

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 22nd 2024 ~ Fourth Sunday of 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

Mae Guthrie - December 23

Michael Strawderman - December 23

GATHERING SONG: NO. 91 "Come, Come Emmanuel"

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Dear God, we want to be hopeful people. Remind us that you are always working through us to create a better future, and give us courage when hope feels risky. Gratefully, we pray, amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

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

Let us begin with tenderness.

Let us begin with our hearts on our sleeve. Let us begin from a place of vulnerability and hope.

Let us begin with love.

Yes, let us start with love.

Today we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.

May the warmth of these lights be our cornerstone.

May the truth in these lights help us begin again.

May it be so! Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: NO. 104 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,

You paint pictures of what could be,

but we declare those visions impossible.

You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb,

but we spout skepticism and uncertainty.

You dream of a more just day,

but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon.

Forgive us for losing sight of hope.

Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is.

Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it.

**Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams,
and to not be afraid of either.**

With gratitude we pray, amen.

Time for Silent Confession

Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*SONG OF RESPONSE: NO. 87 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" v.1

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

School-aged young disciples are welcome to proceed upstairs to continue to worship with engaged hands, bodies, and minds.

*Invitation to stand

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Luke 1:46-55 and Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON: "Hope is Worth the Risk"

HYMN OF RESPONSE: NO. 100 "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from A Sanctified Art

**We believe in God, who gives us reason to hope,
God, who fills our nights with stars,
who follows winter with spring,
who dwells with and among us.
We believe that God has dreams for creation, dreams of
justice like a mighty stream
and swords that will be beaten into plowshares.
Therefore, we push cynicism aside. We risk vulnerability.
We hold onto hope, and we declare:
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."**

RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE AND SERVICE

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

*DOXOLOGY: "Creator of the Stars of Night" v. 4

*To God the Parent, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 sins as we
forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

*FINAL HYMN: NO. 107 "Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn"

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG BENEDICTION: NO. 92 "While We Are Waiting, Come" v. 1

Worship Leadership

Stephanie Sorge, Pastor
Mark Dewey, Liturgist
Eric Ruple, Pianist
Ginnie Reinhold, 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

Christmas Caroling Today!: Today, we will join Sunnyside residents at the Highlands for some Christmas Caroling. Plan to stay after worship for a light lunch. We will provide music sheets. Come to enjoy this festive time!

Christmas Eve Service: Tuesday, December 24, all are invited for our Christmas Eve service at 5 pm. We will celebrate communion and end with candlelight, and while children are always welcome in worship, we find this gathering time to be particularly age inclusive in the midst of other celebrations.

Special Carol Sing: Next Sunday, December 29, we will NOT have a live-streamed service. We will have a more laid-back worship service here at 10 am when we will sing favorite Christmas songs and hear some of the stories behind the music.

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



This Week at Trinity

December 15 - December 21

Sunday, December 22

7:45 am - Book Study	Zoom
10:00 am - Hybrid Worship	Church House & Online
11:30 am - Light Lunch	Commons
1:00 pm - Christmas Caroling	The Highlands

Tuesday, December 24

5:30 pm - Christmas Eve Service	Church House & Online
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Office Closed

Wednesday, December 25

Merry Christmas!
Office Closed

Friday, December 27

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 2024

Jason Brown
Rick Comstock
Kandy Grant
Virginia Healy

CLASS OF 2025

Yogi Gillette
Mark Dewey
Mary Lou McMillin
Susie Phend

CLASS OF 2026

David Carothers
Amy Lemmons
Ginnie Reinhold
Bob Schminkey



Trinity Presbyterian Staff

Stephanie Sorge, *Pastor*
stephanie@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org

Kim Shank, *Pastoral Care Associate*
kim@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org

Christabell DeMichele, *Church Administrator*
office@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org

Victoria Riddle, *Communications Specialist*
communications@trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org

Church Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Stephanie's Sabbath: Friday
Kim's Sabbath: Tuesday

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Website: www.trinitypresbyterianharrisonburg.org

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