



BBLOODLINES
The Scarlet Thread of
Redemption



Fourth Sunday in Advent
DECEMBER 19, 2021

WELCOME

We are glad you could join us! We would love to connect with you and answer any questions you may have about Trinity. Scan below with your phone camera to leave us your contact information.



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WORSHIPING THE GOD WHO MEEETS US IN THE DARKNESS

Liturgist: Rev. Chris Polski

Scripture Reader: Beth Thorpe

Pastoral Prayer: Duncan Highmark, Ruling Elder

"And here, all alone in the dark, the priest was filled with emotion to the point of tears at the thought of what had happened. He felt that to the end he himself was being protected in some way." — Shusaku Endo, *Silence*

"The darkness declares the glory of light." — T.S. Elliot

"Look at how a single candle can both defy and define the darkness."
— Anne Frank

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

WE READY OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

Excerpt from seminary paper on Isaiah 9, by Pablo Rosales.

What is the relation of Isaiah 9 to its larger context?

This is the third time that the birth of a child is mentioned in three consecutive chapters. Ahaz was told in Isaiah 7 not to reach out to Assyria for help for a child would be born named Immanuel (God with us). This should have reminded Ahaz to trust in the Lord and not in Assyria. It has always been that when God was with them they escaped destruction. God would not leave them alone. He made promises to David (2 Samuel 7) and he would keep them. This sign is like the announcement of a pregnancy and it "is to offer immediate evidence that the distant prediction will come to pass." [1]

In 8:3, Isaiah's son is born. This serves as evidence of the reliability of the message.[2] For, Ahaz, this would seem to hasten the coming judgment on Judah, as contractions hasten the birth of a child. For soon the child will begin to mature and they do not have long before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good (7:16). Sadly, Ahaz has put his trust in Assyria.

Yet God would not abandon his promises. In chapter 9, when hope is lost, Isaiah sees the promised Immanuel of chapter 7 born and upholding the Kingdom and Peace. Taken together, these promises seem to escalate, like birth pains, until we read, "The zeal of the Lord will do this" (9:6). As Webb states, "This oracle of salvation is clearly the climax of the whole movement from darkness to light in 8:1-9:7. At the same time it represents the final reversal of the situation in chapter 7..."[3]

What imagery does the prophet use?

Isaiah uses poetic elevation. He draws his reader in to imagine the deepest of darkness, only to have that faded away by the light. The parallelism emphasizes this. Furthermore, he uses metaphor to emphasize the rejoicing that will take place when the light shines. It will be like joy at the harvest or when an army has divided the spoil (v.3).

He also uses the story of Israel. In poetry "...the past seems to live again in the future..."[4] In recalling Midian, he calls on listeners to imagine the victory of Gideon and how the Lord provided then.

His description of the shaking ground due to the booting of war almost makes you feel it, the blood-dipped garments cause you to see it. Yet this will all be food for the fire when the light comes. He is using what he knows to figuratively represent what he sees before him. And what he sees is the Hope and the Light of the world.

This week, take time to pray and reflect on the promises of God fulfilled in the birth of Jesus; that they would help you trust in him even when times are dark.

[1] C.H. Bullock, *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophets*, 167.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Barry Webb, *The Message of Isaiah*, 68.

[4] Patrick Fairbairn, *The Interpretation of Prophecy*, 132.

Call to Worship—Psalm 89 (selected)

Leader: I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;

People: With my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

Leader: You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:"

People: "I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations."

Leader: Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face.

All: Who exult in your name all the day and in your righteousness are exalted. Blessed be the Lord forever!

WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

*Songs of Adoration

Joy Has Dawned

Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

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♭



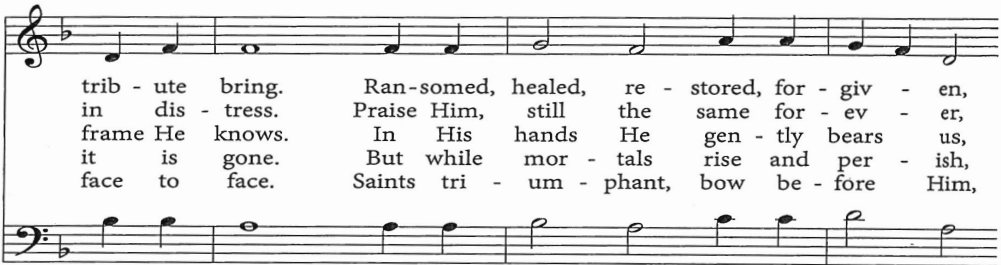
Mar - y.
help - less.
win ___ us.
his - to - ry.

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

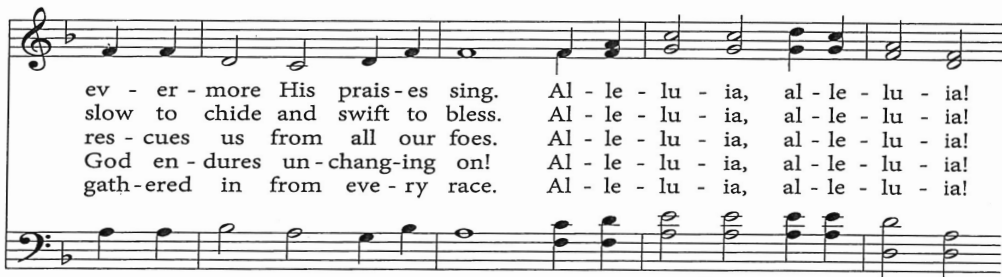
Words by Henry Lyte. Music by John Goss



1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to His feet your
2. Praise Him for His grace and fa - vor to our fa - thers
3. Fa - ther - like, He tends and spares us; well our fee - ble
4. Frail as sum - mer's flower we flour - ish— blows the wind, and
5. An - gels in the heights, a - dore Him— ye be - hold Him



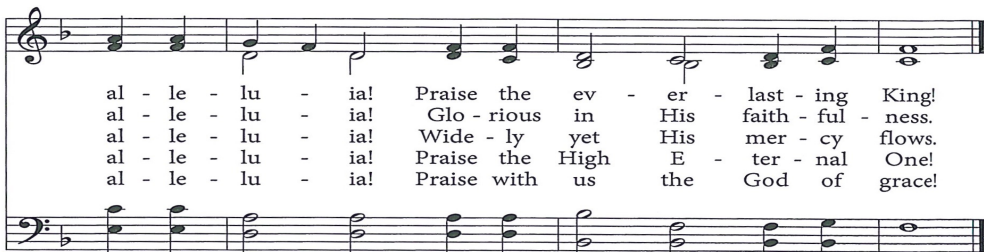
trib - ute bring. Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress. Praise Him, still the same for - ev - er,
frame He knows. In His hands He gen - tly bears us,
it is gone. But while mor - tals rise and per - ish,
face to face. Saints tri - um - phant, bow be - fore Him,



ev - er - more His prais - es sing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
slow to chide and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
God en - dures un - chang - ing on! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
gath - ered in from eve - ry race. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Praise the ev - er - last - ing King! Al - le - lu - ia,
Glo - rious in His faith - ful - ness. Al - le - lu - ia,
Wide - ly yet His mer - cy flows. Al - le - lu - ia,
Praise the High E - ter - nal One! Al - le - lu - ia,
Praise with us the God of grace! Al - le - lu - ia,



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al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

***Prayer of Adoration**

WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD

New Testament Reading—Luke 1:26-33

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

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—John 3:19-20

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

Silent Confession and Lament

WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—John 1:9-13

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Leader: People of God, give thanks to God for making us His children by grace!

People: Thanks be to God!

Leader: Now may the peace of Christ be with you all!

People: And also with you!

*Song of Rejoicing

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen

Traditional English Carol. Arr. by Keith Getty and Fianan de Barra

(children are invited to come forward)

Dm Gm/D Am/D

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may; Re -
 2. In Beth - le - hem, in Is - ra - el, this bless - ed Babe was born, and
 3. From God our Heav - nly Fath - er a bless - ed an - gel came and
 4. The shep - herds at those ti - dings re - joic - ed much in mind, and
 5. Now to the Lord sing prais - es all you with - in this place, and

Dm Gm/D Am/D

mem - ber Christ, our Sa - vior, was born on Christ - mas Day to
 laid with - in a man - ger up - on this bless - ed morn, the
 un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same, how
 left their flocks a - feed - ing in tem - pest, storm and wind and
 with true love and broth - er - hood each oth - er now em - brace; This

Gm Am Bbmaj7 C Refrain: Gm7 Am7

save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray:
 which Hismoth - er Ma - ry did noth - ing take in scorn:
 that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name: } O — ti - dings of com - fort and
 went to Beth - le - hem straight - way, the Son of God to find:
 ho - ly tide of Christ - mas all oth - ers doth de - face:

Dm Gm7 Am7 Dm C/D Dm C/D last time D5

joy, com - fort and joy, O — ti - dings of com - fort and joy!

2. In
3. From
4. The
5. Now

Children's Sermon

Song of Rejoicing

O Little Town of Bethlehem Trinity Hymnal #201

WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

Pastoral Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

(Children ages 4yr to 2nd grade may be excused for Children's Church)

Offertory Song (Ensemble)

In the Bleak Midwinter

Orig. Music by Holst and Dvorak. Orig. Words by Christina Rossetti. Add. Words, Music, and Arr. by Keith & Kristyn Getty

Sermon

"Waiting on the True King"

Advent Series, Bloodlines

2 Chronicles 28; Isaiah 7-9

Mr. Pablo Rosales

*Song of Response

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Text: Latin hymn, 12th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851. Music: Latin hymn, 15th century

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come — and cheer our spir - its
3. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the

cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in low - ly
by Thine ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that
hearts of all man - kind; bid Thou our sad di -

ex - ile here, un - til the Son of God —
clouds — of night, and death's dark shad - ows put —
leads — on high, and close the path to mis -
vi - sions cease, and be Thy - self our King —

ap - pear.
to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
er - y.
of Peace.

shall come to Thee, O Is - ra - el.

*Benediction

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday school classes will resume on Jan. 9th.

Men's Bible Study will resume on Jan. 12th and 14th.

Women's Bible Studies: We offer two options- Two Tues. a month a group meets at Melissa Jorgensen's home at 7pm to discuss the Sermon on the Mount. The Wednesday studies will resume on Jan. 12 with a look at the Book of Daniel.

Moms of preschool or younger: Come out for **Mom's Taco Night** on Monday, Dec. 20th at Carly Waldron's. See Alyce Bava for more details and to RSVP.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Dec. 24 at 5pm.

ACTION bible studies and children's ministries will resume on Jan. 12.

Join a Small Group! Sign up on Church Center.

Year End Giving: Thank you for your tithes and offerings for the General Fund and to the Capstone project these past years. We will report to you the financial results during the congregational meeting on December 12th. If you have a desire to provide stock to be used for 2021 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.

If you do not receive our **weekly email updates** on Tuesday mornings, please send your email address to amymitchell@trinitystlouis.org.

There are **several easy ways to serve at Trinity**. Feel free to reach out to these ministry coordinators to get involved: **Ushers:** Paul Schaffer (PaulSchaffer1012@gmail.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).

Did you know you can use the **Church Center app** for online giving, church directory, to sign up for events, connect with your small groups, bible studies, etc? Contact the church office for assistance.

You can **sign up for all upcoming events** by scanning your phone camera over the QR code and then [following the link:](#)



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Join us for Trinity's annual **Christmas Concert TONIGHT** at 6:30pm. This will be a special evening of music and readings. Bring your friends and family.

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.

