



MEDITATIONS

Not to one...but to many you have called:
 Come...on the dancing wind
 Come...from the deepest forest
 Come...from the highest places
 Come...from the distant lands
 Come...from the edge of darkness
 Come...from the depth of fear
 And become
 The bearer of God.

~Jan L. Richardson

Mary couldn't say she wasn't warned. The angel came with an Easter lily in his hand and stood so still, he could have been one of the columns in the loggia where they met. Mary had trouble hearing what he said and afterward thought it might have been just a dream. Even so, it troubled her.

It was not until later that the real trouble came. The real trouble came when what the angel announced would happen happened, but in a way she couldn't have dreamed: squatting there in the straw with her thighs wrenched apart, while out of her pain she dropped into the howling world something that looked like nothing so much as raw beefsteak: who was the one the angel had said was to be called holy, the son of the most high: who was the word itself fleshed with—of all flesh—hers.

~Frederick Buechner

And when the night is cloudy
 There is still a light that shines on me
 Shine on until tomorrow, let it be
 I wake up to the sound of music,
 Mother Mary comes to me
 Speaking words of wisdom, let it be

~Paul McCartney (The Beatles)

Note: During this Advent and Christmas season, Sid will be drawing in part from the words and images of artist, writer, and UMC minister, Jan L. Richardson: www.janrichardson.com/



a people with a mission

trinity united methodist church is a dynamic community of people who, through their trust in god's faithfulness, strive to provide an inclusive, joyful, loving, and caring environment. in this community, people can find spiritual nurture and growth, mutual support of individual needs, and a sense of family. reaching out through vital and creative worship, people-centered programs, and social and environmental stewardship, this congregation serves the local and global communities.

a people committed to inclusiveness

trinity is a congregation that welcomes and affirms all people inclusive of race, nationality, age, gender, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, physical ability, mental ability, economic class, or education level. trinity has been a reconciling congregation since 1992.

a creation-centered community

trinity supports **creation spirituality**, a movement that draws on ancient spiritual traditions and contemporary science to awaken authentic mysticism, revitalize christianity and western culture, and promote social and ecological justice.

contact us

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FINANCIAL

SNAPSHOT

sunday giving	11/23/2014
pledges & regular offering	\$4,038.25
baskets	\$728.50
year-to-date	
total pledged	\$200,300.30
total received	\$193,075.85
96% of funds pledged received as of 11/26	\$7,224.45 (shortfall)
2014 apportionments paid	\$8,486.95 (17.43%)
2015 pledge outlook	
# of new pledgers	10
# of pledgers giving more	18
# of pledgers giving same	27

please note that all money collected for apportionment-related special offerings will be disbursed to the southwest texas conference of the umc. all non-apportionment money collected will be disbursed



join us on the city!
 sign up at www.tumc.onthecity.org/kiosk




trinity umc

“threshold dreams:
 the choice of fate
 (the annunciation)”

by sid hall

11/30/14 order of service

befriending creation

call to worship

adapted from john w. howell

one: a tiny jewel of light
 dances on the edge of the horizon:
 a solitary star before sunrise
 glimmers a promise of dawn
 at the end of the world's blight.

**all: it is the light of the world,
 “emmanuel” (god-with-us),
 the promised one.
 come to us, emmanuel!
 we have seen your light
 and gather here
 awaiting the day of your
 coming
 and the birthing of your new
 creation.**

call to celebration *

“o come, o come emmanuel”
 o come, o come emmanuel
 and comfort all who in the darkness
 dwell
 and mourn in lonely exile here
 until the child of god appears.
 rejoice! rejoice! emmanuel
 shall come to thee, o israel!

o come, thou wisdom from within
 an advent journey to begin
 to us the path of beauty show
 and cause us in her ways to go.
 rejoice! rejoice! emmanuel
 shall come to thee, o israel!

carol *

“come, thou long expected jesus”
 (insert)

lighting the advent candle of hope *(together)*

*hope came in at christmas
 hope, all hoping, hope divine
 hope was born at christmas
 stars and angels gave the sign*

litany by gretta vosper

one: as this season of “sparkle and bright” unfolds before us, the glimmering promises of hope lie like boxed jewels awaiting an adoring light.

all: may we hold fast to hope's patient possibilities. may we lift them high that they might catch the light of our dreams and shine bright in our broken world. and may we instill hope's challenge in the hearts of our children that they, too, will live it into meaning—pouring their lives, as we do ours, into making it real—for themselves, for each other, for the world.

(lighting of candle)

all: may hope light the world this christmas.

befriending letting go

call to prayer

prayers of the people

“prayer is not asking. it is a longing of the soul. it is daily admission of one's weakness.... it is better in prayer to

note: please turn off or silence your phones.

UPDATE

2200 Justin Lane (near Burnet Road). The service begins at 7:00 pm.



Trinity's Annual Christmas Banquet: Friday, Dec. 12th, 6:00 pm – This is a wonderful event, filled with great food, music, and socializing! It's extra special this year because we're having the banquet here, in the Community Hall.

Please consider signing up for table hosting. Being a table host/hostess is an easy way to help us create a festive mood with yummy food: You'll decorate a table and bring an entrée that feeds 8-10 people. If you plan to attend but don't want to host, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Either way, potlucks are a delicious tradition at Trinity!

We'll need lots of volunteers to make the evening a success, so please consider pitching in, either before or after the party.

Time to Order Christmas Poinsettias – Every year at this time, we offer the chance to purchase poinsettias in honor or memory of a loved one. Poinsettias are \$15 each. Please sign up on the clipboard on Sunday or email your order to Laura at info@tumc.org.

The Choirs of Austin Community College Present "Songs of the Season" – At 3:00 pm next Sunday, Dec. 7th, you can enjoy an afternoon of free (free!) Christmas tunes here at Trinity. Musicians from ACC's Music Department will accompany the choirs during the program. They'd love to share their talents with you!

Advent & Christmas Sermon Series: "Threshold Dreams" by Sid Hall, Nov. 30 – Jan. 4

Advent 1, Nov. 30: The Choice of Fate (The Annunciation); Luke 1:26-38

Advent 2, Dec. 7: No Place Like Home (The Journey to Bethlehem); Luke 2:1-7

Advent 3, Dec. 14: If a Tree Falls (The Announcement by the Shepherds); Luke 2:8-20

Advent 4, Dec. 21: The Charity of Night (The Flight into Egypt); Matthew 2:13-18

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24: Breaking the Vessel (The Birth); Luke 2:1-21

Christmas 1, Dec. 28: Turning to the Great Round (The Naming); Luke 2:22-40

Epiphany, Jan. 4: Wise Women Also Came (The Shining); Matthew 2:1-12

World AIDS Day Service – On Monday, Dec. 1st, the 17th Annual Central Texas World AIDS Day Interfaith Service of Remembrance and Hope will be held at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection,

order of service, cont.

have a heart without words, than words without a heart." ~gandhi

after each sharing, the leader will say, "healing and joyful spirit..." and the people respond, "receive our prayer."

befriending creativity

luke 1:26-38;
jan l. richardson, "annunciation"

message

"threshold dreams: the choice of fate (the annunciation)" by sid hall

befriending compassion

song for centering

"of our mother's womb created" tune 11th c. latin; words by sid hall
of our mother's womb created, she that sings the earth to be she is birthing and sustaining, she the life, the wisdom, she of the things that weep, that yearn for, and that justice now shall keep evermore and evermore. amen.

offering of our gifts of money for nurture and justice

please place gifts on the offering table.

wooden bowl: regular offering
basket: special offering
glass jar: loose change

earth prayer

directions: *mother earth, sacred garden*
adapted from amanda udis-kessler

we go forth to celebrate

announcements

passing of the peace *

you're invited to greet those around you by saying "peace be with you" or other words of welcome.

welcoming of the children

song

(new words by debby loomis)
jesus loves the little children,
all the children of the world,

* **standing as able**

big or little, short or tall, jesus loves them one and all,
jesus loves the little children of the world.

hymn of commitment *

"let it be" (insert)

benediction *

benedictory response *

"trees of the field"
adapted from isaiah 55:12

you shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.
and all the trees of the field will clap their hands, <clap clap>

the trees of the field will clap their hands,
<clap clap>
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
<clap clap>
while you go out with joy. (repeat)

Advent and Christmas Sermon Series: "Threshold Dreams" by Sid Hall

Advent and Christmas are liturgical reminders that we humans, and the earth itself, are always on the threshold between what has been and what needs to be birthed. In this sermon series, we'll explore the archetypal rhythms of thresholds depicted in Jesus's birth narrative, thresholds we all face in our lives. Each of us is in perpetual transition, whether through health concerns, the loss of a loved one, marriage or divorce, giving birth, sending a child off to college, or even discovering a new way of being spiritual. Liturgy is a contrived, human-designed way of imitating the natural rhythms of life, but it is more than that. If we do transitions right, they provide conscious and deliberate markers that help determine those destinations rather than simply waiting for them to happen. What does it mean to intentionally give birth to hope, to consciously give birth to justice, to deliberately give birth to divinity in all aspects of our daily lives? These are just some of the questions we'll explore for the next month, together.



welcome!

it is a delight to have you share in this celebration. there are often people here for the first time, and we hope everyone feels welcome. a short introduction to trinity can be found on the back of this bulletin.

if you have a question, feel free to ask a staff person or someone near you who looks like they know what they are doing. they just might! you can learn more about trinity's mission and vision, or what it means to be a member of the church by contacting our pastor, dr. sid hall, at sid@tumc.org.

visitors

if you are visiting trinity for the first time, would like to update your member information, or want to volunteer, please use one of our envelopes on the chair backs. you may leave the envelopes in the basket during the offertory. thank you!

note: please turn off or silence your phones.

greetings

join sid in the center of the sanctuary for greetings after the celebration.

better than the a-list...

you can get on our e-list at <http://bit.ly/1614whY!>

- **trinity news and events list:** subscribers currently receive a weekly update and special announcements.
- **children's corner and youth news lists:** subscribers will soon begin receiving periodic newsletters and announcements.

envelopes

envelopes can be used to:

- provide or update your contact info;
- sign up for email updates or to volunteer;
- ensure your contribution goes to the correct fund and is credited to your giving statement.

simply put the envelope in an offering basket.

parking

help us be good neighbors! please park across speedway in either of our two lots, or in on-street spaces around trinity. avoid the lot immediately to the east of our building, bus zones, the loading zone in the front, bike lanes, or anywhere reserved for other businesses/entities. thank you!

special offering holiday baskets

each year at this time, trinity sponsors 10 families of students with very few resources who attend ridgetop elementary school. we provide h-e-b gift cards so these families can enjoy their own christmas meal. the families are always so excited and grateful to receive these blessings from all of us here at trinity. your generous offerings will allow us to continue this tradition of loving and supporting our neighbors.



fair trade coffee fund

just write "coffee fund" on your donation and place it in the special offering basket. your donation allows us to serve fair trade coffee on sundays and at other church events.

we ♥ our volunteers!

readers

- ♥ heidi vance
- ♥ paulette delahoussaye

counters

- ♥ kathleen davis
- ♥ loel graber

other volunteers

- ♥ kathleen davis: kitchen clean up
- ♥ deana henry: kitchen laundry
- ♥ sam & brynne laguna: book donations to hope food pantry – kids' book program
- ♥ alison little: adding sermons & bulletins to the website
- ♥ susie tacchi: kitchen laundry
- ♥ trey & linda: sanctuary cleanup
- ♥ trinity adult nurture team
- ♥ trinity nominations team

"all you need is within you.... find your heart, and you will find your way." ~carlos barrios