

✚ First Sunday after Advent ✚
December 30, 2018 10:00 A.M.

GATHERING IN WORSHIP

Please use the time during the prelude for quiet meditation to prepare yourself for worship.

◆Prelude

◆Call to Worship (Responsively)

Unison: Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the heights above.

People: Praise Him all His Angels, praise Him all His heavenly hosts.

Pastor: Praise Him, sun and moon, Praise Him all you shining stars.

People: Praise Him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

Pastor: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created.

People: He set them in place for ever and ever; He gave a decree that will never pass away.

Pastor: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted; His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Unison: He has raised up for His people a king, the praise of all His saints, of Israel, the people close to His heart. Praise the Lord!

◆**Hymn of Praise** (BH #3) *Earth and All Stars!*

◆**Invocation**

The Lord's Prayer (forgive us our sins...)

WORD

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 61:1-4

Matthew 18:21-35

Hebrews

◆*Gloria Patri* (BH #109)

Pastoral Prayer

◆**Hymn of Preparation** (BH #584) *Faith of Our Fathers*

Message

“Forgiven to Forgive”
Pastor Alicia Reese

Brother (by The Brilliance)

Courtney Reese

RESPONSE

◆**Hymn of Response** (BH #408) *Guide Me, O Great Jehovah*

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Our Lord, our God...please forgive us when we want to do things the easy way. When we want to do the least we can in order to satisfy You. We want to follow you. We want to forgive one another for whatever grievances exist between us. We want to forgive others just as you have forgiven us. Please give us the humility, gentleness, and patience to forgive each other even up to 70 x 7!!! In other words...over and over again! We confess that we have not put on the love which will help us have perfect unity together.

(Silent Reflection)

Assurance of Pardon (Pastor)

People of God, know that through your confession, the peace of Christ will rule in your hearts! As members of one body you were called to peace. Receive your forgiveness from our gracious and loving Savior Jesus Christ. Go gratefully forgiven and follow your Master. Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him!

Passing of the Peace

Life Together

Offering

Offertory

◆ *Doxology*

◆ Prayer of Dedication

Mr. Reese

SENDING

◆**Hymn of Dismissal** (BH #207) *Christ Is the Truth, the Way*

◆**Benediction**

Postlude

◆**Indicates those who are able should stand.**

NOTES OF INTEREST

Childcare is offered for infants and younger children in the church nursery. If you need directions feel free to ask an usher for assistance.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Marjorie Cassady, Ember Lou Eigenbauer (Diana Eigenbauer's great-granddaughter), Chloe Johnson, Char Dunk-Sladek, Lorraine Sorensen, Doris Wallace.

Congratulations to David and Deborah Oyelowo on the birth of their second daughter Stella (Afolashade) born on Friday, December 21.

Rev. Mark Westlund.....	Senior Pastor
Stuart Seale	Director of Music and Worship
Betty Aardema and Nate Van Der Male.....	Organists
Christina Palazzolo.....	Director, Noah's Ark Preschool
Karen Christakos.....	Church Secretary
Joe Michalowicz.....	Custodian

Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church
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“Forgiveness” by Sofiya Inger

Worth Township Youth Commission Events:

11601 S. Pulaski, Alsip, youthcommission@worthtownship.com
Office: 708-371-2900.

Coat Drive - Residents in need of a winter coat are welcome to come to the Township during normal business hours now through January 31 and choose a coat. Residents can check back as often as needed throughout the season as donations come in daily.

Youth Collision

The Southwest Covenant Youth Collision will meet next Sunday, January 6, from 5-7 P.M. at Hope Covenant Church in Orland Park, located at 14401 West Avenue.

WELCOME TO TRINITY

So that we can get to know you better and you can better know us, please complete the tear-off below and place in the offering plate. Thank you!

Date: _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Calendar for the Week:

Today: Covenant World Relief Offering Sunday

- 9 A.M. Adult Sunday School, Fireside Room
- 10 A.M. Nursery for Infants/Sunday School Pre-K – 6th Grade
- 10 A.M. Worship
- 11:20 A.M. Confirmation Class

This Week:

- Mon.-Fri. Noah's Ark Preschool Winter break through January 4
- Mon. New Year's Eve
- Tue. Happy New Year!*

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January 6 – Nursery Helpers: Cathy Gardner, Diana Eigenbauer
Greeters: Diana Eigenbauer, Kevin McGrath

Announcements:

Adult Sunday School - Class starts at 9:00 A.M., Fireside Room

For the month of January, Patricia Petersen will lead the class on a different topic each week:

January 6: Background: "Fly Thru-History, Geography and people of God."

January 13: Meaning: "The Day of the Lord--The Dark Side of Love."

January 20: Zephaniah 1:1-18 "Judah and Jerusalem will be punished" and Zephaniah 2:1-3 "Turn to the Lord."

January 27: Zephaniah 2:4-15 "The Nations will be punished" and Zephaniah 3:1-20 "Judah and Other Nations will turn to the Lord".

Start the New Year off right and join us at 9:00 AM to explore these Biblical passages.

Meet with Pastor Alicia

Pastor Alicia would like to take time to meet with everyone at Trinity ECC in her first couple months. There is a signup sheet on the table in the Narthex or please call the church office at 708-422-5111 for available time slots. Pastor Alicia has allotted 30-minute time slots starting on Thursday, January 10 through Thursday, February 7, with various times each day. Please sign up as individuals and/or families as you would like. Pastor Alicia is happy to meet at the church, your home, or even your work!

Today's Scriptures:

Isaiah 61:1-4

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. ⁴They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²²Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and

his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶"At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

²⁹"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

³⁰"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³²"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

TRINITY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
9230 S. Pulaski Road, Oak Lawn, IL 60453
WORLD RELIEF OFFERING

Please use this envelope for your gift for Covenant World Relief.
Your gifts to CWR make a difference in the lives of the world's most
vulnerable. Your gift is appreciated.

Please make your check payable to Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church and
note “World Relief Offering” in memo section.

Name: _____

Envelope No: _____