

Second Sunday of Advent



FOR THE BEGINNING

— WE CAN'T GO ALONE —

December 8, 2024



Trinity Lutheran Church

213 North Pennsylvania Ave. | Mason City, Iowa 50401 | 641-423-0536 | trinity-mc.org

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8 2024 - 9:00 a.m.

Livestream Worship Service/KCMR 97.9

2024 ADVENT SERIES: WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING

We Can't Go Alone

One of life's most essential lessons is that we are never meant to go alone. And yet, modern culture pushes us more and more into lonely silos. If Ruth had followed her culture's norms, she would have gone home to her family of origin after her husband died, but instead, she commits herself to her mother-in-law, Naomi. If God can bring unlikely people like this together, God can form us into a covenant community too.

Today we will remember the power of God's community with a special service of lament and hope.

Welcome to Trinity! We are glad you're here. If you are new to Trinity Lutheran, please complete an informational card which can be found in the pews.

We love having small children in worship! Those needing a space to change or feed little ones are welcome to use the **Child Care Room** located next to the nursery. A **unstaffed nursery** is available during the **9:00 and 10:30 services**, located on the 2nd floor just outside the north sanctuary door (door under the stained glass window door).

Seating for People with Limited Mobility is reserved in the pew located in front of the Technical booth.

Large print bulletins and listening devices are available from the ushers.

Activity Bags are available for children during worship. They are located in the narthex and at the front of the church. Please return them at the end of services.

Serving in Worship This Weekend

Pastor	Pastor Dan Gerriets Pastor Daniel Hanson Pastor Beverly Butler
Organist	Ryan Hulhizer
Cantor	
Greeters	Betty Gogel and Susan Schlitter
Coffee Fellowship	Marc LeDuc, Patty Hestead Phyllis Rush
Advent Candle Lighting	David and Linda Stine
Scripture Readers	Nancy Rockman
Acolytes	Heyden Zilge, Peyton Wickering
Technical Support	Randy Elsbernd, Evie Hunt Grace Koob
Worship Transportation	Dean Graven, Kirk Hardcastle
Ushers	Scott Boyle, Ray Gogel, Kurt Lamers, Jake Rockman
Custodian	Dave Smith

Our Mission *We are called to share God's healing love through Christ's forgiveness and our personal servanthood.*

GATHERING

Prelude (9am)

The Moon of Winter Time
Trinity Bronze Bell Choir

Welcome

Advent Candle Lighting *(two candles are lighted)*

L In a weary and worn world,
how do we begin again?
Where do we start?

C Let us begin together.
Let us begin arm in arm.
Let us begin by holding each other up,
instead of tearing each other down.
Let us begin with words of peace.

L Yes, let us begin with peace. Today we
light the candles of hope and peace.

C May these lights remind us of what could be.
May these lights mark a new beginning.
May peace flow like a river, and may it start with us.

L Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side.
may we begin again. Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Family of faith, one of the beautiful things about the prayer of confession
is it is often a prayer we say together.

There are times when we close our eyes, bow our heads, and exchange private words
with our Creator.

But there are other times when praying out loud as a community allows us to right our
relationship with God and with one another as well.

This is one of those moments.

So as a community, please join me in our call and response prayer of confession.

Join me in speaking the truth of our lives.

Join me in practicing grace.

I have tried to make my own way.

I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle my own faith.

I have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if I am fine on my own.

But the days are long and I am forgetful.

I need your help. Can you remind me?

C We will remind you of this everlasting truth:

You are not alone.

Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace.

Trust in this good news.

P Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

C Now we need your help.

We, too, have tried to make our own way.

**We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses,
to kindle our own faiths.**

We have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if we are fine on our own.

But the days are long and we are forgetful.

We need your help. Can you remind us?

P I will remind you of this everlasting truth:

You are not alone.

Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace.

Trust in this good news.

C Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe.

Alleluia! Amen.

Gathering Hymn *On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry

ELW 249

***Greeting**

P The light and love of God
who wonderfully made you,
who graciously redeemed you,
who calls you each by name,
be with you all.

C And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

P Holy God,
the words of this world whip around us like a mighty wind.
We are caught up in news reports, in text messages,
in emails and notifications.
We are drowning in updates from the media,
caught off guard by the constant hum of it all.

But here on this bright morning we remember: you too are speaking.
Still the voices around us.
Calm our minds and center our hearts
so that we can hear your words above the wind.
We are leaning closer.
We are at the edge of our chairs.
We are beginning again.
Speak to us, as only you can.

C Amen.

First Reading: Ruth 1:1-18

L In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ² The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. ⁶ Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. ⁷ So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹ The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰ They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” ¹¹ But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹² Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³ would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me.” ¹⁴ Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ So she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶ But Ruth said,
“Do not press me to leave you,
to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people
and your God my God.
¹⁷ Where you die, I will die,
and there will I be buried.
May the LORD do thus to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!”
¹⁸ When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

L The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

L Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. ¹¹ Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹² And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

L The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Pastor Daniel Hanson

Hymn of the Day

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

ELW 247

Liturgy of Endings and Beginnings

L In Christ we are never alone. Remembering this, we pause now to make space for difficult emotions during the holiday season, particularly grief around endings and anxiety for new beginnings.

I now invite you to spend some time quietly reflecting on the seasons of your life. What seasons feel like they are coming to a close, and what seasons are just beginning? Let us offer the grief and anxiety that comes with the changing seasons of our lives to the God who is with us through it all.

(pause for time of silent reflection)

Prayers of the People

P Holy God, we turn to you in each season of our lives.

For the seasons in our past that brought us joy, the seasons we deeply miss with longing in our hearts, God, we offer our gratitude. May our memories be sources of comfort rather than pain.

P Lord in your mercy.

C Hear our prayer.

For the seasons in our past that are tender and painful, we ask your healing, O God. Liberate our hearts, minds, and spirits from trauma, and let us bury what must be buried.

P Lord in your mercy.

C Hear our prayer.

For new beginnings that fill us with excitement, we give you praise. May we step into these new seasons with grace.

P Lord in your mercy.

C Hear our prayer.

For changing seasons that bring anxiety for what the future may hold, we ask your peace. Fill us with hope, and help us navigate the way forward.

P Lord in your mercy.

C Hear our prayer.

God, we come before you now with full hearts, offering you every part of ourselves: our grief, our pain, our joy, our anxiety, our gratitude. God, we bring it all.

P Lord in your mercy.

C Hear our prayer.

As we bring these prayers forward, we ask that you receive them, hold them, and answer them in your wisdom. Gratefully we pray,

C Amen

Candle Lighting

P I now invite you to bring your prayers forward in your hearts, lighting a candle as a symbol of this prayer lifted to God.

*Worshippers are invited forward to light a candle.
Once all are finished, the service concludes with the prayer below.*

P Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

C Amen

Words of Comfort

P The first words of Genesis tell us that in the beginning, God was creating.

C We believe in a God who is at work in all our beginnings.

P In Revelation, we hear Jesus proclaim, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

**C We believe in a Savior who is with us through it all,
in every beginning, and in every ending that comes before.**

P And so from beginning to end, from Genesis to Revelation, from the first day to the last, we are held by our God who knows our name.

C Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Peace**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THANKSGIVING

Announcements

Offering

Text to Give is available at Trinity!
Simply text the amount you wish to give to 833-412-0093.
Or scan the QR code with your smartphone.
Please note where your gifts should be directed towards.

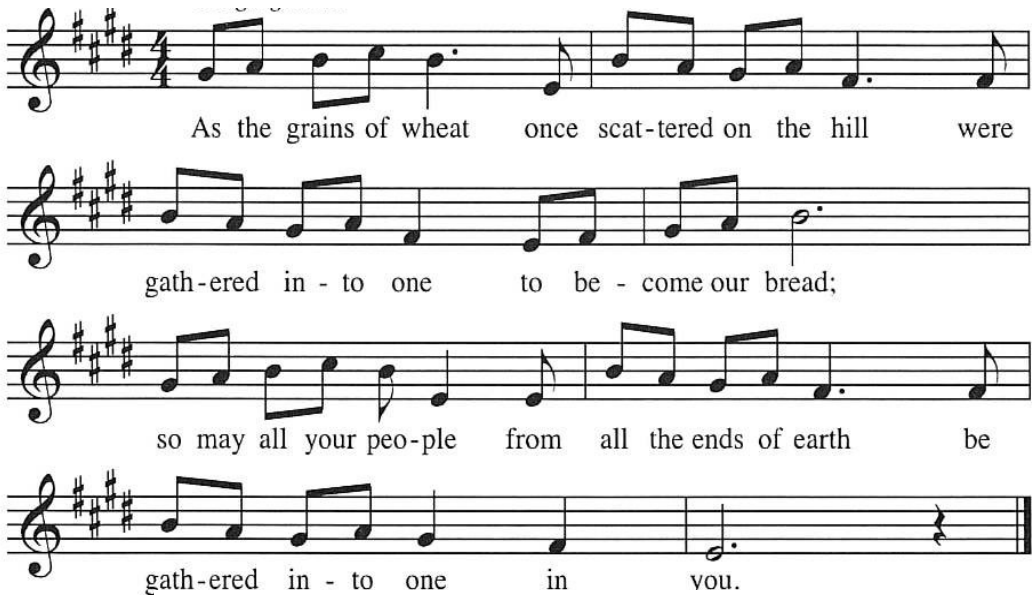


Offering

*Offertory

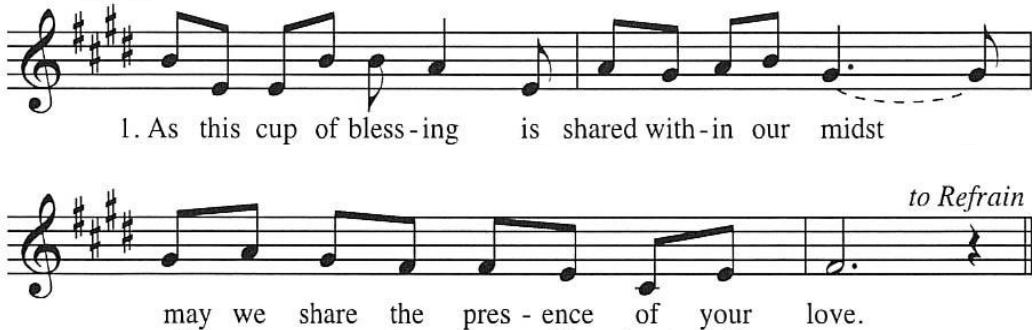
As the Grains of Wheat

Marty Haugen



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
gath-ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst
may we share the pres - ence of your love.

to Refrain

***Offering Prayer**

P Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

***Lord's Prayer**

C 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

P God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

C Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

Savior of the Nations, Come

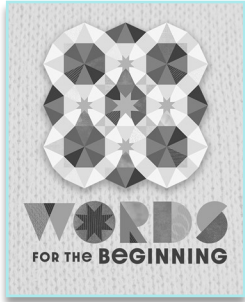
ELW 263

***Sending**

P Go in peace. Hold onto hope.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude



Season of Advent

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. But Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new.

Christ's birth offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and Magi alike—all the while, King Herod tried to bring Christ's story to an end. When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown.

Third Sunday of Advent—December 14-15—*Do The Good That Is Yours To Do*

Fourth Sunday of Advent—*December 21-22—Hope Is Worth*

Words for the Beginning Daily Devotionals are available
at the Welcome Desk and East Entrance

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given in *memory of Charles Warner* by Audrey Warner.

The **cover art for the bulletin** is given in honor of our family and the Trinity staff by **Harlan and Marge Baack**.

Sunday School Christmas Program | December 8 | 10:30 Service—is the Sunday School Christmas Program, a very special event for all ages, featuring Sunday School students and the Santa Lucia processional.

Christmas Sing-Along | **Sunday, December 8 | 5:00 - 7:00 PM** / Fat Hill Brewing

Join us for a sing-along at Fat Hill Brewing! Please bring an appetizer to share.

Please Note: This is an adult event.

Fellowship Coffee Christmas Game Show Extravaganza

Tuesday, December 17 | 9:30 AM / Fellowship Hall

Come and join the holiday fun at Fellowship Coffee on Tuesday, December 17 at 9:30 a.m. The Trinity staff are hosting a Christmas Gameshow Extravaganza, featuring prizes and surprises.

Christmas attire encouraged. Prepare for a merry and festive time together.

Rejoicing Spirits Worship Service | **Wednesday, December 18 | 5:00 PM** / Fellowship Hall

Rejoicing Spirits is inclusive of all ages and abilities as we connect with God and one another. Join us on Wednesday, December 18 to celebrate the birth of Christ through song, skit, prayer and servant project. Following the worship service, enjoy pizza and root beer floats for a free-will donation.

Youth Advent Brunch Fundraiser | **Sunday, December 15, | 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM** / Fellowship Hall

Hall

Join us on December 15th for a youth fundraiser brunch! We will have both sweet and savory breakfast casserole, fruit, cinnamon rolls, and more! We will be collecting free will donations.

Brunch will be served from 9:30-11:00 am on Sunday morning.

Middle School Christmas Party | **Sunday, December 15, | 2-4:00 PM** | Fellowship Hall

All 5-8th graders are invited to a Christmas party on Sunday, Dec 15 from 2-4pm. We will have some holiday fun including a gift exchange, so please bring a wrapped gift valued \$10 or less.

January, February and March *Christ in Our Home* Devotional Books are available. Copies are located by the church office and welcome desk.

Candle Lighting and Readers

Help us light the Advent Wreath each weekend in **December**.

Readings are short and simple - great for individuals or families!

We also need candle lighter and readers for the Christmas Eve services.

See the sign up sheet posted by the church offices or call the office to sign up: 423-0536.

Lydia Bible Study meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and will meet on **Wednesday, December 11 at 9:30 a.m. in Rm. 208.** We meet for treats, conversation and then continue with the Bible Study. Lydia uses the Gather Magazine for their Bible Study. All are welcome to join us.

WELCA Bible Study meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month and will meet on **Thursday, December 12 at 9:30 a.m. in Rm. 208.** Rev. Dr. Norma Cook Everist will lead the study. This year we will study the Biblical book of Luke. We hear sermons from the Gospels every week, but rarely do we study one book all the way through continuously. Luke includes women as full participants in the gospel story. We use interactive discussion. Bring other women with you.

Seeking the Manger- A Scripture Escape Room

Mary and Joseph have traveled to Bethlehem and need to find a place to stay. There is only one Inn in the city that has a manger for them to use for the arrival of baby Jesus. Solve the puzzles and riddles and lead Mary and Joseph to the manger before Mary has her baby. You will have 60 minutes to figure out which Inn has space for Mary and Joseph. This is a fun Christmas activity for families or groups of friends. This game is created for youth ages 10+ but younger children can play with help from parents. Ideal group size is 3-12 people. Room 219 in the Education Wing will be transformed into this escape room that resembles the city of Bethlehem. There are multiple slots open from Dec. 15-29. Reserve your time slot today online <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4EACA828A2FEC16-52865011-nativity> If you need further assistance, contact the church office.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, December 9

9:00 a.m. Lectio Divina (Rm. 322)
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, December 10

8-9:00 a.m. BASES Exercise (Gathering Space)
Noon Staff Meeting
4:15 p.m. NordKor Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 11

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Lydia Circle (Rm. 208)
6:00 p.m. Advent Meal
6:30 p.m. Holden Evening Advent Service
7:00 p.m. Choir

Thursday, December 12

8:00 a.m. BASES Exercise (Gathering Space)
9:30 a.m. WELCA Bible Study (Rm. 208)

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 14

9-Noon Breakfast Prep
10:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Brass Rehearsal
5:00 p.m. Worship Service

Sunday, December 15

9:00 a.m. Worship Service
9:30 a.m. **ADVENT Breakfast Youth Fundraiser**
10:00 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
NO Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
2:00 p.m. Middle School Christmas Party

WEDNESDAY—DEC. 11

Advent Meal—Will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Ham Balls, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert

Holden Evening Advent Service

Will begin at 6:30 p.m.

A beautiful service of music, light, and prayer celebrating the wonder of Advent.

Memorials and Special Gifts

Please let the office know if you would like to give a gift this Christmas season in memory of a loved one. Your gifts help support a variety of missions and ministry programs here at Trinity. A list of our Memorial Funds can be found on our website under the Give Tab (click Memorials and Gifts), or a copy is available in the church office. For those who wish to honor a loved one with a Christmas Memorial, please have memorials to the church office by **Wednesday, December 18, 2024**.

Poinsettias

We will decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias this Christmas season which are being purchased from the Clear Lake FFA. If you'd like to purchase a poinsettia (\$15.00) as a memorial (or in honor of a loved one), please get in touch with the church office by **Friday, December 13, 2024**. A limited number of poinsettias are available. They may be picked up on **Thursday, December 26, 2024**.

The 2025 Flower Calendar and Bulletin Calendar have been posted. If you'd like to honor a loved one, remember a birthday and/or an anniversary while enhancing Trinity's sanctuary for the celebration of worship, please consider donating altar flowers or colored bulletins for a weekend. Both calendars are located on the bulletin board next to the church office. Altar Flowers are \$45 and Bulletins are \$25.

Giving Tree

The Ministries Committee is once again sponsoring the Salvation Army Angel Tag and YSS North Iowa Giving Tree. The Giving Tree will be located near the East entrance beginning November 20. Please have all items returned to the church by **Thursday, December 12**. The tags will indicate on the back whether to wrap the gift or leave it unwrapped. Thank you for all of your support for this opportunity to brighten a child's life.

TRINITY CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service—Holy Communion Celebrated (*Family Friendly*)
Pastor Beverly Butler Preaching

1:30 p.m. Traditional Worship Service—Holy Communion Celebrated—Pastor Dan Gerrietts Preaching

4:00 p.m. Traditional Worship Service (*Family Friendly*)
(Livestreamed on Trinity's Facebook and YouTube pages)
Pastor Daniel Hanson Preaching

5:30 p.m. – Traditional Worship Service—Holy Communion Celebrated (*Family Friendly*)
Pastor Daniel Hanson Preaching

10:00 p.m. – Special Christmas Prelude

10:30 p.m. – Candlelight Worship Service—Holy Communion Celebrated—Pastor Dan Gerrietts Preaching
(Livestreamed on Trinity's Facebook and YouTube pages and on KCMR 97.9)

Wednesday, Christmas Day, December 25—**No Service**

