



3rd Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

Join us at <http://live.penangtrinity.org> or <http://www.youtube.com/TRINWAM>

"Be reverent, for this is the house of the Lord.

Before the service, speak to God.

During the service, let God speak to you.

"After the service, speak to one another with the technology available."



**Almost
Persuaded**

Photo credits: read-scripture.com

Our Vision

Nurturing Disciples to be a Spirit-filled, Impactful Church

The 4 Essentials

***Personal Growth, Building Community,
A Voice to Our Nation, A Vision for the World***

SCRIPTURE SENTENCE

“Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.” And Paul said, “I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.”” *Acts 26:28-29, NKJV*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsively)*

L: “Almost persuaded” now to believe;

“Almost persuaded” Christ to receive;

**P: *Seems now some soul to say, “Go, Spirit, go Thy way;
Some more convenient day on Thee I’ll call.”***

L: “Almost persuaded,” come, come today;

“Almost persuaded,” turn not away;

**P: *Jesus invites you here, Angels are lingering near,
Prayers rise from hearts so dear; O wanderer, come.***

L: “Almost persuaded,” harvest is past!

“Almost persuaded” doom comes at last!

**P: *“Almost” cannot avail; “Almost” is but to fail!
Sad, sad, that bitter wail, “Almost,” but lost!***

OPENING PRAYER**ACTS OF PRAISE**Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring

By Thy own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thine glorious throne

Come now great Redeemer

Come Emmanuel

Bless the nations with Your presence here

Born our souls to rescue

Born to save Your very own

Long expected Jesus, make our hearts Your home

Come, now long expected Jesus *(repeat)*

CCLI Song #31999

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” words & music by Charles Wesley | Rowland Hugh Prichard

© Words & Music: Public Domain

CCLI Licence # 620790

What Child Is This

What Child is this Who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping
This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring Him laud
The Babe, the Son of Mary

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding
Good Christian fear for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading

Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through
The cross be borne for me, for you
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh
The Babe the Son of Mary

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh
Come, peasant king, to own Him
The King of kings, salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone Him
Raise, raise the song on high
The Virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy for Christ is born
The Babe the Son of Mary

CCLI Song #30983
"What Child Is This" words & music by Unknown | William Chatterton Dix
© Words & Music: Public Domain
CCLI Licence # 620790

O Come, All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)

O come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come, ye O come, ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels

O come, let us adore Him (3x)
Christ the Lord

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God, all
Glory in the highest

Yea, Lord we greet Thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing

His name shall be Wonderful, Counsellor
His name shall be Everlasting Father
His name shall be Prince of Peace, Mighty God
His name shall be Emmanuel

We'll praise Your name forever (3x)
Christ the Lord

CCLI Song #7163644
"O Come, All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)" words & music by JD Myers | Kristian Stanfill
© 2020 KPS 1.0 | sixsteps Music | worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
Thank The Maker Music (Admin. by Jacob Myers)

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

1. Pray for the world and for countries where fair trials are not always common for those accused of crimes, especially crimes punishable by death. Pray for our God of justice to bring a just process to these places.
2. Pray for Malaysia - pray against hatred and division in our nation. Pray for peace, unity, and common respect for all - especially for those with great influence.
3. Pray for our Trinity Annual Conference - pray for more (especially the young) to hear God's call to pastoral ministry and answer it in faith and obedience.
4. Pray for ourselves, that we would have the zeal and passion of the Lord for the right things, in the right manner.

E-OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give to: MBB 5072 4612 6505 (Trinity Methodist Church Penang)

Please indicate for "Offering/Pledge" or "Poor & Needy" in Recipient Reference for online transfers.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son & Holy Ghost. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 26:9-32

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Almost Persuaded

Dr Khoo Cheok Kau

REFLECTION / DISCUSSION

HOLY COMMUNION

CLOSING SONG

I Surrender All

UMH 354

All to Jesus I surrender
All to Him I freely give
I will ever love and trust Him
In His presence daily live

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee, my blessed Saviour
I surrender all

All to Jesus I surrender
Humbly at His feet I bow
Worldly pleasures all forsaken
Take me, Jesus, take me now

All to Jesus I surrender
Make me, Saviour, wholly Thine
Let me feel the Holy Spirit
Truly know that Thou art mine

All to Jesus I surrender
Lord, I give myself to Thee
Fill me with Thy love and power
Let Thy blessing fall on me

All to Jesus I surrender
Now I feel the sacred flame
O the joy of full salvation!
Glory, glory to His name!

CCLI Song #23189

"I Surrender All" words & music by Judson Wheeler Van DeVenter | Winfield Scott Weeden

© Words & Music: Public Domain

CCLI Licence # 620790

BENEDICTION

THREE-FOLD AMEN

SCRIPTURE SENTENCE

Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian." And Paul said, "I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains." *Acts 26:28-29, NKJV*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Responsively*)

L: Almost persuaded now to believe;
Almost persuaded Christ to receive;

**P: *Seems now some soul to say, "Go, Spirit, go Thy way;
Some more convenient day on Thee I'll call."***

L: "Almost persuaded," come, come today;
"Almost persuaded," turn not away;

**P: *Jesus invites you here, Angels are lingering near,
Prayers rise from hearts so dear; O wanderer, come.***

L: "Almost persuaded," harvest is past!
"Almost persuaded" doom comes at last!

**P: *"Almost" cannot avail; "Almost" is but to fail!
Sad, sad, that bitter wail, "Almost," but lost!***

OPENING PRAYER**OPENING SONG**

There's a Song in the Air

UMH 249

There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
And a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire
While the beautiful sing
For the manger of Bethlehem
Cradles a King!

In the light of that star
Lie the ages impearled
And that song from afar
Has swept over the world
Every hearth is aflame
And the beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations
That Jesus is King!

There's a tumult of joy
O'er the wonderful birth
For the virgin's sweet boy
Is the Lord of the earth
Ay! The star rains its fire
While the beautiful sing
For the manger of Bethlehem
Cradles a King!

We rejoice in the light
And we echo the song
That comes down through the night
From the heavenly throng
Ay! We shout to the lovely
Evangel they bring
And we greet in his cradle
Our Saviour and King!

Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thy own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thine glorious throne

CCLI Song #31999

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" words & music by Charles Wesley | Rowland Hugh Prichard

© Words & Music: Public Domain

CCLI Licence # 620790

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

1. Pray for the world and for countries where fair trials are not always common for those accused of crimes, especially crimes punishable by death. Pray for our God of justice to bring a just process to these places.
2. Pray for Malaysia - pray against hatred and division in our nation. Pray for peace, unity, and common respect for all - especially for those with great influence.
3. Pray for our Trinity Annual Conference - pray for more (especially the young) to hear God's call to pastoral ministry and answer it in faith and obedience.
4. Pray for ourselves, that we would have the zeal and passion of the Lord for the right things, in the right manner.

E-OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give to: MBB 5072 4612 6505 (Trinity Methodist Church Penang)

Please indicate for "Offering/Pledge" or "Poor & Needy" in Recipient Reference for online transfers.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son & Holy Ghost. Amen.

SONG OF PREPARATION

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

UMH 211

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

O come, Thou Root of Jesse's tree
An ensign of Thy people be
Before Thee rulers silent fall
All peoples of Thy mercy call

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel*

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home
The captives from their prison free
And conquer death's deep misery

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thy justice here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

O come, O come, great Lord of might
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud and majesty and awe

O come, Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
From dust Thou brought us forth to life
Deliver us from earthly strife

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 26:9-32

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Almost Persuaded

Dr Khoo Cheek Kau

REFLECTION / DISCUSSION

HOLY COMMUNION

CLOSING SONG

I Surrender All

UMH 354

All to Jesus I surrender
All to Him I freely give
I will ever love and trust Him
In His presence daily live

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee, my blessed Saviour
I surrender all

All to Jesus I surrender
Humbly at His feet I bow
Worldly pleasures all forsaken
Take me, Jesus, take me now

All to Jesus I surrender
Make me, Saviour, wholly Thine
Let me feel the Holy Spirit
Truly know that Thou art mine

All to Jesus I surrender
Lord, I give myself to Thee
Fill me with Thy love and power
Let Thy blessing fall on me

All to Jesus I surrender
Now I feel the sacred flame
O the joy of full salvation!
Glory, glory to His name!

CCLI Song #23189

"I Surrender All" words & music by Judson Wheeler Van DeVenter | Winfield Scott Weeden

© Words & Music: Public Domain

CCLI Licence # 620790

BENEDICTION

THREE-FOLD AMEN

SERMON OUTLINE

Title: Almost Persuaded

Scripture Passage: Acts 26:9-32

1. PAUL THE ZEALOUS PROSECUTOR (Acts 26:9-11)

- **Is it alright to be zealous? Galatians 4:18**
- **We can be zealous for the right or wrong cause**
 - Paul himself was zealous in persecuting the church before he was saved. (Philippians 3:6)
- **False religions and false doctrines are major causes of wrong zeal.**

THE TAKEAWAY

- ***What are you zealous about?***
 - Family, Recreation, Your Job, Health, Wealth

REFLECTION:

How zealous are you for God? When we consider all the great things God has done for us, how can we not be zealous for Him to share the Good News of Jesus Christ like the apostle Paul?

2. PAUL THE CONVERTED AND TRANSFORMED PERSON (Acts 26:12-18)

- **The story of Paul's Conversion**
 - *On three occasions:* Acts 9:1-19, Acts 22:6-21 and Acts 26:6-21
- **Paul saw the Light**
 - Paul saw the Light of Jesus Christ and saw his helplessness without God.

THE TAKEAWAY

- It is the admission we all must make: "Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the chief."

REFLECTION:

Have you seen the light? How has your life been transformed by the light of Jesus Christ?

3. PAUL THE DEFENDER AND EVANGELIST (Acts 26:19-32)

- Four Times Paul had defended himself
- Fifth Defence of Paul Before King Agrippa
- Paul testifies for Christ – to Festus Paul is crazy
- Agrippa comes to grips with the Gospel
- Paul presses Agrippa for commitment – Agrippa Almost Persuaded

THE TAKEAWAY

- "Almost" is the most tragic word

REFLECTION:

Are you Altogether Persuaded to serve God with all you heart and soul today? If you're not saved and have only Almost come to Jesus, then come to Jesus Altogether Today. Seek Him while he can be found.

Today's WORSHIP ENABLERS

<u>11/12/2022</u>	<u>10.00 am Service</u>	<u>5.00 pm Service</u>
Sermon Title/Text	Almost Persuaded (Acts 26:9-32)	Almost Persuaded (Acts 26:9-32)
Preacher	Dr Khoo Cheek Kau	Dr Khoo Cheek Kau
Liturgist	n/a	Mr Lim Lai Keat
Worship Leaders	Mrs Lim Huey Yoke Ms Nancy Empawi	n/a
Reader	Mrs Janet Ng	Mrs Elaine Tan
Musicians	Dr Melvin Saw Mr Edwin Oon	Dr Melvin Saw
Sound	Mr Jesse Ong	Mr Andrew Lee
Livestream	Ms Wong Fong Yi	n/a
Visual	Mr Seah Por Shen	Mr Joshua Timothy
Ushers	Mr Cheong Kum Loong Ms Tan Yu Ai Mrs Sally Loh Mrs Connie Lim	Mr George Tan Mdm Aileen Tan
Finance Steward	Mr Tan Kok Huat	n/a

Next Week's WORSHIP ENABLERS

<u>18/12/2022</u>	<u>10.00 am Service</u>	<u>5.00 pm Service</u>
Sermon Title/Text	TBA	TBA
Preacher	Mr Tan Chong Jin	Mr Tan Chong Jin
Liturgist	Mrs Loo Li Lin	Mr Mak Ngai Leong
Reader	Mr Ch'ng Geam Liang	Mrs Chin Peck Wan
Musician	Mr Seah Por Shen	Dr Melvin Saw
Sound	Mr Jesse Ong	Ms Roshni George
Livestream	Mr David Law	n/a
Visual	Ms Tan Yu Ai	Ms Roshni George
Ushers	Mr Mak Ngai Leong Mr Oon Chee Soon Mr Vincent Lee Mrs Maggie Mak	Mrs Connie Lim Ms Lilian Yeoh
Finance Steward	Mr Tan Kok Huat	n/a

ONLINE MINISTRIES & ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY

- 9.15am Church School
10.00am Worship Service in English
12.30pm Methodist Youth Fellowship
1.30pm Young Families 1 Small Group –
Tairven Lee
3.00pm Post Alpha Small Group
Sungai Ara II Small Group –
Jason Chieng
3.00pm Boys' Brigade

MONDAY

- 8.00pm Lighthouse Watchmen Prayer Network
(LWPN), Bayan Lepas – Teng Leong

TUESDAY

- 8.00pm Tanjung Bungah Small Group –
Chan Chen Weng

WEDNESDAY

- 10.00am Wednesday Small Group –
Tan Saw Lee (1st & 3rd Wed)
11.00am Church Office Staff Meeting

THURSDAY

- 8.30pm Church Prayer Meeting –
<http://bit.ly/tmcprayer>
9.00pm Tree Residency Small Group
– Jesse Ong

FRIDAY

- Small Groups:
3.00pm Cheeseman Rd (Bethel) – Sabrina Lee
8.30pm Young Adults I – Seah Por Shen
Taman Sri Nibong – Dr Saw Kim Guan
Bethel – Ch'ng Geam Liang
Century Garden – Lim Lim Ling
Permai Village I – Ooi Lay Chen
Island Glades – Tan Kok Huat (2nd & 4th)

SATURDAY

- 10:30am Permai Village Small Group –
Daniel Teh
Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group
Small Groups:
8.00pm Young Adults II – Hendrix Cheong
8.15pm Young Families 2 – James Hii
8.30pm Sungai Ara I – Florence Tan (fortnightly)

WEEKLY PRAYER

World

- Continue to pray for China in light of the recent surge in Covid cases. Pray for those who are not well, especially young children, the elderly, and those who have not received their vaccinations, that God will protect and heal them. Pray also, for God's wisdom and guidance upon the authorities as frustration, exasperation, anger and anxiety over the strict Covid measures have increased.

Nation

- Pray that our new government will exercise maturity and govern in a godly manner for the good of all. Pray also, that the Opposition will seek ways to work with the new government as a check and balance for a better Malaysia. Pray for an effective economic recovery plan to guide the nation out of the global recession, and improvements in the education system, national security, social welfare, etc.

Church

- Pray that the coming of Jesus will be joyfully anticipated in the hearts of our people. Pray that as we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we will remember to take time to pause and reflect on all that God has given and done for us. Pray also, that we will not take God's precious gift, our Lord Jesus Christ, for granted, but place Him, our King of kings and Lord of lords, at the centre of our lives.

Self

- Pray that we will be intentional in making room in our hearts for Jesus, learning to be still and knowing that God is in control of our lives. Pray that the distractions and hurdles that prevents Christ's rule in our hearts will be made known to us, and that God will grant us sufficient grace and enable us to put aside these distractions and hurdles for Him.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

WELCOME to worship at *Trinity*. For any assistance please contact:

Pastor – Rev Shearn Sya: 04-828 7445

Administrator – Ms Angeline Choo: 013-243 1282

- Sermons and past worship services are available online (<http://replay.penangtrinity.org>).
- Visitation ministry for the homebound, please inform Angeline Choo.
- **Floral Gifts:** From Edwin Chan & Ee Pheng in Thanksgiving.
- **Online/ATM Transfer: Maybank Account No. MBB 5072 4612 6505 (Trinity Methodist Church Penang).** Please indicate for "Offering/Pledge" or "Poor & Needy" in Recipient Reference for online transfers.

TODAY – December 11

Communion Offering for December 2022 will go to Centre for Creative Arts Therapy and Penang Association of Counselling & Psychology.

Coming up in December!

24 – Christmas Eve Celebration (6:30pm)

25 – Christmas Day Combined Service (10am)

31 – Watchnight Covenant Service (10pm)



2022 Church-wide Bible Reading Plan:

<http://bit.ly/tmcbible2022>

Prayer Request Form – <https://bit.ly/tmcpayforme>. All requests are confidential unless permission is given to circulate to larger prayer group.

The MSF will hold its 33rd Annual General Meeting on 17th December 2022 in GYM at 2pm. Office-bearers for the 2023-2024 Management Committee will be elected during the AGM. The AGM will be followed thereafter by a Thanksgiving Service and high tea. All MSF members are encouraged to attend.

Vacancies: Accounts Clerk

Certificate/Diploma in Accountancy or equivalent professional qualification, with relevant working experience and skilled in using Excel functions for accounting purposes. To apply, please submit resume to joinus@penangtrinity.org.

10AM / 5PM Service

✗ *Booking of Seats – Not required (Capped at 220)*

✗ *MySejahtera checks – Not required*

✓ *Record names of attendees – Required*

✓ *Masks, Social Distancing – Required (6 per pew)*

Vacancies: Kindergarten Teacher

Christian, Diploma in Early Childhood Education, fluent in English and Bahasa Melayu.

Vacancies: Assistant Teacher

Christian, SPM qualification, fluent in English.

To apply, please submit resume to joinus@penangtrinity.org or WhatsApp 012-500 9238.

Our heartfelt condolences to Betty Low and family on the demise of her beloved brother, Mr Low Swee Thye, who passed away on December 4. Our thoughts and prayers are with them in their time of grief.

Betty Low and family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to church members for their support, gifts, thoughts and prayers during their recent bereavement.