







# Trinity United Methodist Church

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December 24, 2025

8 p.m.

*We greet you this Christmas Eve! From wherever you have come, we are so grateful that you have chosen to celebrate the Good News of the Nativity with us.*

Prelude *O Tannenbaum* (Eithun) Trinity Ringers

Welcome Rev. Dave Rochford

\* Call to Worship Rev. Taehwan Roh

The time of waiting is over.

**Tonight we celebrate the birth of Jesus.**

We listen for the Good News.

**"Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people."**

We remember that Jesus is the light of the world.

**"To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."**

\* Carol *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (stanzas 1, 2, 3, & 6) UMH 234

1. 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;

*Refrain:*

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. True God of true God, Light from light eternal,  
lo, he shuns not the virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten not created;  
*(Refrain)*

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
*(Refrain)*

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.  
*(Refrain)*

Prayer of Confession

*adapted from Ted Loder*

Lord God, in the deepest night there rises the star of morning,  
of birth, the herald of a new dawn you are making,  
a day of great joy, announced in faint shafts of light and love.

**We hear whispers of peace in the stillness, fresh breezes of promise stirring,  
winter sparrows chirping of life, a baby's cry of need and hope – Christmas!**

In the darkness we see the light and find in it comfort, confidence, cause for celebration,  
for the darkness cannot overcome it;

**we rejoice to kindle it in ourselves, in other people,  
and in the world for the sake of the one in whom it was born and shines forever,  
even Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Scripture

Philippians 2:5-11

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in human likeness. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Anthem *O Holy Night* (Adam) Catherine Wethington

Scripture Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom

\* Please stand as you are able.

he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## Lighting the Christ Candle

Anthem

*Nativity Carol* (Rutter)

Chancel Choir

Scripture

Luke 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

A Story

*Empty Space, Open Manger*

Dave Rochford

Offering

Offertory

*Go Tell It on the Mountain* (Rutter)

Chancel Choir

Sacrament of Holy Communion ***A Sung Communion Liturgy for Christmas Eve***  
(Rev. Beth Quick; Tune of *What Child Is This*)

Lift up your hearts unto the Lord. Sing unto God your praises.  
We gather on this holy night. We gather at this table.

**Lift, lift your hearts up high! Sing praise to God, and glorify!  
Praise, praise, the Prince of Peace, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

God breathed in us the breath of life. God gave the gift of Eden.  
We turned away and sin was born; we sought for greener gardens.

**Lift, lift your hearts up high! Sing praise to God, and glorify!  
Praise, praise, the Prince of Peace, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

God called to us from age to age through messengers and prophets,  
When we would not our hearts give way, the Word-made-flesh God sent us.

**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

O Holy God of power and might! Hosanna in excelsis!  
Blessed be the one who in your name comes! Hosanna in the highest!

**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

The Word-made-flesh, Emmanuel; God, come to live among us!  
He preached good news: the kingdom come! A light shone in the darkness.

**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.**

And on the night he was betrayed, Christ took the bread and broke it.  
Thanking God, he shared this gift. "Remember, when you eat it!"

**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.**

He took the cup and raised it up. "My life I pour out for you.  
From sin, set free! Remember me! We covenant anew."

**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.**

Pour out your Spirit, Holy God, upon these gifts, and bless them.  
Make them for us the Bread of Life, the Cup of our Salvation!

**Raise, raise the song on high! The Virgin sings her lullaby:  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

Prayer after Communion:

**Thank God for Holy Mystery; Body of Christ; the gift of life!  
As we depart, let us take heart: God's light will lead us always!  
Raise, raise the song on high! The Virgin sings her lullaby:  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

Carol

*Silent Night*

UMH 239

*During the singing of the hymn, the pastors will share the flame of the Christ candle with the gathered people. You are invited to remain in the pew, and to extend your unlit candle to the person offering you their lit (upright!) candle. The lights will be turned down at this time, but restored sufficiently for you to gather your belongings at the conclusion of our service.*

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| <p>* 1. Silent night, holy night,<br/>all is calm, all is bright<br/>round yon virgin<br/>mother and child.<br/>Holy infant, so tender and mild,<br/>sleep in heavenly peace,<br/>sleep in heavenly peace.</p> <p>2. Silent night, holy night,<br/>shepherds quake at the sight;<br/>glories stream from heaven afar,<br/>heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!<br/>Christ the Savior is born,<br/>Christ the Savior is born!</p> | <p>3. Silent night, holy night,<br/>Son of God, love's pure light;<br/>radiant beams from thy holy face<br/>with the dawn of redeeming grace,<br/>Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,<br/>Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.</p> <p>4. Silent night, holy night,<br/>wondrous star, lend thy light;<br/>with the angels let us sing,<br/>Alleluia to our King;<br/>Christ the Savior is born,<br/>Christ the Savior is born!</p> |
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Benediction

*The candles are extinguished.*

\* Sending Carol

*Joy to the World (vs. 1)*

UMH 246

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

\* Postlude

*In dulci jubilo* BWV 729 (Bach)

Jerry Rich

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### On the Cover:

For his painting "Nativity," completed in 1597, Italian Renaissance master Federico Barroci depicts a tender moment between mother and newborn child. Mary is illuminated by light that comes from the infant Christ, and she appears to embrace it with gratitude. At left, Joseph welcomes dumbstruck shepherds at the door, pointing them to the Messiah. At right, an ox and a donkey survey the scene, looming over their repurposed feedbox as if waiting. Straw lies everywhere, trailing down from a hayrack; an errant piece above Mary's head conjures a halo, which would have been characteristic of 16<sup>th</sup>-century religious art. Barroci, however, favored the depiction of intimate encounters between ordinary people and the Divine. Accordingly, the diagonally-structured composition of the scene seems almost claustrophobic, and was considered quite controversial in its day.

**Worship Leaders:** Dave Rochford, Taehwan Roh, Jerry Rich, Catherine Wethington, the Chancel Choir.

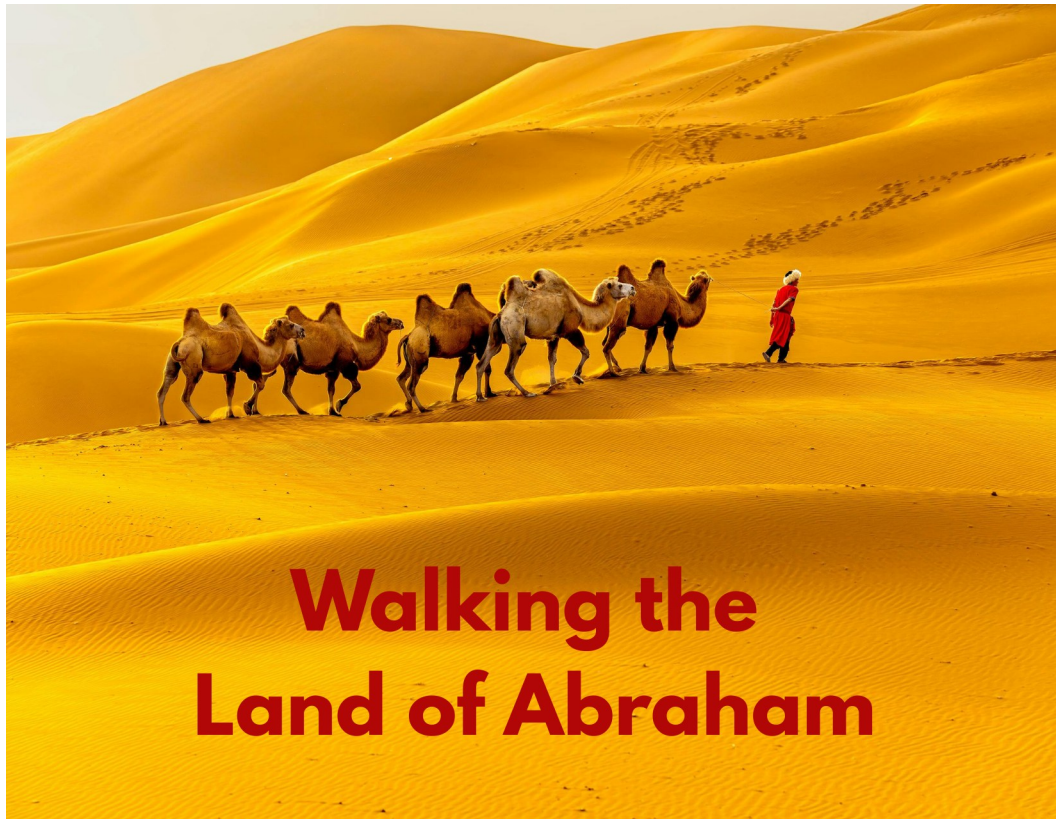
### Worship with us! Sundays at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

If you can't be here in-person, our Sunday morning worship services are livestreamed on Youtube: [youtube.com/UMTrinity](https://youtube.com/UMTrinity).

Children's Worship (for children ages 4 - 6th grade) is available during the 10:30 a.m. service.

Merry Christmas  
from our  
Trinity UMC Staff  
and Pastors





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

Have you ever imagined traveling to the lands of the Bible, to trod the paths that Abraham, Moses and Jesus walked? Perhaps you have done so: it's a long trip, and a not a cheap plane ticket! But at Trinity, we are planning the next best thing: a journey through The Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, by means of a close-up view of the ancient (and modern) land called the Near East. Come to our weekly Bible Study, "*Walking the Land of Abraham*" - an informal, friendly, small-group discussion/study that meets Tuesday mornings and Wednesdays evenings (at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., respectively. (Just choose whichever time or day works best for you.)

By means of a captivating video series ("*Walking the Bible*", companion to journalist and best-selling author Bruce Feiler's book by that name), we will read in-depth the stories of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Joseph and Moses. We'll observe ten- to twenty-minute introductions to the land that is the setting for each story, by means of Feiler's personal odyssey by train, jeep, camel, rowboat, and, oh yes by *foot*. (One walks a *lot* in the lands of the Bible!) Pastor Dave will augment the video with occasional images of his own travels in Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt, and we will discuss the old, old stories that are at the bedrock of our Faith. Along the way, we'll tackle the greatest of all questions: *how does this story shape my own story, and how does the journey of Abraham and the Exodus help to explain my own walk with and toward God?*

So come be with us as we begin for the "new year" on Tuesday and Wednesday, **Jan. 7, (10:30 a.m.) in the Church Library and on Zoom, and Jan. 8 (at 7 p.m.) via Zoom only**. We'll start with an overview of the Near East, and begin with Genesis and the Garden of Eden (yes, *really!*). We'll continue for the following six weeks, concluding Tuesday/Wednesday, February 11/12.

If you hope one day to travel to the Middle East, this should make a great pre-introduction! (If you've been, how about a stroll through memory?) Finally, if you would *like* to make that pilgrimage, but probably won't anytime soon, then come take a visual and literary walk through the land of Abraham – from right here in McLean! Hope to see you there; bring your Bible and your Bible-walking shoes!

Side-note: While Bruce Feiler's two relevant books, Walking the Bible and Abraham, are highly-recommended personal reading., they are **not** required for our study. For those interested, both books are in-print and available from Amazon (new for about \$12, or used for as little as \$2!).



# Poinsettias

<i>Given by . . .</i>	<i>In Memory / In Honor of . . .</i>
John David	Ray & Dorothy Jane David
The Grunenfelders	Terry Whitesel
Connie Jeremiah	David E. Jeremiah Thomas D. Beem
Jim and Cindy Wilson	The Mendez and Wilson Families Friends Far and Near Those Serving Our Country
Anne Eichberger-Keating	Clara Moon
Peter & Michelle Thompson	James H. Jones, II Marilyn M. Jones Arthur & Carolyn Thompson Elizabeth & Ashley Thompson
Roh Family	To the glory of God
Jeff and Sophie Pugh and Ling Chen	Aiwu Tu & Lianggen Chen Bill & Carolyn Mills Louise & Cliff Birchfield
David Chappell	Jesus my mom and dad
Grace Chappell	Helen Trantham
Sharon Todd	Jim Todd
Ryan, Marci, Dylan and Lachlan Thomas	Fred and Mary Jane Love Sandy and Larry Hines Alex Lamme Lainie Grace Border
Van Todd & family	Pat and Bill Todd Shelley and Deanna Rundell
Mary, Robert and Jack Newcomb	Ginger Laughlin
Pamela and David Danner	Ray and Lorna Beck George and Hazel Danner
Gay Rogers	My family
Shirley Zhang and William Liu	Our good neighbors
Lizzy Conroy	Kathy Walker and Marlene Conroy
Sasha Impastato	Eddie and Stella Impastato
The Sullivan Family	Harry Sumner Jon Sullivan