



MEDITATIONS

Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines.

~Henri Nouwen

Frodo was now safe in the Last Homely House east of the Sea. That house was, as Bilbo had long ago reported, 'a perfect house, whether you like food or sleep, or story-telling or singing, or just sitting and thinking best, or a pleasant mixture of them all.' Merely to be there was a cure for weariness, fear, and sadness.

~J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

We saw a stranger yesterday.
We put food in the eating place,
Drink in the drinking place,
Music in the listening place.
And with the sacred name of the triune God
He blessed us and our house,
Our cattle and our dear ones.
As the lark says in her song:
Often, often, often, goes the Christ
In the stranger's guise.

~A Celtic Rune of Hospitality

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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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 over the next few weeks, together.



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

 trinity umc

NO VACANCY

"threshold dreams:
a place like home (the
journey to bethlehem)"

by sid hall

12/7/14 order of service

befriending creation

call to celebration *

adapted from lavon baylor

one: come. let us be about our
preparation for a new advent of
love among us.

**all: the wastelands of life around
us cannot shut out the
promise of life-giving
welcome.**

one: we see the light god promises in
the midst of the shadows.

**all: a light that pierces into even
the darkest of nights and
warms our hearts.**

one: may our celebration recall to us
what is centered in life; to that
which gives us breath and purpose
in life.

**all: we come to embrace the new
advent, to renewed love and
welcoming embrace.**

song of advent *

"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 *

"go tell it on the mountain"
hymnal #251

lighting the advent candles of hope & love (together)

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

litany by gretta vosper

one: as this season of sparkle and
bright unfolds around us, the
welcome beauty of love is found,
woven into the simplicity of
every moment.

**all: may love flow from our
hearts with abundance,
filling every moment with
the season's gifts of hope
and peace and joy. may it
be shared truly and deeply,
that all who encounter it be
charged with its message
and become, themselves,
the agents of love. and may
our children, who love
without reckoning, teach us
the truth of this most
precious gift—we are
nothing without each other.
let us live, then, in the
blessing of love.**

(lighting the candles of hope & love)

note: please turn off or silence your phones.

UPDATE

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



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.



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.

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas ... But Only with Your Help! – After the service today, please stick around and share your decorating skills as we trim the tree, hang lights and wreaths, and generally bring some Christmas spirit to the building. (Bribes in the form of cookies, apple cider, & hot chocolate will be given.) By the way, we'd love some help from the kids, so we hope you parents will loan us your little elves on Sunday afternoon. Join us!

Homeless Task Force Needs Volunteers! – Trinity's Sunday morning HTF is seeking volunteers to prepare and distribute food every other week. They work in 2 alternating Sunday teams. The team most in need of volunteers is scheduled on the following Sundays: 12/21, 1/4, 1/18, etc. Join them at the church in the kitchen at 7:30 am (enter through the alley door) or downtown under the E. 7th St. overpass at 8:30 am (at the corner of E. 7th St. and the IH-35 northbound access road). This vital mission has never missed a Sunday in over 20 years. Please consider being part of the HTF team. The rewards are amazing!

order of service, cont.

all: may love 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 have a heart without words, than words without a heart." ~gandhi

silent prayer

befriending creativity

trinity celebration choir

luke 2:1-7;
jan l. richardson, "for st. anne, whose symbol is the door"

message

"threshold dreams: no place like home (the journey to bethlehem)" by sid hall

advent communion

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 adapted from starhawk by lindsey carmichael

we go forth to celebrate

* *standing as able*

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

hymn of commitment *

"joyful is the dark" (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)

staff

people of the congregation

cy albertson – accompanist

tim brace – music and arts director

nichole crosson – preschool coordinator

sid hall – minister of celebration

elyse jensen – teacher

kim longacre – teacher

jean-paul marshall – youth coordinator

laura e. mcmorris – interim administrator

larry roberts – weekend sexton



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

- ♥ bob german
- ♥ light german

counters

- ♥ alison bartley
- ♥ mary pratt

other volunteers

- ♥ kathleen davis: kitchen clean up
- ♥ krista gregory: kitchen laundry
- ♥ alison little: adding sermons & bulletins to the website
- ♥ trey & linda: sanctuary cleanup
- ♥ trinity staff-parish relations team
- ♥ trinity nominations team
- ♥ trinity worship team

"you were born from a ray of god's majesty and have the blessings of a good star." ~rumi