

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA**



For details on this photo, check out the end of the bulletin.

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 11th, 2022 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent

GATHERED BY GOD IN WONDER

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

GATHERING SONG: NO. 106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion" v.1

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
**like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.**

*OPENING HYMN: NO. 107 "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"
v. 1-3

ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy,

**a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious,
to assume the best in others,
to give the benefit of the doubt.**

**A million times a day we could choose the better way,
but so often we don't.**

Fear and greed kick in.

Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel.

Comparison and critique lead the charge.

Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph.

**Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our
blood.**

Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you.

**Give us the courage to love even bigger than before,
and the wisdom to choose a better way.**

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

SONG OF RESPONSE: NO. 686 "God of our Life" v.1

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Matthew 1:18-25 and Isaiah 35:1-10

SERMON: "We Can Choose a Better Way"

SPECIAL MUSIC: "There's Still My Joy" - Bryce Hayes

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: From Generation to Generation

**We believe in a God who offers second chances
and does not hold grudges.**

**We believe in a God who opens the door to new life
and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost.**

**We believe in a God who believes in us—
believes that we can make a difference,
that we can choose grace over comparison,
love over hate,
peace over war.**

And so we strive to live our lives in love.

**We strive to listen as Joseph listened,
and to be the people that God calls us to be.**

It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.

This we believe. Amen.

RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE AND SERVICE

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

*DOXOLOGY: NO. 612 "We Praise You, O God" v.1

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

FINAL HYMN: NO. 79 "Light Dawns on a Weary World"

*BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: NO.107 "Awake, Awake, and Greet the New
Morn" v. 4

Bulletin Cover Photo: The Courageous Choice

**by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Inspired by Matthew 1:18-25
Silk painting with digital drawing and collage**

When Joseph learns that his engagement has turned into a scandal, he decides to dismiss Mary quietly... This choice means Joseph's reputation remains unharmed while pregnant Mary will live on with mounting shame and threats cast upon her.

...What I find most interesting is that the angel doesn't command Joseph; instead he simply says, "Don't be afraid."

...In this image, I've captured Joseph in the liminal space where his dreams will soon shape his reality. He rests his head on a folded blanket, which represents the woven tapestry of his ancestors who also made difficult choices for good. Gold interconnecting lines, like the roots and branches of a family tree, envelop him, symbolizing the beautiful web of regeneration that will come from his courage. As we reflect on the Christmas story through Joseph's experience, may we, too, have the courage to choose a better way.

Worship Leadership

Stephanie Sorge, Pastor
Larry Barber, Liturgist
Bryce Hayes, Pianist
Nancy Hopkins-Garriss, Vocalist
Jason Brown, House Steward

*We welcome all who are visiting with us today
and encourage you to sign the guest book in the hallway.*

Trinity Announcements

Longest Night Service: We will join with other congregations at Trinity for a Longest Night service at **7pm on December 20**. We invite you to join us either in-person or via livestream. This meaningful service gives space to our grief and longing during the season, with prayer, candlelight, and music.

Printed NOUS: Do you know someone who does not have an email or use the computer, but would love to receive our monthly newsletters? If so, let Victoria in the office know who, and she will add them to our monthly mailing list!

Poinsettias: It is time to order poinsettias for the sanctuary! If you would like to adopt one in honor or memory of loved ones, \$15 will cover the cost. You can also choose to direct your gift in honor or memory to go to Open Doors, rather than purchasing a poinsettia. Checks or online donations can be designated for either purpose. Please send the information for memorial or honorary gifts to Victoria in the office by **December 20**.

For more details and announcements: Visit the "What's Happening Now" page on our website.



This Week at Trinity

DECEMBER 11 - DECEMBER 17

Sunday, December 11

| | |
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| 7:45 am - Book Study | Zoom |
| 10:00 am - Hybrid Worship | Church House & Online |
| 11:00-11:30 am - Coffee Fellowship | Commons |
| 11:30 am - Nurture | Church House |

Wednesday, December 14

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| 5:45 am - Lectio Divina | Zoom |
| 9:00-11:00 am - Clothes Closet Set-up | Commons |
| 12:00-1:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting | Yoke Room |
| 6:30-7:30 pm - Church Closet Open | Commons |
| 7:30-9:00 pm - UKirk | Yoke Room |

Thursday, Dec. 15

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| 8:30 - 10:00 am - Lectio Divina | Yoke Room |
| 7:00 pm - Chess Club | Commons |

Friday, December 16

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| 5:45 am - Lectio Divina | Zoom |
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**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*
Carolyn Hinshaw, *Youth Representative*

CLASS OF 2022

Ellie Cale
Yogi Gillette
Mary Knapp
Judy LePera

CLASS OF 2023

Mark Facknitz
Nancy Hopkins-Garriss
Rick Orem
Patti Warner

CLASS OF 2024

Jason Brown
Rick Comstock
Kandy Grant
Virginia Healy



Church Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Pastor's Sabbath: Friday

Trinity Presbyterian Staff

Stephanie Sorge, *Pastor*
stephanie@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org

Victoria Riddle, *Church Administrator*
office@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org

Gwen Carr, *Associate for Pastoral Care*
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