

KING of kings
salvation
brings, let loving
hearts enthrone Him



The Songs We Sing
Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 20, 2020

WORSHIPING THE GOD WHO CAME AMONG US!

Liturgist: Rev. Nate Taylor

Scripture Reader: Jackson Roberts and Elisa Tharp

Pastoral Prayer: Ruling Elder, Steve O'Neal

Quotes and Reflections

"With the exception of being sinful, everything that can be said about a man can be said about Jesus Christ." — James Montgomery Boice

"God has taken the attributes of his being—his love, his mercy, his holiness, his justice, his power—and translated them into a form that men can understand."
— Richard Bube

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

WE READY OURSELVES TO WORSHIP

The Christmas Miracle of the Incarnation of the Omnipresent Word

Jared C. Wilson, The Gospel Coalition: December 22, 2017

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. — Hebrews 13:8

Every year at this time as we celebrate the birth of baby Jesus to the virgin Mary, I don't suppose it occurs to too many merrymakers that what they're really celebrating is the incarnation. All of the other miracles are in service of that central miracle: God became man. And in becoming, through spiritual conception, the man Jesus of Nazareth, the Word of God did not cease to be God. Baby Jesus, from the moment of conception to the straw habitation of the manger, was fully God and fully man. That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.

When we put our minds long to the idea of Jesus being 100 percent God and simultaneously 100 percent man, they naturally feel overwhelmed. The orthodox doctrine of the incarnation is compelling, beautiful, biblically sensible, and salvifically necessary, but it is nevertheless utterly inscrutable. And that's okay. In the end, the incarnation is not for analysis but for worship.

But when we read Colossians 2:9—"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily"—the inscrutability of the incarnation widens. The baby Jesus who was wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, was also omnipresent Lord of the universe. Omnipresence is one of God's impassable attributes; God cannot not be omnipresent. So, for Jesus Christ to be God incarnate must not mean he was no longer God omnipresent.

Wait a second, you might say. Didn't Jesus disregard his deity as something to be grasped? Yes, but what Paul is getting at in Philippians 2:5–8 is not that Jesus did not "hold" or "maintain" the fullness of his divinity but that he did not exploit it or leverage it against his experiencing the fullness of humanity. He didn't pull the parachute, in other words.

Instead, what we see in the wonder of the God-Man is a miraculous extension, not reduction. Jesus "made himself nothing" (Phil. 2:7), yes, but this was not a voiding of his essential deity. It is instead an appraisal of the bewilderment of the incarnation. The incarnation posits a self-willed emptying consisting of Jesus's refusal to employ all divine abilities at his disposal, not an emptying that would consist in a subtraction from the Godhead. The alternatives to simultaneous incarnation and omnipresence are a lesser incarnation on one side or a lesser Godhead on the other.

In Calvin's estimation, God's incarnation in Christ was not an exit from heaven so much as a descent, an extension. In his commentary on John's Gospel, he writes, "So Christ, who 'is in heaven,' has clothed himself in our flesh, so that by stretching out his brotherly hand to us he may raise us to heaven with himself."

Let us take this cue from Calvin: *Here is something marvelous!*

This Christmas, let's marvel that the incarnation presents to us the fullness of God in the fullness of man, because it proclaims to us the great big gospel of the fullness of God for the fullness of man.

Song of Preparation

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Trinity Hymnal #193 (vs. 1, 2, 4)

***Call to Worship—Psalm 126:1-4**

Leader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

People: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;

Leader: Then they said among the nations,

People: "The Lord has done great things for them."

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.

All: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the Negeb!

WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

*Song of Adoration

Joy Has Dawned (with Angels We Have Heard on High)

Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend/Trinity Hymnal #214

Lighting of the Advent Candle

E♭ Fm E♭/G A♭ B♭ Cm Fm⁷ E♭/B♭ B♭



1. Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom-ised from cre - a - tion:
2. Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels;
3. Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry;
4. Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som,

5 E♭ Fm E♭/G A♭ B♭ Cm A♭ B♭ E♭



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.
As the might - y Prince of Life shel - ters in a sta - ble.
Gifts of men from dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the sto - ry.
rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ our might - y Cham - pi - on!

9 E♭/G A♭ E♭/G Fm⁷ B♭ Cm Fm⁷ E♭/B♭ B♭



Not with fan - fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark - ness.
Gold, a King is born to - day; In - cense, God is with us;
What a Sav - ior, what a Friend, what a glo - rious mys - ter - y:

13 E♭ Fm E♭/G A♭ B♭ Cm⁷ Fm⁷



but a hum - ble gift of love: Je - sus born of
Cling now to a moth - er's breast, vul - n'ra - ble and
Myrrh, His death will make a way, by His blood He'll
Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, now the Lord of

16 B♭ E♭ Fm E♭/G A♭ B♭ E♭



Mar - y.
help - less.
win us.
his - to - ry.

*Prayer of Adoration

WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading—Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.
They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations

Reader: The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the
Lord stands forever!

People: Thanks be to God!

WE CONFESS OUR UTTER UNWORTHINESS BEFORE GOD

Call to Confession—1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. Brothers, pray for us. Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.

Silent Confession and Lament

WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—1 Peter 10:11

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Church of Jesus Christ, rejoice and give thanks to God for his restoring grace!

People: Thanks be to God!

Leader: Now may the peace of Christ abide with you!

People: And also with you!

"I will not glory because I am righteous, but because I am redeemed; not because I am clear of sin, but because my sins are forgiven." — Ambrose

*Song of Rejoicing

Dawning Light of Our Salvation

Trinity Hymnal #224

(Children may come forward on vs. 3)

A D/A A D/A A A E

1. Long in dark - ness Is - rael wan - dered; Long in mor - tal shad - ows, we
2. He shall raise a might - y Sav - ior; Born of Da - vid's lin - eage He
3. Je - sus, Lord, and might - y Sav - ior, Da - vid's Son and yet his King,

5 F#m D A D A F#m

Walked in bon - dage and self - pit - y, Trod in paths of sin and grief.
Comes in cov - enant love to claim us From our sins to set us free.
Dawn - ing light of our sal - va - tion, Of your sav - ing power we sing!

9 E D A E D A

In the proph - ets' words He told us, Long the God of Is - rael spoke;
Light to those who dwell in dark - ness. Life to those from death who flee.
Stand, oh lame, and dance, ye bro - ken. Know the Sav - ior's heal - ing grace.



13 E D A F#m D A

He a - lone in strength would save us From the hands of all our
 Joy un - to the earth, and glad - ness, To your path - ways dawn - ing
 Come, oh deaf and hear him sing - ing; Turn, oh blind, be - hold his

17 Esus E D A

foes.
 peace!
 face!

Eve - ry val - ley be ex - alt - ed!

21 F#m Esus E D A

Eve - ry moun - tain be made plain! — Crook - ed ways re - pent and straight - en;

25 F#m E D

All cre - a - tion bend in praise!

Children's Sermon

Advent Hymn

What Child Is This
 Trinity Hymnal #213

WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

Pastoral Prayer

"Satan trembles when he sees, the weakest saint upon his knees." — William Cowper

Tithes and Offerings

Children may be dismissed for Children's Church (8:45 service only)

Offertory Song

He Has Come to Reign

Sherdonna Denholm

D G

1. For the Lord our God He is - strong to save, from the
2. In the dark - est night, on the - low - est hill, though I
3. When tri - als come and weigh you down, you can
4. The true and liv - ing God we serve; His

D D/F# A

depths of sin, from the - deep - est grave. Ev - er
feel Him not, He is - faith - ful still. He is
catch a glimpse, you can - hear the sound of the
truth will stand, the on - ly Word. He has

D G

faith - ful - is His a - bound - ing Word: "Fear
com - ing - in all His - right - eous - ness; I will
an - gels sing - ing heav - en's song, say - ing
come to reign, God's on - ly Son, Je - sus

D A D

not my child, I've o - ver - come the world.
wait for Him - in this - lone - li - ness. [Chorus]
"Child, hold on, it won't be long." [Chorus]
Christ, our King, He has o - ver - come. [Chorus]

Chorus: G D A Bm

He has come to reign in our bro - ken hearts; we will - doubt and fear no more.
He has come to reign in our bro - ken hearts; all we - lost He will re - store.

Sermon

"The Most Important Question of All"

Luke 2:8-11

Rev. Chris Polski

*Song of Response

Is He Worthy?

Words and Music by Andrew Peterson and Ben Shive

(Women): Do you feel the world is broken? (Men): We do
(Women): Do you feel the shadows deepen? (Men): We do
(Women): But do you know that all the dark won't
stop the light from getting through? (Men): We do
(Women): Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (Men): We do

(Men): Is all creation groaning? (Women): It is
(Men): Is a new creation coming? (Women): It is
(Men): Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (Women): It is
(Men): Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (Women): It is

(Chorus: All)

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
Is He worthy, is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy of this? He is.*

(Women): Does the Father truly love us? (Men): He does
(Women): Does the Spirit move among us? (Men): He does
(Women): And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those He loves?
(Men): He does
(Women): Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (Men): He does

(Chorus: All)

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son
Is He worthy, is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy of this? He is.*

Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
He is. He is

*Benediction

These are just announcement highlights. If you'd like to know more about Trinity, connect with us in one of the following ways...

- 314/821-7311 • www.trinitychurchkirkwood.org • Facebook: Trinity Church Kirkwood

Worship and General Church Information

Please look for communication mid-week about ongoing activities at church. We will let you know if there is a change to any of the activities below.

- **Volunteers next Sunday: Ushers:** Schaffer, Schlitt, Kwong.
- **The Session wishes to invite the congregation to our annual meeting of the congregation/corporation TONIGHT at 5:30pm via Zoom or in-person.** At this meeting we will review the budget, elect officers, and review 2020.
- **Small Groups** are a great way to get connected. For more information pick up a flyer at the Welcome Center.
- **Men's Bible will resume on January 8th.**
- **Women's Bible** studies will resume in January. More info to come.
- **Jr. High and Sr. High** small groups will resume in the January.
- Did you know you can use the **Church Center app** for online giving, to sign up for events, connect with your small groups, bible studies, etc? Contact the church office for assistance.
- If you do not receive our **weekly email updates** on Tuesday mornings, please send your email address to amymitchell@trinitystlouis.org.
- This year we will offer two **Christmas Eve candlelight services:** 4pm (almost at capacity) and 5:30. Both will be the same. Due to Covid restrictions, **we ask that you go to Church Center to let us know which service you plan to attend.**
- There are **several easy ways to serve at Trinity.** Feel free to reach out to these ministry coordinators if you would like to get involved: **Ushers:** Josh Hendricks (coachjph@msn.com), **Children's Church:** Melissa Kocher (medcalf.melissa@gmail.com), **Greeters:** Elisa Tharp (elisa.f.tharp@gmail.com), **Nursery:** Sarah Oehlerking, Deborah Moen, Alyssa Hall, and Ruth Harlow (nursery@trinitystlouis.org), **Sunday coffee:** Amy Mitchell (amymitchell@trinitystlouis.org).
- Trinity's annual **Giving Tree** is in the Narthex. If you would like to make a donation, pick up a tag on the tree and follow the instructions. Donations may be given via Church Center or dropped off in the basket by the tree in the month of December.

Year End Giving

Thank you for your tithes and offerings for the General Fund and pledges to the Capstone project this year. We will report to you the financial results during the congregational meeting on December 20th. If you have a desire to provide stock to be used for 2020 contributions or any other method, please be sure that this is instructed or sent to the church office prior to December 31. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Duncan Highmark.

Trinity's ministries are organized around the core values in our purpose statement which reads: Trinity Church exists to **exalt** God's name, **establish** God's people, **equip** God's church and **engage** God's world, in the power of the Holy Spirit and for the sake of the Risen King, Jesus Christ.

