

**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.*

## November 30<sup>th</sup> 2025 ~ First 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

Phillip Rainard- November 30

Katherine Donnelly - December 4

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

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

On Sundays and Mondays,

**on good days and bad days,**

early in the morning and late at night,

**here in this room, and out in the world,**

**God, we long for you to break in.**

Meet us in this space.

**Surprise us with your presence.**

Fill this room with your good news.

**With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!**

\*OPENING HYMN: NO. 89 "For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits" v.  
1,2,5

\*Invitation to stand

## ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Ever-present God,**

**we long to feel you close.**

**We long to feel your presence in our lives.**

**We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world.**

**But we rarely stop thinking long enough to know that you're already here.**

**Forgive our preoccupation and distraction.**

**Forgive the wandering of our hearts and minds.**

**Center us with you in this space.**

**Remind us that even in the time of Herod,**

**even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.**

*Time for Silent Confession*

**Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith,

even when we doubt God's presence,

even when we fail to notice God's hand,

It holds the world.

Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:

**Nothing can keep God's love away.**

**We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Amen.**

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

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHOIR: "He Came Down"

## ENCOUNTERING THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Lamentations 3:55-57 & Luke 1:5-13

SERMON: "Hope in the Time of Herod"

HYMN OF RESPONSE: "Resistance Song"

In a time of pain when evil reigns  
and despair has the upper hand,  
When the ones with might are convinced they're  
right as their harm cuts across the land,  
We won't back down. We will not give ground  
for hope has made us strong.  
We have placed our trust in a God who's just  
as we sing a resistance song.  
They think they've won but we've just begun,  
and we will not be dismissed.  
Till we meet the dawn we will struggle on.  
With hope we will resist.

In a time of rage, in a violent age  
when power is built on fear,  
When they kill with ease and the least of these  
are the first to disappear,  
We won't back down. We will not give ground  
for hope has made us strong.  
We have placed our trust in a God who's just  
as we sing a resistance song.  
They think they've won but we've just begun,  
and we will not be dismissed.  
Till we meet the dawn we will struggle on.  
With hope we will resist.

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from *A Sancitized 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

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. 815 "Give to The Wind Thy Fears" v.1,3

\*BENEDICTION

\*SUNG BENEDICTION: NO. 100 "My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout" v.1

**Worship Leadership**

Stephanie Sorge, Pastor  
Mark Dewey, Liturgist  
Paulo Steinberg, Pianist  
Mary Lou McMillin, 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**

**Advent Wreath Making & Church Decorating:** Nancy Hopkins-Garriss will guide participants through the process of making their own Advent wreath after worship today. We will also work to decorate the church. Join us!

**Advent Devotionals:** Our Advent Devotionals have arrived! Two Advent calendars are available, as well. One includes prompts for breath prayers each day, and the other is a coloring activity with an optional accompanying guide for parents/caregivers to use with children. If you need a devotional and/or calendar mailed to you, or if you would like them put in your box at church, let Christabell know. Otherwise, copies will be available outside of the church office and as you enter the sanctuary.

**Christmas Flowers:** It is time to order flowers for the sanctuary! If you would like to adopt one in honor or memory of loved ones, \$18 will cover the cost. You can also choose to direct your gift in honor or memory to go to New Bridges. Checks can be designated for either purpose. Please fill out the form or fill out a physical copy of this form in the office, or send the information for memorial or honorary gifts to Christabell in the church office. We will be placing orders for flowers by December 17th.

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



**This Week at Trinity**  
**November 30 - December 6**

<b>Sunday, November 30</b>		
7:30 am - Book Study		Zoom
10:00 am - Hybrid Worship		Church House & Online
11:00 am - Advent Wreath Making		Church House
<b>Monday, December 1</b>		
1:00 pm - Pastoral Care Meeting		Yoke Room
<b>Tuesday, December 2</b>		
5:00 pm - Yoga		Sanctuary
<b>Wednesday, December 3</b>		
5:45 am - Lectio Divina		Zoom
9:00 am - Clothes Closet Set Up		Commons
12:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting		Yoke Room
6:30 pm - Clothes Closet Open		Commons
<b>Thursday, December 4</b>		
1:00 pm - Finance Team Meeting		Commons
6:30 pm - Faith & Light		Sanctuary
7:00 pm - Chess Club		Commons
<b>Friday, December 5</b>		
5:45 am - Lectio Divina		Zoom
8:30 am - Rocktown Wellness		Commons
2:00 pm - Story Corps		Tech Room



**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*  
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Heather Ma, *Pastoral Care Associate*  
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