



# Trinity United Methodist Church



"The Journey of the Magi,"  
Gustave Dore, French Woodcut, 1856

*And having been warned in a dream  
not to return to Herod*

*they returned to their country  
by another route.*

*Matthew 2:12*

1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. | McLean, VA 22101  
703-356-3312 | [umtrinity.org](http://umtrinity.org) | [info@umtrinity.org](mailto:info@umtrinity.org)

January 4, 2026

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.



Welcome to Trinity Church! We are grateful you are here. We'd appreciate it if you would complete an attendance card found in the pew rack (or scan the QR code on page 8 with your phone's camera and click the link) to register your attendance today - and do include each family member present.

Prelude

*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star* (Pachelbel)

Jerry Rich

Welcome

\* Call to Worship *from Ephesians 5*

Once we were in darkness, but now in the Lord we are in light.

**Let us then live as children of Light,  
for the fruit of the Light is found in all that is good and true.**

Awake, O sleeper, rise from the dead,

**and Christ will shine on you!**

Let us be very careful, then, how we live – not as unwise but wise,

**making the most of the time we are given  
and seeking to understand what the Lord's will is.**

Let us sing and make music to the Lord,

**always giving thanks to God the Father for everything,  
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

\* Gathering Hymn *There's a Song in the Air* (vs. 1, 2 4)

bulletin p. 3

Prayer of Confession and Pardon

Most holy and most loving God, we admit to you and to each other  
that we are creatures who by either foolishness or wilfulness  
have often chosen darkness instead of light.

**Here and now, we surrender to you our anxieties and our pretense of wisdom,  
our deep-seated sins and our apathy concerning change and renewal.**

Please forgive the darkness and pain we have inflicted on others,  
and restore the starlit hopes and dreams that will inspire us, and them.

**Trusting your grace, we earnestly pray: "Create in us a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within us."**

[a time of silent confession follows]

Nourish us by your grace, heal us by your power, and light our way by the radiance of your Son,  
in whose name we pray. **Amen!**

Children's Message

Laurie Strollo

Prayers of the People

Offering

*Our offering is received as we pass the plates, but you may also give online at  
<http://umtrinity.org/give> or through our app.*

Offertory

*Brightest and Best* (trad.)

Philip Keirstead (8:30)

Chancel Choir (10:30)

Reading from the Scriptures

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Word of God, for us, the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

*Inexpressibly Vast, and Close as Breath*

Dave Rochford

(Continued on page 2)

Response of Faith                      A Covenant Prayer of the Wesleyan Tradition

I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low by thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things  
to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
*[The minister continues this prayer of thanksgiving, concluding:]*

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**  
*[The minister continues the prayer, recalling the institution of the Lord's Supper, concluding:]*  
And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.  
**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and cup.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.  
**By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.**  
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
**all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our 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  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. **Amen.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

## SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*All are invited to come forward to receive bread and juice by means of intinction (the dipping of a piece of bread in the cup). You may then return to your seat by the side aisle. Those who prefer gluten-free elements may obtain them up front. Those who prefer to remain in the pew and receive Communion may do so, and are asked to signal your desire to do so to an usher.*

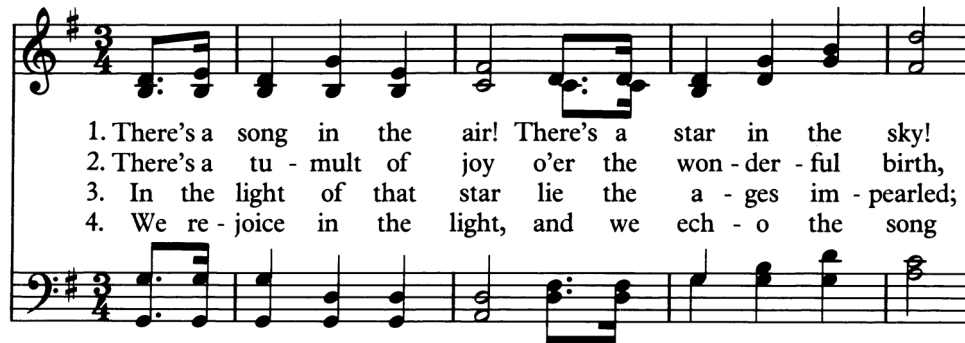
## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we thank you for the way to abundant life  
that you have opened up for us.  
Grant that we may make our own crossings and passages  
as we bear to the world the Good News of your saving Grace,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

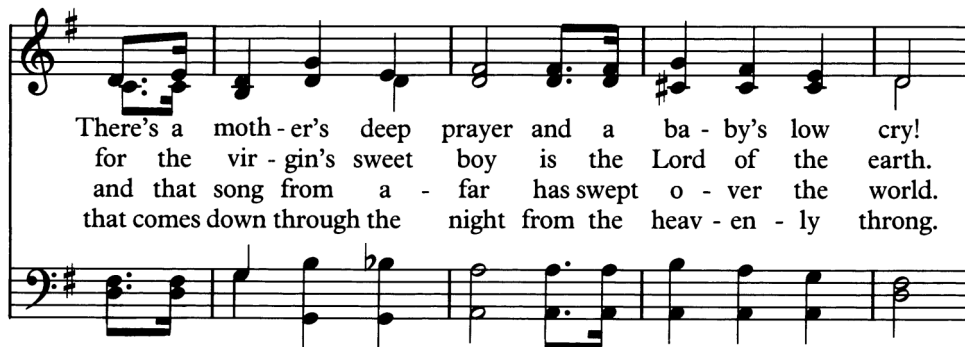
\* Please stand as you are able.

CHRIST'S GRACIOUS LIFE

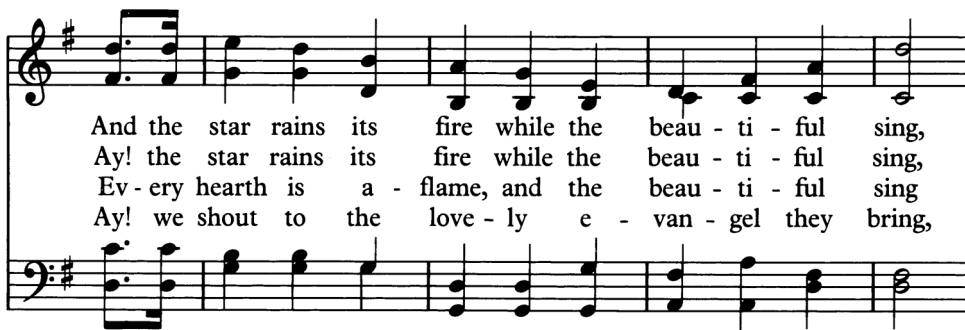
# 249 There's a Song in the Air



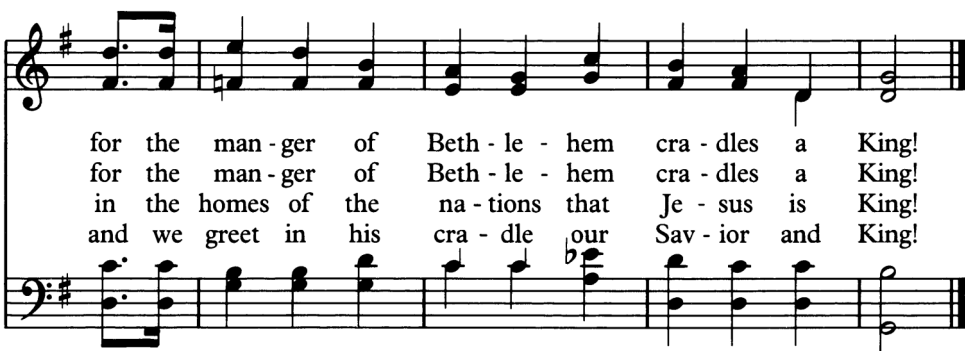
1. There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!  
 2. There's a tu - mult of joy o'er the won - der - ful birth,  
 3. In the light of that star lie the a - ges im - pearled;  
 4. We re - joice in the light, and we ech - o the song



There's a moth - er's deep prayer and a ba - by's low cry!  
 for the vir - gin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.  
 and that song from a - far has swept o - ver the world.  
 that comes down through the night from the heav - en - ly throng.



And the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,  
 Ay! the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,  
 Ev - ery hearth is a - flame, and the beau - ti - ful sing,  
 Ay! we shout to the love - ly e - van - gel they bring,



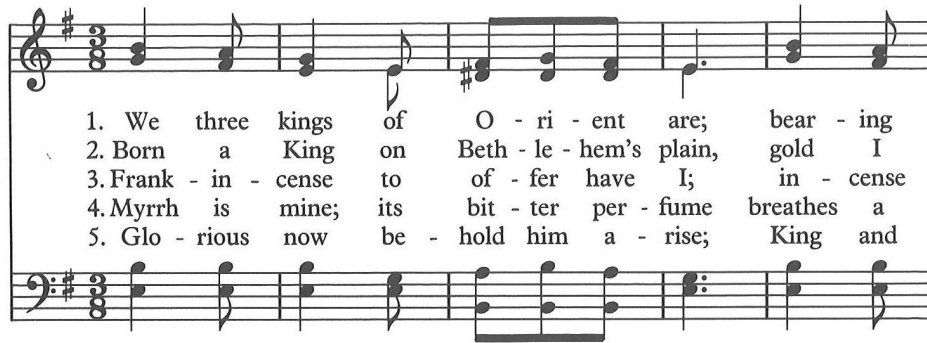
for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!  
 for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!  
 in the homes of the na - tions that Je - sus is King!  
 and we greet in his cra - dle our Sav - ior and King!

WORDS: Josiah G. Holland, 1874  
 MUSIC: Karl P. Harrington, 1904

CHRISTMAS SONG  
 66.66.12.12

## 254

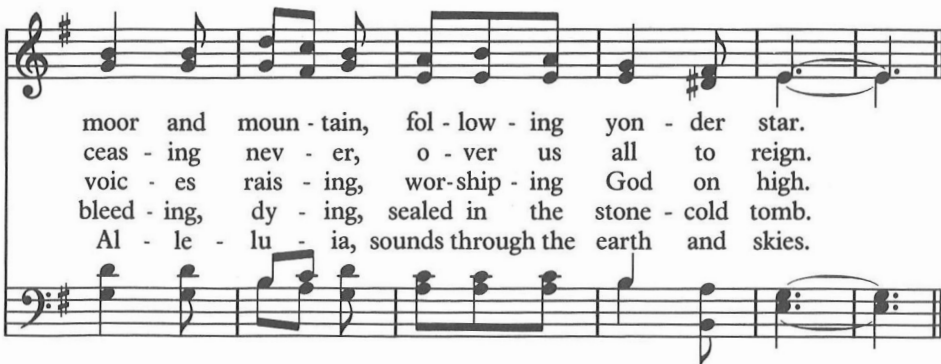
## We Three Kings



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing  
 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense  
 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
 5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise; King and

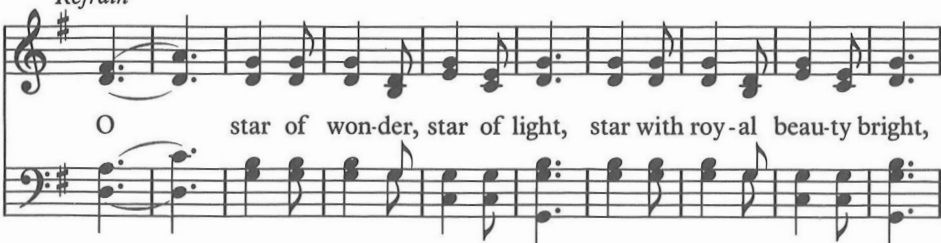


gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
 bring to crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er,  
 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
 God and sac - ri - fice: Al - le - lu - ia,

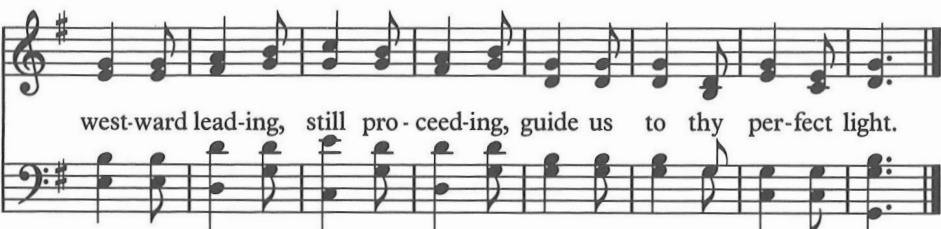


moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
 voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.  
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, sounds through the earth and skies.

*Refrain*



O star of won - der, star of light, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.



# Grow — Pray — Study

Our weekly devotional is available at <https://bit.ly/TrinityGPS>



## Monday, January 5 — Matthew 2:1–12

The story of the Magi begins with movement. They see a sign, ask questions, and set out on a journey without certainty of where it will lead. These outsiders—neither Jewish nor powerful—are drawn by wonder rather than certainty. Their faith is not fully formed, yet it is sincere enough to risk time, distance, and safety.

Epiphany reminds us that God often reveals truth to those willing to seek, not to those who assume they already know. The Magi do not arrive with answers; they arrive with gifts and open hearts. Their journey teaches us that faith often begins not with clarity, but with holy curiosity.

- What questions or longings are drawing you toward God right now?
- Where might God be inviting you to take a step without having all the answers?
- **Prayer:** Seeking God, awaken my wonder. Give me courage to follow the signs you place before me, even when the path is unclear. Amen.

## Tuesday, January 6 — Isaiah 60:1–6

Isaiah envisions nations streaming toward God's light, bearing gifts, drawn not by force but by radiance. This vision stands behind the story of the Magi—foreign seekers responding to a light they cannot ignore. God's glory is not confined to one people or place; it shines outward, inviting all to come and see.

Epiphany proclaims that God's light reaches farther than we expect. It disrupts our assumptions about who belongs and who is worthy. When we live as people of that light, our lives become beacons—quiet testimonies that God is still drawing the world toward hope.

- How have you experienced God's light reaching you from an unexpected place?
- In what ways might your life reflect God's welcoming light to others?
- **Prayer:** Radiant God, let your light rise within me. Use my life to reflect your hope so that others may find their way to you. Amen.

## Wednesday, January 7 — Micah 5:2–5

Micah names Bethlehem—a small, overlooked place—as the birthplace of a ruler who will shepherd God's people in peace. This prophecy confronts our tendency to look for strength in power, size, or prestige. God's saving work begins not in palaces but in humility.

The contrast between Bethlehem and Herod's Jerusalem is stark. One represents fear and control; the other, trust and promise. Epiphany invites us to reconsider where we place our confidence and whose leadership we truly follow.

- Where are you tempted to seek security apart from God?
- How might humility reshape your understanding of strength?
- **Prayer:** Shepherding God, turn my heart away from false securities. Teach me to trust in your quiet, faithful presence. Amen.

## Thursday, January 8 — Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14

This psalm describes a king whose reign brings justice, peace, and care for the poor. Unlike Herod, who clings to power through fear, this ruler governs through righteousness and compassion. Such a vision reshapes what it means to honor true authority.

Epiphany helps us discern the difference between power that dominates and power that serves. When we align ourselves with God's reign, our lives reflect justice, generosity, and mercy—signs of a kingdom that does not disappoint.

- What images of power shape your expectations of leadership?
- How can you participate in God's work of justice and compassion this week?
- **Prayer:** God of justice, shape my heart to reflect your reign. May my actions honor the kind of power that brings life and peace. Amen.

## Friday, January 9 — Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–10

Faith, the writer of Hebrews reminds us, is trust in what is hoped for but not yet seen. Like Abraham, the Magi set out without knowing the destination, trusting that God would meet them along the way. Faith is not certainty; it is commitment.

Epiphany faith is a pilgrim faith—willing to move, to risk, to follow God beyond the familiar. Such faith believes that the journey itself shapes us, drawing us closer to the God who calls us forward.

- What step of faith feels risky but necessary for you right now?
- How might God be shaping you through the journey rather than the destination?
- **Prayer:** Faithful God, strengthen my trust in what I cannot yet see. Lead me onward as I seek your promises with hope and courage. Amen.

## Saturday, January 10 — Romans 12:1–2

Paul urges believers to offer their lives as living sacrifices, transformed by renewed minds rather than shaped by the world's patterns. The Magi's journey ends with worship, but it does not leave them unchanged—they return home by a different road.

Epiphany invites us to consider how encountering Christ redirects our lives. Worship is not an ending but a beginning, sending us back into the world with new vision, new priorities, and renewed purpose.

- In what ways might God be calling you to travel “by another road” this year?
- How can worship shape your daily choices and commitments?
- **Prayer:** Transforming God, renew my mind and redirect my path. May my life be shaped by your truth and guided by your love. Amen.

## Today at Trinity

### Martha's Table Snack Packaging, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.

Following both worship services, we will gather in the Fellowship Lobby to make bags of trail mix for weekday distribution by Martha's Table in Washington, D.C. The snack bag assembly line is fun and also makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of people in our community. All supplies provided!

### Chancel Choir, 10 a.m.

The Chancel Choir meets each Sunday at 10 a.m. to prepare to lead worship at 10:30 a.m. New singers are always welcome. If you'd like to know more about Trinity's music ministry, please contact Jerry Rich, [jrich@potomacschool.org](mailto:jrich@potomacschool.org).

### Children's Worship, 10:30 a.m. (ages 4 - 6th grade)

Children's Worship takes place following the Children's Message in our Fellowship Building across the Breezeway.

### Youth Group, 4:30 p.m.

Youth Group, grades 7-12, meets 4:30 - 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Building. Visit <https://umtrinity.org/education/youth> to view the Youth calendar.

## This Week

**Tuesday & Wednesday: Winter Bible Study** - see next page for full description

Sessions for **Walking the Land of Abraham** meet weekly on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. (Church Library & Zoom) and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. (Zoom) and continue through February 11 / 12.

### Wednesday, 9 a.m.: Prayer Group

A dedicated community that meets via Zoom to lift up the needs of our church family, community and world. If you'd like to know more or to participate, please speak to one of our pastors or call the office, 703-356-3312.

## Coming Up

### January 11: Youth Group, 4:30 p.m.

Youth Group, grades 7-12, meets 4:30 - 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Building. Visit <https://umtrinity.org/education/youth> to view the Youth calendar.

### January 13: Book Chat

Book Chat will meet on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. to discuss *Trouble the Water* with special guest and author of the book Rebecca Dwight Bruff. For more information, contact Suzanne Hamilton.

### January 17: Christ House Meal Mission

Christ House is a place of healing; a residential, medical facility for homeless men located on Columbia Road in the Adams Morgan area of Washington, DC. We prepare lunch on the third Saturday of every month. Contact Connie Jeremiah for more information, 703-307-4635 or [dcjeremiah@verizon.net](mailto:dcjeremiah@verizon.net).

### Feb. 1: Martha's Table Snack Packaging

Following both worship services, we will gather in the Fellowship Lobby to make bags of trail mix for weekday distribution by Martha's Table in Washington, D.C. The snack bag assembly line is fun and also makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of people in our community. All supplies provided!

### Feb. 10: Book Chat

Book Chat will meet on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. to discuss *The Lady and the Unicorn* by Tracy Chevalier.

### Feb. 15: Spire newsletter deadline

### Feb. 19 - 25, 2026: Honduras Mission Trip

Join us as we travel to rural Honduras to serve at The Leadership Center ([leadershipmission.org](http://leadershipmission.org)). We will stay and serve alongside 60 young women, attend their classes, work on the organic farm, mentor and just love on these remarkable young leaders. Please reach out to Chris (571-215-2948) or Dan ([danmoore53@gmail.com](mailto:danmoore53@gmail.com), 703-980-5050) Moore for more information.

## Our Prayer List

Aaron, Adamson family, Anne, Annie Ruth, Arla, Arnold family, Leth, Barb, Ben, Beth, Bill, Bob, Brett, Bryan, Bud, Carrie, Casey, Cathey, Chris, Christie, Christina, Cindy, Clara, Claudia, Corbin, Corte family, Crista, Dale, Dane, Daniel, Dara, Darlene, Dave, Davey, David, DeMicco family, Detwiler family, Doug, Douglas, Dudley & Susan, Earley family, Elaine, Emmett, Evan, Faga family, Frances, Frank, Gail, Gloria, Grace, Gray family, Gregg, Hager family, Hanna, Heather & Paul, Jack, Jason, Jessica, Jewel, Jimmy, Joan, Joe, Joel, John, Karen, Kate & Leo, Kathy, Kizner family, Kristen, Lenore, Linda, Luke, Maggie, Margaret, Margie, Marie, Mary, Mary Frances, Matt, Matthew, Meri, Michael, Nancy, Peg & Dick, Peggy, Ples, Rasmussen family, Richard, Robert, Roh family, Ron, Rubina, Russ, Sally, Sam & Alex, Scott & Kathy, Sharon, Sheila, Staley family, Steve, Sue, Tina, Vanna, Vasser family, Vicki, Whitney, Willis & Carter, Winie & Joseph, Wade, Wyatt, Yancey, and peace in the Middle East and efforts of those seeking peace, our nation's leadership and unity, people experiencing natural disasters, those without housing, those traveling, those who are hungry, hostage survivors, those in Australia and Brown University affected by gun violence, students taking exams, families gathering for the holidays.

## About Our Ministries

### Nursery

The **Nursery** is staffed during both our Sunday worship services for children 3 years old and under. Our nursery is located in the Fellowship Building; simply speak to an usher and they will provide assistance.

### Children's Worship Folders

**Folders** are available during worship services and are categorized by age and reading ability. Please return your folder to the used bin so it can be replenished.

### Fellowship: Getting Connected

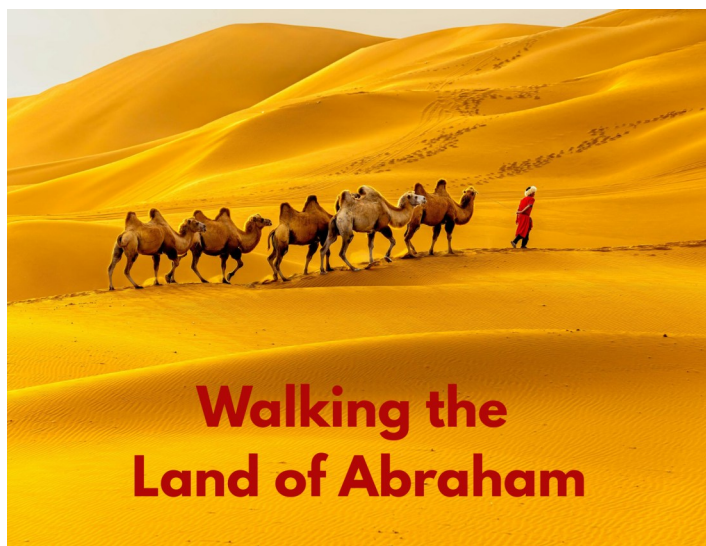
You are cordially invited to meet friends and neighbors after each of our worship services. Join us in the Fellowship Lobby to the right of the breezeway. Each week individuals, families or ministry groups host our refreshments. Please consider signing up for either the 8:30 or 10:30 service's Fellowship time. Scan the QR code under Quick Links at the right to sign-up.

### Trinity Preschool of McLean

TPoM welcomes all students ages 2-6. Please visit [umtrinity.org/preschool](http://umtrinity.org/preschool) to learn more about this vibrant ministry or to schedule a tour for your child.

### Ushers Needed

Ushers are needed each Sunday to greet people, answer questions and hand out bulletins. Use the QR code below to volunteer for this essential ministry of hospitality, or speak to one of the pastors.



### Winter Bible Study: *Walking the Land of Abraham*

Join us for a six-week journey through the Pentateuch as we explore the stories of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, and Moses alongside a close-up look at the lands where these events unfolded. Using Bruce Feiler's *Walking the Bible* video series, supplemented with photos from Pastor Dave's travels, we'll reflect on how these ancient stories shape our own walk with God.

Sessions begin January 7 & 8 and meet weekly on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. (Church Library & Zoom) and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. (Zoom). We'll start with an overview of the Near East and the opening chapters of Genesis, continuing through February 11 / 12.

Whether you've traveled to the Middle East or simply hope to someday, come enjoy this visual and spiritual "walk through the land of Abraham." Bring your Bible and your Bible-walking shoes.

### Quick Links

Scan QR code with your phone's camera & click the link.

- > Worship attendance
- > Children & Youth registration
- > Book Chat discussion group
- > Christ House wish list
- > Fellowship Hour hosts
- > Ushers



### Trinity Church Staff

Dave Rochford  
Taehwan Roh  
Harriet Latta  
Jose Nuñez  
Jerry Rich  
Angi Oxendine  
Catherine Wethington  
Laurie Strollo

Lead Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Office Manager  
Facilities Manager  
Director of Music  
Preschool Director  
Director of Youth Ministry  
Director of Children's Ministry

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[umtrinityyouth@gmail.com](mailto:umtrinityyouth@gmail.com)  
[lstrollo@umtrinity.org](mailto:lstrollo@umtrinity.org)

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Worship is in-person and livestreamed on Sundays from our Chapel at 8:30 a.m. and from our Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. on YouTube: [youtube.com/UMTrinity](https://youtube.com/UMTrinity). Our 5 p.m. Celtic Service is in-person and streamed on the last Sunday of the month. If you're not yet receiving our Friday weekly events e-mail, please send us your address at [info@umtrinity.org](mailto:info@umtrinity.org)