

WORSHIP AT HOME

Worship is our return to the way of prayer, confession, repentance, and witness!

Hope: God with Us!

God with us hopes to shepherd His people to receive Christ's Peace.

The Blessed Pray

Clothed in Christ's Hope the Blessed enter Scripture to watch and wait for the Coming Christ. Our hearts long for our minds to be clothed in Christ's Peace.

The Blessed Confess

Confession is the experience of seeing evil without being tempted to fear it.

The Blessed Repent

God with us is the Christ who will Shepherd God's people with Peace.

The Blessed Witness

Watch and wait for the Coming Christ to call you to make straight the way of the Lord.



WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

CHAPTER 2

SUNDAY DECEMBER 6TH
ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

Jesus says, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Advent means we watch and wait for the Coming Christ's. Christ comes to comfort those who mourn fear of sin and death. Those who "mourn" receive Christ's comforting



Ceasing In Person Gatherings for Two Weeks

To: The Saints of Trinity UMC

An attending member of Trinity tested positive for COVID-19. I am aware of several non-attending members who have had COVID-19. Our protocol says that we will cease in person worship services and small group gatherings for two weeks when we have one or more attending persons test positive for COVID-19 .

We shall resume in person worship services and small group gatherings beginning Sunday, December 20th.

December 20th we will have in person services at 10 am and 11 am. Rick and I have planned a service of Music and Word. Come hear the Joy of soloist, duets, and quartets bring Good News of great Joy! Come to watch and wait for the Coming Christ revealed in Scripture.

presence. Disciples of Christ make Peace with sin, God, and neighbor.

When King Herod heard the Good New of Jesus' birth, he an all of "The City of God" were disturbed.

Leaders, like Herod, have followers. Shepherds tend to the needs of their flock. One creates disturbances among the people. The other is the Peacemaker. Disturbances come from a culture that teaches give and take. Christ comes giving and receiving.

This week speak with loved ones about times you followed a leader into a disturbance. Did these disturbances make Peace with your neighbor. What disturbances does Christ desire to come and comfort to make peace in you?

The Reading of Scripture as Prayer

ACT TWO: "Who will Shepherd My People Israel."

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, **during the time of King Herod**, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to **worship** him."

3 When King Herod heard this he was **disturbed**, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the **Messiah** was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."^[b]

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, **report to me**, so that I too may go and worship him."

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the

On December 24th from 5pm to 7pm we invite individuals and families to our Drop In Christmas Eve Service. Come receive Holy Communion, pray, pass the Light of Christ and receive God's Blessing. Expect the sanctuary to be filled with songs of the heavenly host!

Prior to COVID-19 I recall hearing people express their fear of Trinity's death. Now I hear people express their fear of worship being taken away from them. Friends, watching and waiting for the Coming Christ gives us the Hope of God with us! Hope gives us eyes to see evil without being tempted to fear... Hope delivers us from fear to receive Christ Peace which fills us with Joy.

Hope, Peace, and Joy these three abide in your heart, mind, and soul. Those who abide in Hope, through Peace, with Great Joy are pressed down and rise up to overflow with Love.....

Trinity means three! Let there be Hope, Peace, and Joy in our hearts, soul, and minds. Then Trinity UMC will rise to make straight the way of the Lord!

One in Christ,
Robert



house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and **worshiped him**. Then they **opened their treasures** and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Pastoral Prayer

"God with us" you are our Hope. Let the Light of Hope shine in the darkness of our minds like the rising star the Magi followed to worship. Open our eyes to see you with us in this present evil. Like the Magi, show us another way to return. Lead us not into the temptation to react to evil with fear. Hope of the world, like a Shepherd lead us in your way of Peace beyond human understanding. Amen

The Invitation to Peace

Imagine receiving an invitation from God: the Father; Son; Holy Spirit

Name, you are invited to join me in The House of Prayer for the Wedding Feast. Arrive clothed in **Hope, Peace**, Joy, and Love.

The Anointed One

The Message: The Way of Peace

The Blessed Pray

Clothed in Christ's Hope the Blessed watch and wait to receive

Christ's Peace!

Watching and waiting our eyes are opened to see Joseph's fear filled with hope. See the beginning of receiving a new heart and mind. Joseph receives Mary. He gives the child, born of Mary, the name he received from the Angel of the Lord. Hope gives Joseph eyes to see the way God will save us from our sins. Hope gives us eyes to see evil without being tempted to fear! Hope delivers us from sin to be shepherded by Christ's Peace.

Hope is our experience of giving and receiving. We are the "poor in spirit" who receive God's blessing by giving God our fear. Blessed are those who confess their fear by giving it to "God with us." Blessed are those who repent by receiving God's Peace. God with us will Shepherd his people.

Hope delivers Joseph from being "poor in spirit." Christ's Hope Shepherds Joseph in the way of making peace with "disgrace." Hope gives Joseph ears to hear "God with us" say, "Do not be afraid of the Law of Moses, Sin, self, or neighbor! I Am the Shepherd who delivers you from sin to heal you with My Peace.

The light of Hope teaches Joseph to mourn being poor in spirit. Mourning is the way we confess our suffering. It is our cry to be clothed in Christ's Peace.

Advent means we watch and wait for The Coming Christ who will shepherd God's people.

Imagine entering Our Father's House of Prayer. Imagine arriving clothed in the Father's Hope. Abiding in Hope, imagine watching and waiting for The Coming Christ. God, the Son, approaches you wearing the royal robe. He looks into the tender hope you received in your heart saying, "**Your name here**, it is time to rise!" Removing his robe he says, "**Your name here**, "Will you let me Shepherd you?" I am with you in Hope of clothing you in My Peace. Imagine Peace beyond understanding washing over you the moment He robes you.

Blessed are those who receive Christ's Royal Robe, they are comforted in Peace beyond understanding.

The Blessed Confess

Hope teaches us to confess God with us. Hope gives us ears to hear our neighbors and see them through God's eyes. Sitting in Papa's lap with our hearts clothed in Hope and our mind clothed in Peace we watch and wait to see the Coming Christ who will Shepherd our neighbors.

*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, **during the time of King Herod, Magi[a]** from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to **worship** him." 3 When King Herod heard this he was **disturbed**, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the **Messiah** was to be born.*

Sitting in Papa's lap we see King Herod, all of Jerusalem, and the Magi though hearts of hope and minds of peace. Watching and waiting for the Coming Christ we see all of Jerusalem suffering the distress of King Herod's fear. Watching and waiting we see the light of Hope Shepherding Joseph, Mary, and the Magi to follow the way of Peace.

Confession is the experience of seeing evil but giving our fear to God.

How do leaders like Herod use fear to keep peace? Fear has three ways of controlling people. Fear leads us to fight, play dead, or run.

Describe an experience of being a peacekeeper. Herod is the model peacekeeper. Peacekeepers conserve power and authority by insisting people conform to their values, reason, and judgement.

Repentance is the experience of receiving God's Peace

"God with us" uses Hope to make Peace with our fear?

Describe an experience of being a Peacemaker. Jesus is the model Peacemaker. Peacemakers conserve the blessedness of confession and repentance which makes straight the way of the Lord.

The Blessed Repent

The Way of Peace is worship of God with us! Prayer brings "Us" together in Hope to worship God in Peace.

Sitting in Papa's lap we see Magi following the star God hung high in the heavens. Watching the star we wait to hear what Papa is saying to Abraham. Watching we see Abraham receive Hope. Waiting we hear God receive Abraham's fear to give him Peace.

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

*"Do not be **afraid**, Abram.*

I am your shield,[a]

your very great reward.[b]"

2 *But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit[c] my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?"* **3** *And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."* **4** *Then the word of the Lord came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir."* **5** *He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring[d] be."* **6** *Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.*
Genesis 15

Imagine Abram counting stars. Imagine the Magi watching the stars while waiting for the coming Christ. In the star lights they saw the Son God promised to: Abram; King David; the Prophets; us. The star they saw made straight the Magi's way to worship "God with us", not Herod, the High Priest, Mary, Joseph, or us."

Sitting in Papa's lap we see all of Jerusalem through the Magi's eyes. See King Herod's fear of losing power and control! See King Herod's peacekeeping ways. Listening we mourn hearing and seeing all of Jerusalem fear for their lives. Turning to Papa we ask, "Father, who will make straight the way for all of Jerusalem to receive Christ's Hope and Peace?"

The Blessed Witness

Watching and waiting for the Coming Christ gives us eyes to see cities like Jerusalem filled with fear of Kings like Herod. Watching and waiting for the Coming Christ gives us eyes to see evil without being tempted to fear. Like the Magi, worship leads us to return another way. Another way is to let Scripture teaches us that prayer is watching and waiting for the coming Christ. Another way is to let confession give us eyes to see evil while not being tempted to fear. Another way is to let Repentance clothe our Hope in Christ with Peace.

Hope in Christ gives us eyes to see evil without being tempted to fear! Hope delivers us from sin to be healed in Christ's Peace.

Worship is the way of Prayer, Confession, Repentance, and witness. Worship makes straight the way of the Lord. Amen

Tithes and Offerings

Let us return another way! Trinity has a beautiful building. Declining attendance stirs fear of an empty building. Trinity has a sanctuary flooded with the light of stained glass. Ceasing in person gatherings stirs fear of losing freedom to worship.

The \$18,600 loan we received for Covid-19 relief has been forgiven. The \$7,000 loan from the Small Business Administration has been returned. Trinity is poised to enter 2021 with approximately \$30,000 in our Operating Bank Account.

Let us give thanks for our mutual commitment to maintain Trinity's Building and physical Sanctuary. Let us return another way!

Let us return with hearts filled with Hope. Let us return with minds filled with Peace. Let us return with Souls overflowing with Joy in the Lord.

Worship the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. Worship is led by the Holy Spirit to deliver us from evil as we watch and wait for "God with us" to Shepherd us with Peace.

Remember the drop box we installed on the alley side of the building. It is another way to return tithes and offerings.

Benediction

Father, giving yourself to us through Jesus offers us Hope. Thank you for giving us the Hope of Peace with you, sin, self, and neighbor. Teach us to return another way. Let Hope and Peace fill us with Joy. Amen.