

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA**



TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN VISION STATEMENT

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek to BE Christ's faithful disciples, living – intentionally – the inward/outward journey as a community of the concerned, a fellowship of the forgiven, and a company of the committed – reaching out to make Christ's presence known in society through face-to-face servant ministry.

December 21st 2025 ~ Fourth Sunday in Advent

"The ringing of the bells moves us from a spirit of getting here to a spirit of being here."

GATHERED BY GOD IN WONDER

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

Mae Guthrie - December 23

Mike Strawderman - December 23

Lisa LeFay - December 25

GATHERING SONG: NO. 82 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" v.1

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Here in worship—
we pray together,
we stand together,
we sing together,
we listen together.
Here in worship—
we are not alone.

So when life gives you reason to grieve, to fear, or to worry,
remember this moment.

We are not alone.

Let us worship our with-us God.

*OPENING HYMN: NO. 103 "Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

*Invitation to stand

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

When you were afraid,
did I stay by your side?
Did I offer my hand,
or did I leave you alone?
When you were afraid,
did I choose solidarity?
Did I see your fear,
or did I only see mine?

Friend, none of us is perfect. We all make mistakes.

Fortunately, God offers grace, and we do too.

So take a deep breath, and let's start again.

Thank you. Your mercy is a gift.

Now we must ask—
when you were afraid,
did we stay by your side?
Did we offer our hands,
or did we leave you alone?
When you were afraid,
did we choose solidarity?
Did we see your fear?
Or did we only see ours?

Friends, none of us is perfect. We all make mistakes.

Fortunately, God offers grace, and I do too.

So take a deep breath, and let's start again.

Thank you. Your mercy is a gift.

We accept your grace and would love to start again.

May it be so, with God's help.

Alleluia, amen.

*SONG OF RESPONSE: NO. 125 "Before the Marvel of This Night" v.2

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHOIR ANTHEM

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 41:5-10 & Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON: "What's the Worst that Could Happen?"

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: " My Life Flows on in Endless Song"

My life flows on in endless song amidst earth's lamentation.
The sounds of sadness fill my ears, the grief that floods a nation
And yet beneath the rage and pain, a different music's ringing.
It sets me on the path of love. How can I keep from singing?

When hope is hard and fear takes hold, the kin-dom dream
surrounds me, Inviting me to live its truth. Its endless grace
astounds me.
The faith of Jesus calls me on, the rock to which I'm clinging.
Since love is here for all to claim, how can I keep from singing?

Though tyrants reign, though violence rules, a mustard seed is
growing:
A seed of peace, a seed of trust. Its presence keeps me going.
There's work to do. There's care to give. There's gifts I could be
bringing. I'll do my work. I'll give my care and raise my voice in
singing.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from *A Sanctified Art*

**We have seen the valley.
We have seen a sky without stars.
We have seen the longest night,
and still we believe.
We believe in God with-us.
We believe in the hope of tomorrow.
We believe that good news is louder than fear.
We believe this good news is for all people.
So even when our knees shake,
even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us,
we will hold onto that good news.
We will reach for each other.
We will look for God in our midst.
We will sing songs of joy.
We will proclaim:
Unto us, love is born.
We have seen the longest night,
and we have seen unimaginable love.
So still, we believe. Amen.**

RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE AND SERVICE

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

*DOXOLOGY: NO. 481 "I Believe in God the Father" v.1

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

COMMISSIONING OF THE NABARANGPUR TEAM AND BLESSING
OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 sins, as
we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.**

FINAL HYMN: NO. 92 "While We Are Waiting, Come"

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG BENEDICTION: NO. 100 "My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful
Shout " v.4

Worship Leadership

Stephanie Sorge, Pastor
Mark Dewey, Liturgist
Eric Ruple, Pianist
Bob Schminkey, House Steward

*We welcome all who are visiting with us today
and encourage you to sign the guest book or to fill out the blue
“Welcome to Trinity” slip.*

Trinity Announcements

Longest Night Service: On Sunday, December 21, we will join with other congregations at Trinity for the Longest Night service. Because in this “most wonderful time of the year” not everything is “merry and bright,” we gather in honest emotional space to name the burdens, stresses, and grief we carry, as well as the losses we’ve sustained. It is always a very meaningful service. It will also be live-streamed for those who cannot attend in person.

Christmas Eve Service: Wednesday, December 24th, all are invited for our Christmas Eve service at 5 pm. We will celebrate communion and end with candlelight, and while children are always welcome in worship, we find this gathering time to be particularly age-inclusive in the midst of other celebrations.

Special Music on December 28: Sunday, December 28 we will NOT have a live-streamed service, but we will have a more laid-back worship service here at 10 am in a Lessons and Carols format. Come ready to sing your favorite Christmas hymns with special music from the Mason Street Brass Band!

For more details and announcements: Visit the “What’s Happening Now” page on our website.



This Week at Trinity
December 21 - December 27

Sunday, December 21		
7:30 am - Book Study		Zoom
10:00 am - Hybrid Worship		Church House & Online
3:00 pm - Session meeting		Commons
7:00 pm - Longest Night Service		Church House
Monday, December 22		
7:00 pm - Rocktown Camera		Commons
Wednesday, December 24 <i>Christmas Eve- office closed</i>		
5:45 am - Lectio Divina		Zoom
12:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting		Yoke Room
5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service		Church House
Thursday, December 25 <i>Christmas Day - office closed</i>		
1:00 pm - Finance Team Meeting		Commons
7:00 pm - Chess Club		Commons
Friday, December 26		
5:45 am - Lectio Divina		Zoom
8:30 am - Rocktown Wellness		Commons



**More
Announcements**



**Online
Calendar**

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN MISSION STATEMENT

Confident of our identity as God's pilgrim people sent into the world to embody the gospel and serve God's people as prophets, we eagerly search – with eyes and ears wide open – for the newness of Christ's love and grace breaking into our lives each day. To ALL, we offer a receptive, safe space:

- to *worship* in creative and participatory ways,
- to *nurture and be nurtured* as we learn and grow together – fearless of the questions and challenges that faith stirs within us,
- to be in *fellowship* with one another – building together a loving, forgiving, caring community; and,
- to experience the *mission* and ministry that calls us out - beyond ourselves – to work with God for justice, peace, and love.

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN SESSION

Stephanie Sorge, *Moderator*
Linda Bradley, *Clerk of Session*

CLASS OF 2025

Yogi Gillette
Mark Dewey
Mary Lou McMillin
Susie Phend

CLASS OF 2026

David Carothers
Amy Lemmons
Ginnie Reinhold
Bob Schminkey

CLASS OF 2027

Karla Irving
Stephanie Gardner
Lauren Strawderman
Mary Colleen Knapp



Church Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Stephanie's Sabbath: Friday
Heather's Sabbath: Tuesday

Trinity Presbyterian Staff

Stephanie Sorge, *Pastor*
stephanie@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org

Heather Ma, *Pastoral Care Associate*
heather@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org

Christabell DeMichele, *Church Administrator*
office@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org

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