

## LORD's Day Service – December 3, 2023 – First Sunday of Advent

Preparation for Worship: *Galatians 2:6; 4:4*

### Entrance – God Calls Us into His presence; we respond with praise

\* *Entrance* Gloria Patri (tune: Meineke)  
Trinity Hymnal, #xv (top of page)

\* *Call to Worship* Luke 2:25-32, 36-38

Minister: Grace to you and peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: Amen!**

Minister: Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the  
world,

**Congregation: Have mercy upon us, for You alone are holy.**

Minister: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

**Congregation: His mercy endures forever.**

Minister: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward  
men!

**Congregation: And blessed be His kingdom, now and forever. Amen!**

\* *Hymn* Trinity Hymnal, #145  
*Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus*

### Purification - God Cleanses Us; we confess our sins to Him

*Call to Confession* Jeremiah 14:7-9

*Hymn of Confession* Trinity Hymnal, #409  
*Before Thee, God, Who Knowest All*

Let us kneel before the Lord our God and corporately confess our sins unto Him.

**We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD, and the iniquity of our fathers, for we have sinned against You. Do not abhor us, for Your Name's sake; Do not disgrace the throne of Your glory. Remember, do not break Your covenant with us. Are there any among the idols of the nations that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are You not He, O LORD our God? Therefore, we will wait for You, since You have made all these. For Jesus' sake, have mercy upon us. We ask this in His Name. Amen!** (from Jeremiah 14:20-22) *(Silent prayer)*

*Assurance of Pardon* Jeremiah 17:12-14

Almighty and merciful Lord forgive you of all your sins, and grant you true repentance, amendment of life, with grace and comfort of His Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God! Our sins are forgiven in Jesus' name. AMEN!**

### Ascension - God Consecrates us by His Word; we listen & offer ourselves to Him

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

**Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord!**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**Congregation: It is proper and right to do so!**

Minister: Truly it is proper, right and our bound duty, that we should at all times  
and in all places give thanks unto You, holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God;  
Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the host of heaven and with Your  
Church on earth, we praise and magnify Your glorious Name, singing:

\* *Sanctus* Songbook, #79

\* *Hymn* Songbook, #27 (Psalm 97)  
*God Reigns! Earth Rejoices!*

Let us pray: **Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!**

*Old Testament Lesson* Hosea 6:4-11  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

*Epistle Lesson* James 2:1-13  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

\* *Gospel Lesson* Matthew 9:9-13  
The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Praise to you, O Christ!**

*Sermon* "Judgment is without mercy...  
*Mercy triumphs over judgment"*

\* *Hymn* Songbook, #100  
*Magnificat Chant*

\* *Dedication of Tithes & Offerings*

*Prayers of the Church* Petitions & the Lord's Prayer

### Peace - God Communes with us; we eat with joy at His Table

*Sacrament of the Lord's Supper* John 6:32-33, 51-56, 61-65

We Confess Our Faith in the Triune, Incarnate God

\* Hymn

Songbook, #87 (1 Sam 2:1-10)  
Song of Hannah

**Dismissal - God Commissions & Blesses Us; we go out to serve Him**

- \* *The Lord's Commission of Us* Matthew 5:7  
\* *We Receive God's Blessing, His Good Word to Us* Romans 15:13  
\* *We bless the Lord, lifting hands and voices to Him* Psalter, #72D

**Announcements**

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**LORD'S SUPPER**

We observe Communion, or the Lord's Supper, weekly in our midst.

We believe it is worthily received by those who:

1. Have been baptized in the name of the Triune God (Matt 28:18-20);
2. Do profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel (Ro 10:9-10);
3. Do live in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit and endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Jesus Christ (Gal 5:16-26); and
4. Are communing members in good standing in an evangelical church (1 Cor 10:1-6)

If these things are all true, we rejoice with you and invite you to commune with us at the Lord's Supper. If any of these are not true of you, we ask that you refrain. We invite you to speak to one of the Elders if you have doubts or questions regarding any of these beliefs, or if you are interested in learning more about Trinity.

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*Though collections are not ordinarily taken during a service, giving is a vital element of worship. Tithes and offerings may be placed in the wood box on the rear wall of the sanctuary.*  
(2 Corinthians 9:6-11)

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**Trinity Presbyterian Church CREC**  
*Gathering in the Name of the Triune God*

**December 3, 2023**  
**First Sunday of Advent**



The traditional monograms **IC** and **XC** are ancient Latin abbreviations for **Jesus** (*IHCOYC*, a Latinized form of his Greek name) and **Christ** (*XRICTOC*). **NIKA** means Victor or Conqueror. Jesus Christ was born to conquer sin, death, and the Devil. The cross in the center of the world reminds us that Jesus has conquered by means of his suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus now reigns because he died for us.

White symbolizes the promise of the glorious transfiguration of our flesh because of the glorification of Jesus in his resurrection from the dead.