



## MEDITATIONS

Dancing in the circles,  
moving in cycles,  
never quite knowing  
just where  
we'll come down;  
unloosing and clasp-  
ing, bearing and gasping  
in this laboring season  
of the Great Round.


Each passage a birthing,  
each birthing a blessing  
we can't always see  
for it leaves its own scars;  
it makes and remakes us,  
stretches and takes us  
through dying of worlds  
and emergence of stars.

From threshold  
to threshold,  
each time and each season;  
in longing, in leaving,  
in silence, in sound;  
in fullness and plenty  
or fallow and empty  
we learn with each turning  
in the Great Round.

~Jan L. Richardson, "Birthing Song"

When the song of the angels is stilled,/When the  
star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,/When  
the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:/To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,/To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,/To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among people,/To make music in  
the heart.

~Howard Thurman, "The Mood of  
Christmas"



### 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

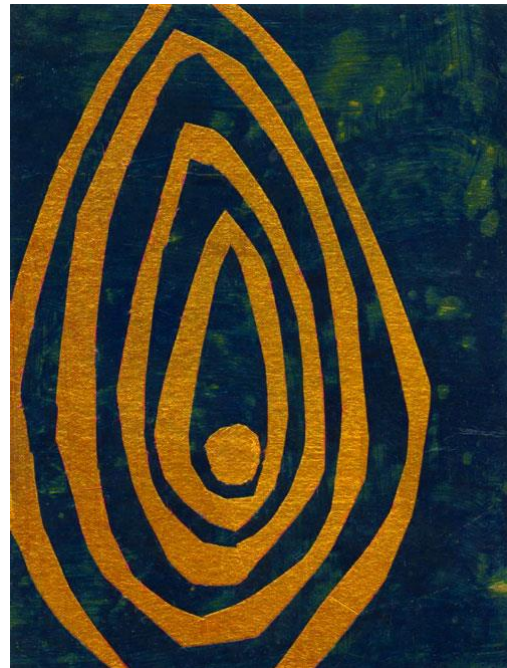
trinity is a congregation that welcomes and affirms all people inclusive of race, nationality, age, gender, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, physical ability, mental ability, economic class, or education level. trinity has been a reconciling congregation since 1992.

### 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 mimicking 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.

*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](http://www.janrichardson.com)



join us on the city!  
sign up at [www.tumc.onthecity.org/kiosk](http://www.tumc.onthecity.org/kiosk)



# trinity umc

"threshold dreams:  
turning to the great  
round (the naming)"

by sid hall



## 12/28/14 order of service

### befriending creation

#### call to celebration \*

ruth c. duck; adapted by sid hall

one: at christmas, old dreams die and  
new dreams come to life.

the promise is fulfilled!

**all: glory to god above us, and on  
earth, peace.**

one: hope gives way to joy, and prayer to  
proclamation.

**all: glory to god below us, and on  
earth, peace.**

one: our candles illuminate our story.  
dawn invades midnight.

the light of the world has come.

**all: glory to god within us, and on  
earth, peace.**

one: and this light is a light for all;  
igniting a flame within the soul,  
warming us from within, radiating  
love, lighting our lives with the  
presence of god-come-alive in  
human flesh within us and among  
us now and always.

**all: glory to god around us, and on  
earth, peace!**

#### gathering song \*

"for the beauty of the earth" arr. rutter

for the beauty of the earth, for the glory  
of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies, over and around  
us lies;

#### chorus:

lord of all, to thee we raise this our  
joyful hymn of praise.

for the beauty of each hour, of the day  
and of the night  
hill and vale, and tree and flower

sun and moon, and stars of light, sun  
and moon, and stars of light.

**chorus x 2**

#### carol \*

"happy christmas" (insert)

### 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

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

#### prayer of jesus (together)

our mother and 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,

**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



**Christmas Poinsettias Are  
Ready to Go With You!** – If  
you ordered poinsettias, please  
take them with you today. We  
aren’t able to keep them in the

Sanctuary any longer. They need  
water, light, and a good home.  
Thanks!

**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.  
Please consider being part of the  
HTF team. The rewards are  
amazing! Contact Rolando Perez  
at [rtperez72@gmail.com](mailto:rtperez72@gmail.com) for  
more info.



**Xmas Eve Thanks &  
Appreciation** – Numerous  
Trinity folks helped out in  
various ways on Christmas Eve,  
and we’re very grateful for their  
efforts. Special recognition goes  
to the following Xmas Elves: our  
counters (Paula Buls, Kathleen  
Davis, Loel Graber, & LeeAnn  
Tacchi); readers (Paula Buls,  
Marianne & Brynne Laguna); 1<sup>st</sup>  
service lighters of advent

candles (Carrie Stavenhagen,  
Jeremy Frank, & Iona Frank);  
2<sup>nd</sup> service lighters of advent  
candles (Matt, Anne, Alice, &  
George Desloge); set-up of  
labyrinth lights and candles  
(Krista Gregory & Ken Owens);  
quality control for hand-held  
candles (Loel Graber, the Tacchi  
family: Susie, Gene, & LeeAnn);  
cleaning up and related duties  
after the service (Krista Gregory,  
Russell Still, Laura Still,  
Kathleen Strong, the Tacchi  
family); and restringing hallway  
lights (Loel Graber). To anyone  
we left out, please know that  
your assistance was needed and  
valued (even if we can’t  
remember you)!

**Holiday Hours for Trinity  
Office** – The church office will  
be closed on Wednesday,  
Thursday, and Friday of this  
week (Dec. 31, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, & Jan.  
2<sup>nd</sup>). If you need to speak with  
Sid, you can reach him at 512-  
423-6887.



## special offering christmas offering

every year, trinity dedicates our  
christmas offering to united methodist  
apportionments—the worldwide  
ministries of social justice and  
compassion that impact people in ways  
no one person and no single church could  
do on their own. these ministries are  
consistent with the mission and values of  
trinity.



**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	counters
♥ kathleen davis	♥ alison bartley
♥ sharon starrett	♥ kathleen davis

other volunteers
♥ emily albrecht: kitchen laundry
♥ kathleen davis: kitchen clean up
♥ krista gregory: kitchen laundry
♥ jimmy alan hall: deposits
♥ alison little: adding sermons & bulletins to the website
♥ susie tacchi: kitchen laundry; blanket donation to homeless program
♥ trey & linda: sanctuary cleanup

*“you were born from a ray of god’s majesty and  
have the blessings of a good star.” ~rumi*

## order of service, cont

as we forgive them that trespass against  
us.  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
for thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
amen.

## befriending creativity

### trinity celebration choir

luke 2:22-40;  
jan l. richardson, “birthing song”

### message

“threshold dreams: turning to the great  
round (the naming)” 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

christmas directions by sid hall

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

### song \*

“this is a day of new beginnings”  
hymnal #221, verses 1-4

### 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**  
*community ministers*

**cy albertson** –  
*accompanist*  
**tim brace** –  
*music and arts*  
*director*  
**sid hall** –  
*minister of*  
*celebration*

**elyse jensen** –  
*teacher*  
**laura e.**  
**mc Morris** –  
*interim*  
*administrator*  
**larry roberts** –  
*weekend sexton*

\* **standing as able**



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](mailto: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!