

**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 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 ~ Second 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

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

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Family of faith, God is at work!

**God is healing and creating,**

redeeming and dreaming,

**calling and sending,**

listening and loving.

**Yes, indeed, God is at work!**

So may we worship our God who never gives up.

**May we worship our God who holds onto hope.**

**Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN: NO. 106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion!

ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**On-the-move God,**

**we have every reason to hold onto hope.**

**We have every reason to believe that spring will come,**

\*Invitation to stand

**that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise.**

**And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers.**

**With anxious hearts we cry out to you,**

**"Will change ever come? Will things ever get better?**

**Will I ever make a difference?"**

**Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is shining.**

**Show us the places where you are on the move.**

**With open hearts we pray,**

*Time for Silent Confession*

**Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, in our honesty,

**we are heard.**

In our worries,

**we are held.**

In our failings,

**we are forgiven.**

In our fear,

**we are not alone.**

Friends, this is the good news of the gospel!

**When we're running out of hope, God is still at work.**

Thanks be to God!

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

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHOIR: "God of Surprises"

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 43:19-21 & Matthew 11:1-11

SERMON: "Should We Keep Looking?"

HYMN OF RESPONSE: NO. 819 "Be Still, My Soul"

\*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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of staves. The first system is for the Minister/Leader and People, with the lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second system is for the Minister/Leader and People, with the lyrics 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third system is for the Minister/Leader and People, with the lyrics 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth system is for the People, with the lyrics 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The score is marked with 'S3' at the end of the first system and 'S4' at the end of the third system. The lyrics are written below the staves.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

FINAL HYMN: NO. 105 "People Look East"

\*BENEDICTION

\*SUNG BENEDICTION: NO. 100 "My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout" v.2

### Worship Leadership

Stephanie Sorge, Pastor  
Nancy Hopkins-Garriss, 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 Devotionals:** Our Advent Devotionals are here! 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 online 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.

**Nurture Today:** Open Doors Executive Director Nate Riddle will be with us today to share more information about the Navigation Center and ways we can continue to help support this mission. They have experienced some challenges and changes. Come learn more!

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



### This Week at Trinity

**December 7 -December 13**

#### **Sunday, December 7**

7:30 am - Book Study	Zoom
10:00 am - Hybrid Worship	Church House & Online
11:00 am - Nurture	Church House

#### **Tuesday, December 9**

5:00 pm - Yoga	Sanctuary
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#### **Wednesday, December 10**

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

#### **Thursday, December 11**

6:30 pm - Faith & Light	Sanctuary
7:00 pm - Chess Club	Commons

#### **Friday, December 12**

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](mailto:stephanie@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org)

Heather Ma, *Pastoral Care Associate*  
[heather@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org](mailto:heather@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org)

Christabell DeMichele, *Church Administrator*  
[office@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org](mailto:office@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org)

Victoria Riddle, *Communications Specialist*  
[communications@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org](mailto:communications@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org)

725 South High Street (Rt. 42), Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Website: [www.trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org](http://www.trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org)

Phone number: 540-434-9556