



## MEDITATIONS

I know what it's like to be in the closet! I know what it's like to be bullied and attacked because someone or some group thought I was different or below them... so, I'm coming out of the closet as an ally of equality for everyone; as an ally to hope.

~Jason Alexander

I believe that we are going to need moral courage in ever greater amounts as we move deeper into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our world and our nation are becoming ever more diverse. Competition for scarce resources will likely continue. Hate and the actions hate engenders in people did not go away with the Nazis. We need to ask ourselves, what will be our response? Will we be able to show moral courage when necessary?

~Barbara Wells

Courageous people have active and loving role models. They had parents or teachers or siblings who had shown them the importance of living their values. The actions of their role models were embedded in these rescuers' psyches. When the time came to make a decision, they often would ask themselves the question, "What would my mother do? or what would my father do" and then they would go and do likewise.

~Eva Fogelman

Sometimes the best map will not guide you. You can't see what's round the bend. Sometimes the road leads through dark places. Sometimes the darkness is your friend.

~Bruce Cockburn

*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)*

### 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

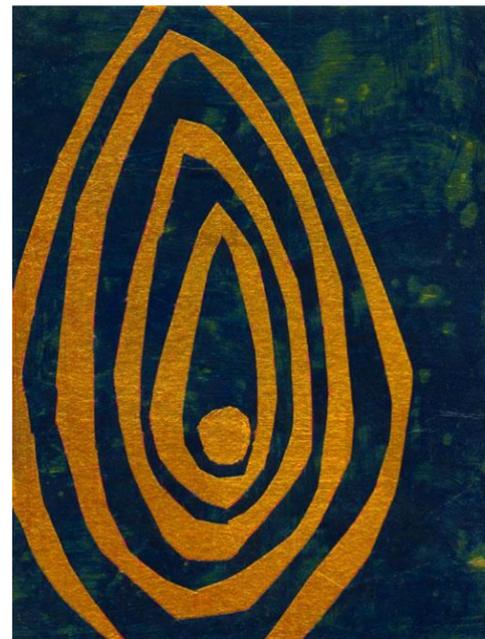
trinity is a congregation that welcomes and affirms all people inclusive of race, nationality, age, gender, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, physical ability, mental ability, economic class, or education level. trinity has been a reconciling congregation since 1992.

### 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.



trinity umc



"threshold dreams:  
the charity of night  
(the flight into egypt)"

by sid hall

## 12/21/14 order of service

### befriending creation

#### call to celebration \*

adapted from bronwyn angela white

one: we wait in the silence of a new season moving from spring to summer from pentecost to advent from busyness to quiet.

**all: we crouch with mary on the straw of our messy lives, letting go of everything but this moment.**

one: we breathe in organic and homely smells; we breathe out the impulse to push, to rush, to stock up, to plan, to get things done

**all: —and we wait. we wait.**

one: we listen.

**all: it is not yet time for labor. this is the hour of rest. this is the time for silence, breathing, gestation of a nascent, quickening christ.**

#### 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 \*

"deck the hall with boughs of holly"  
(insert)

#### lighting the advent candles of hope, love, peace, & joy (together)

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

*litany by gretta vosper*

one: as this season of advent unfolds around us, the transforming wonders of joy await discovery like shimmering sugar crystals on a favorite treat.

**all: may we create joy in all our surroundings as we share gifts, meals, and simple pleasures with family and friends. may the easy gift of a smile bring the power of joy's touch to those we meet through these busy days. and may we experience the joy of this season with the eyes and hearts of children, that we might be transfixed by the power of what could be.**

(lighting of candles)

**all: may joy light the world this christmas.**

*note: please turn off or silence your phones.*



join us on the city!

sign up at [www.tumc.onthecity.org/kiosk](http://www.tumc.onthecity.org/kiosk)



# 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 Here ... Last Chance to Reserve Yours** – Every year at this time, we offer the chance to purchase poinsettias in honor or

memory of loved ones. Poinsettias are \$15 each. We ordered extras, so if you'd like to reserve 1 or more, you still have time! Just sign up on the clipboard today or email your order by Tuesday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> to Laura at [info@tumc.org](mailto:info@tumc.org).



**Christmas Eve Services: 5:30 pm & 7:30 pm** – You're invited to join us this Wednesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> for Christmas Eve services. The early service includes special music by local Celtic harpist, Thomas "Doc" Grauzer. The later service showcases Scottish folksinger Ed Miller. We'll have yummy treats in the Chapel before and after both services, so plan on indulging in some hot beverages, cookies, and brownies.

**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.

**Staff Bonuses** – If you'd like to make the holidays a little greener for Trinity's hard-working and dedicated staff members, we have the answer: Place a donation in the special basket for staff bonuses. Your kindness is greatly appreciated!

**No Hildegard Today!** – The women's spirituality group, Hildegard's Sisters, won't be meeting today. They're taking a break and will resume their 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday meetings in January.

**Upcoming WOW Classes** – It's almost time for another session of our Wednesday night programming known as Wellsprings of Wisdom (WOW). A new selection of classes begins on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Sid Hall, our in-house expert on Creation Spirituality, will offer a class on how we express our beliefs in Creation Spirituality through our worship service. Russ Harper's class is entitled "Loving Your Muslim Brother & Sister as Yourself" and will include the video *The Jesus Fatwah: Love Your (Muslim) Neighbor as Yourself*. More details about classes and meals will be available over the next 1-2 weeks.

## order of service, cont.

### 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."

### befriending creativity

#### trinity celebration choir

matthew 2:13-18;  
jan l. richardson, "the map you make yourself"

#### message

"the charity of night (the flight into egypt)"  
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

yule, winter solstice directions by christine kraemer

### 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.

#### carol \*

"in the bleak midwinter"  
hymnal #221

#### 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



## 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](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!

### 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

- ♥ loel graber
- ♥ candy gross

#### counters

- ♥ emily albrecht
- ♥ leann tacchi

#### other volunteers

- ♥ emily albrecht: bulletins
- ♥ kathleen davis: kitchen clean up
- ♥ krista gregory: kitchen laundry
- ♥ alison little: adding sermons & bulletins to the website
- ♥ susie tacchi: kitchen laundry
- ♥ trey & linda: sanctuary cleanup

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