan's friend); Brenda Nelson; Nancy Twitchen; Steve Kuykendoll; Bob Miles; Kathy Orr (Neena Haskins' friend); John Kostlevy; Donnie Thompson (Kuykendoll's nephew); T.K. Owens; Evans Thibodeau; Kim & Jason Ball; Julee Gray (Kuykendoll's friend) **Others:** immigrants and those who are fearful or in hiding; our partners in Madagascar, Malawi, and Guatemala, our sister church Fuente de Vida, people in war-torn areas of the world, those harmed by gun violence and anti-LGBTQ+ legislation.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY - DEC. 28

AT 10:55. We will hold a brief congregational meeting on Sunday, Dec. 28, at 10:55 a.m., to act on a report from the Nominating Committee.

WINTER WEATHER ALERTS. If winter weather affects church activities, remember that our opening, closing, and/or delay status can be found on WLOS-TV (wlos.com) and on our website (trinitypresnc.org).

2025 END OF TAX YEAR: Help Trinity finish the year strong! For a donation to be listed on your 2025 statement of giving, it must be received or postmarked by December 31st.

ELDERS: If you chair a ministry...thank you for your service over the past year! And to keep a record of all your ministries' great service, please start preparing your Annual Reports. They will be due on Jan 11, 2 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. Thanks!

STEWARDSHIP 2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES – If you requested offering envelopes for 2026, they are located on a table in the narthex. There is a sign-out sheet which indicates your offering envelope number beside your name. Please sign the sheet when you take your envelopes. There are also some extra envelopes if you didn't request them on your pledge card; please indicate your name beside the number of the envelope box you are taking. Thank you for your 2026 pledge!

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS: The sign up sheet for the people who have gone through the Safe Gatherings training to volunteer in the nursery, is in the narthex on the rolling bulletin board. Contact Kris Grasse if you have any questions. kgrasse93@gmail.com

ATTENTION QUILTERS & QUILTING WANNABES: It has come to our attention that IAM displays a number of beautiful quilts made by local entities who support the IAM mission; however, IAM does not have a quilt from Trinity. We would like to rectify that situation. If you are interested in joining us, perhaps making one of the panels for our selected quilt pattern, please contact Vickie at your earliest convenience. Gratefully, Carole Garrison & Vickie Hugger.

REMINDER FROM YOUR FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY....

You can sign up in the Atrium to supply "goodies" for coffee time between worship services. Homemade or store bought are gladly accepted. (See Julie Carter or Lorraine Talbot for questions.)

PRAYER LIST ONLINE SUBMISSIONS: Hi folks! Just a quick reminder that the EASIEST way to add someone to the prayer list is through the big red button at the top of our website. Thank you for sharing your prayer requests!

VISITORS, Would you like to join Trinity? Let David, Dwight, or Sally know. We look forward to welcoming you as a member!